

Championnat Canadien des Maîtres 2014

January 2014 Masters: London Squash & Fitness Club - London Ontario January 17-19, 2014.

M1	Steve Wren	Gatineau
M2	Mario Gagnon	Valcartier
M3	Robert Beaudry	SS Brossard
M4	Daniel Fortin	MAA
W1	Louise Lefebvre	MAA
W2	Suzanne Dufresne	CWI
W3	Danielle Shaienks	Gatineau



The 2014 edition of the Canadian Masters Team Championships took place at the London Squash & Fitness Club in London Ontario from January 17-19, 2014. Eight teams were seeded – Ontario-1, Quebec, Ontario-2, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Atlantic Provinces and British Columbia. The Quebec Team was ably represented by the following:

The eight teams were divided into two pools – A and B. Pool A included Ontario-1, Alberta, Manitoba and British Columbia while Pool B included Quebec, Ontario-2, Saskatchewan and the Atlantic Provinces. The first two teams in each pool battle for the 1-4 playoff positions while the last two teams in each pool play for the 5-8 playoff positions. With two courts assigned to each pool, the order of play was set as M3 and W2, followed by W1 and M4, then M1 and W3 and finally M2. In some team match-up, the winning match came down to the final M2 match.

Quebec started on a very good note dispatching the Atlantic Provinces 6-1 on Friday January 17, 2014 at 5pm. Quebec's next opponent was Ontario-2 at 9pm. With the scores tied at 2-2, the last 3 matches became very crucial. Steve Wren battled his buddy Johnny Wilson very well but ended up losing in a 5-game nail-biter. Danielle and Mario also put up a valiant fight but it was not to be our night. Quebec lost to Ontario-2 by the score of 2-5.

Quebec's last round-robin match against Saskatchewan on Saturday morning was not as easy as we thought it would be. However, the team showed resilience. The highlight of this match-up was Danielle's match against Saskatchewan's Diana Lee. Going down 0-2 quickly, everyone thought it was game over for Danielle but a little pep talk and strategy tips from Louise Lefebvre made Danielle to level up 2-2. Now with the momentum on Danielle's side, it was an easy game in the 5th. Quebec won 6-1

For the 1-4 playoffs positions, Quebec was matched-up with Ontario-1 and Alberta against Ontario-2 while for the 5-8 positions, Manitoba was matched-up with Saskatchewan and British Columbia against the Atlantic Provinces. Although Quebec lost to Ontario-1 by the score of 5-2, Steve Wren and Louise Lefebvre played very inspiring matches indicative of their tough mental strength. Steve Wren in particular, playing against David Sly, an excellent player, was already down 0-2 and facing 4 match balls in the third game, not only saved the 4 match balls, but maintained his mental composure to take down David Sly 3-2.

On Sunday morning, Quebec played Alberta for the bronze but was not lucky enough to win. Quebec lost to Alberta by the score of 3-4.

In the end, the final result was as follows:

1	Ontario-1
2	Ontario-2
3	Alberta
4	Quebec
5	British Columbia
6	Manitoba
7	Atlantic Provinces
8	Saskatchewan

During the Saturday night social, the competition for "The Neddy" Trophy, given out every year in memory of Steve Wren's father was as fierce as the squash matches played. But Quebec did not disappoint by demonstrating clearly for everyone to see how good we are at "soaking corks". See link for proof http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv_zBiv0w2M. Quebec keeps the Neddy Trophy now for 3 years running.

Finally, an MVP price was given to one player in each team and the Quebec MVP went to Louise Lefebvre who won every single match she played by a resounding 3-0 margin except for the lone match against Ontario-1 Pam Monrad which she won by the score of 3-2.

All in all, the event was well run and the camaraderie amongst the players was exceptional. Special thanks to all, you know who you are, for making the event so enjoyable. We look forward to the 2015 edition of the Canadian Masters Team Championships coming over to Quebec when Club Sportif Cote de Liesse (CDL) hosts the event come January 16-18, 2015.

Cheers,

Viano Oghenekevwe
Captain, Quebec Masters Team 2014 (non-playing)

Laurie Lanfer
Manager, Quebec Master Team 2014