

JUSTIN SLATER WINS THIRD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

by Bill Gladding, *Tavistock Gazette* - June 4, 2016



Justin Slater joined the ranks of other three-time winners Saturday night as he defeated Nathan Walsh in the 2-out-of-3 final round to take the \$1,000 prize, trophy and bragging rights as the World Crokinole Champion for 2016.

As the youngest player to ever win the championship (he was 17 in 2010 when he won his first title), Justin and Nathan were also the youngest players to play in the final round together.

Joe Fulop won the championship title three times in 2001, 2002 and 2004 while Brian Cook has won it four times in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2014. Jon Conrad won the title two years straight in 2012 and 2013.

Justin and his father, Fred Slater, also earned the doubles title this year.

Nathan Walsh earned second place in the competitive singles final. Nathan defeated Justin handily in the first round of the final, but Justin bounced back to take the second round in a tie-breaker, fifth game, then went on to dominate the third round.

“Nathan won on my hammer in the first round,” Justin recalled. Then in the second round, Justin missed a shot and while Nathan tried to take advantage, he also missed an open 20. “At that point there was a little more board play,” Justin said. “Nathan was like a machine in the first round,” Justin said, “but when I saw his hand shake, I knew he was only human. That’s when I knew I had it. I’ve have a little more experience in the final,” Justin added.

Nathan placed third in the 2014 championship and second in 2009. He was also the two-time Intermediate champion in 2006 and 2007.

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Fred adds that Justin is currently completing his Masters in Statistics at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia and has a job waiting for him in London, Ontario. He says that Justin became a crokinole player as a result of completing volunteer hours in school. They had played for fun a bit as a family but the volunteer hours is what truly got him into the game.