



**Annual General Meeting
President Report – June 16, 2023**

We had another productive and encouraging year as we left Covid firmly behind us and moved full steam ahead. At our Townhall meetings, members reported an encouraging level of rising interest in squash, mainly at the grassroots level, and we push to move those numbers even further upwards in the coming season.

Coaching continued to make significant strides forward and we increased the number of certified coaches at all levels. This was especially necessary for the 2023 PEI Canada Winter Games that were held in February. All of our coaches were fully certified and as president, I would like to acknowledge our staff and coaching committee for all the work they did over the past few years to get new coaches through the necessary courses to make the grade. I would also like to acknowledge a few of our member presidents here today for helping to get their coaches through the program in time for CWG! To give you all an idea of the scope of our coaching program, the new Community Squash Instructor level ran 7 courses in BC, ON, QC, NS, NL, Coaching Foundations = 13 courses in BC, AB, ON, NL, and QC, Intermediate Coaching 4 courses AB, ON, and NB, Provincial Coaching 2 courses NB, NS, QC, PEI, ON and MB.....150 registrations.

Officiating also continued to make big strides forward, since April 1, 2022, we have had over 725 people complete the online club level certification. At our national events and at Canada Winter Games, there were (too many to tabulate) officiating assessments carried out to move lower-level officials up the ladder for both officiating and assessor roles. We are seeing an increase in female engagement at the mid and senior officiating levels. And there has been successful building in smaller provinces, particularly in the Atlantic provinces for officiating development. The Officiating Committee has worked hard to encourage and develop new officials, as well regularly publish "Behind the Glass", an entertaining and educational resource for officials (and players) across the country.

Safe sport continues to challenge all national sport organizations. There was a recent government safe sport meeting for NSOs which our representative attended. There will be significantly more requirements for Safe Sport and NSO governance in general, which we will update you through Townhalls. Over the summer, staff will be working on new Safe Sport initiatives the government will be introducing. Last year at our AGM, we reported we were about to sign on with a new Safe Sport software management company. We have now done so and working with Sideline Learning to ensure those who volunteer or work in Squash Canada roles are Safe Sport compliant.



There was an overwhelmingly positive response across the country for grants from the IDEA fund. We were allotted \$312,000 from the Government of Canada's Community Sport for All Initiative which was fully paid out to you, including \$90,000 which was shared by urban squash groups in Quebec and Nova Scotia as well as Toronto's Urban Squash Program. Through this funding program, a large number of budding squash enthusiasts were introduced to a sport they might not otherwise had the chance to try out.

The Power Court logged over 7,000 kilometers over our last fiscal year as it moved through Calgary, Victoria, Vancouver, Windsor, White Oaks, Calgary, and Toronto.

None of these tournaments would have been possible, particularly at the spectacular level at which they operated, without the generous financial support of local and provincial governments and loyal private donors. Glass courts are showstoppers and walking into a venue that has a glass court showcasing top level athletes certainly grabs attention and inspires.

Our high-performance athletes had a banner year. Our team excelled at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games, with Hollie Naughton taking a Silver in the Women's Singles event. She is the first Canadian female to medal at Commonwealth. Our other team members, Nicole Bunyan, Nick Sachvie, David Baillargeon, and supported by coach Graeme Williams all put in solid performances in their events and did us all proud.

We just had a very successful result at the 2023 Pan Am Qualifier event, with Sydney Maxwell and Liam Marrison winning Gold in mixed doubles, Hollie Naughton winning Gold in women's individual, and the Women's Team (Nicole Bunyan, Sydney Maxwell, Hollie Naughton, Nikole Todd) taking Silver. Men's Team (David Baillargeon, Liam Marrison, Brett Schille, and Graeme Schnell) placed 5th/6th and secured their ticket to the Pan American Games which will be held in Santiago in October.

Thank you all, for your commitment to squash, I know all of you have been incredibly busy. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteers who sit on our committees and donate many hours to move our programs forward. I look forward to another successful year of squash and building on what we've all worked to accomplish over the last year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Thompson

President, Squash Canada