



Below is the press release from Badminton Scotland for the up and coming National Junior Championships. Many young players from Aberdeenshire will travel down to compete with hopes of improving on previous performances and rankings.

We wish them all good luck and hope that they will all realise the rewards for their hard work.

Joan Prieur
Sports Development
Aberdeenshire Council.



Gilmour the player to beat at Bank of Scotland National Junior Championships

[Rachel MacLeod \(Aberdeenshire\)](#) or Emma Cook have the unenviable task of trying to stop in-form Kirsty Gilmour's title challenge at the Bank of Scotland National Junior Championships at Edinburgh's Meadowbank Sports Centre on Saturday and Sunday, 3 and 4 October.

While Bothwell's defending champion and top seed has a first-round bye in the Under 19 women's singles, Rachel (Stonehaven) and Emma (Mauchline) will fight it out for the right to meet her in the second round.

Mauchline's second seed Kaity Hall also starts with a first-round bye before facing Rebekka Findlay (Erskine) or Victoria Kalna. (Glasgow).

Gilmour is also top seed and defending champion in the doubles with Mauchline's Kirsten Geals and they are the only pair to gain a bye into the second round.

In the Under 19 men's singles top seed Steven Stewart (Alexandria) and second seed Andrew Gilliland (Bearsden) both have byes into the second

round - and they also have mixed doubles byes, joint third seed Stewart with Kaity Hall and second seed Gilliland with Geals. But defending champions and top seeds Paul Van Rietvelde (Longniddry) and Gillian Sloan (Glasgow) are the pair to beat.

Patrick McHugh (Kinross) and Craig Morrison (Motherwell) are favourites for the doubles but Michael Campbell (Edinburgh) will be aiming to follow brother Martin's success last year with Angus Gilmour when he partners Craig Pollock (Longniddry). They are seeded to meet McHugh and Morrison in the final.

Under 15 Championship

Prestwick's Josh Neil is chasing a treble in the Under 15 events and he begins his singles bid with a second-round clash against Alistair Gordon (Edinburgh). Neil is seeded to meet Falkirk's Jordan Gilvear in the final who starts with a second-round clash against Stuart Roy (Livingston). The Under 15 boys' singles has attracted 40 entries, the largest subscribed of the 10 events.

Neil and Gilvear are the top two seeds in the doubles with Neil partnering Mauchline's Adam Hall and Gilvear teaming up with Longniddry's Fraser Whillans.

In the mixed top seeds Neil and Edinburgh's Heather MacPherson begin their title bid against Mauchline pair Callum MacMillan and Tammi Gibson in the second round. Neil won the title last year with Heather Campbell.

Neil and MacPherson can expect their main challenge to come from second seeds James Milton (Mauchline) and Hannah Morrison (Motherwell).

Hannah, like Neil, is chasing a treble. The singles top seed will face Laura Imrie (Tranent) or [Kirsty Thomson \(Stonehaven\)](#) in the second round while in the doubles she partners twin Sophie. They start their title challenge with a second-round clash against Eva Doolan (Bathgate) and Katy Nelson (Edinburgh).

Play will begin on Saturday 3 October at 09.30 hrs. The semi finals are due to get underway at 09.30 hrs on Sunday 4 October with the finals commencing later the same day at 13.30 hrs.

BADMINTONscotland Chief Executive Anne Smillie said: "These Championships are the first big chance this season to see the bright young talent coming through the junior ranks. But some of the top juniors will also be entering the Bank of Scotland International Championships in Glasgow in November so it all adds up to an exciting start to the season".

Sarah Cran, Head of Sponsorship for Bank of Scotland, added: "Bank of Scotland is delighted to support the National Age Group Championships. Some of the finest young talent in Scotland will be appearing at Meadowbank for what promises to be an exciting weekend of badminton."

The draws for all five events in both age groups will be available to view from Wednesday 30 September on **BADMINTONscotland's** website www.badmintonscotland.org.uk

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