

Bank of Scotland U15 / U19 Nationals, October 2009

Aberdeenshire was once again very well represented at the recent Bank of Scotland U15 / U19 Badminton National competition. Meadowbank stadium, Edinburgh was the venue for this prestigious event which attracted over 100 entrants. Eight Mackie Academy pupils and one Westhill pupil made the trip and competed at a very high standard. Fiona Craigen (S2), Samantha Holden (S3), Kirsty Thomson (S3), Rachel Macleod (S4), Jacob Reynolds (S2), Sean Leith, Callum Hay and Scott Duncan all S3 made up the Mackie representation and Ryan Clunie, Westhill Academy completed the group. The singles events proved very demanding with a high standard of play required from all from the onset. Callum was unlucky to lose his first round match against a more experienced Euan Cameron, however he put up a good effort. Scott proceeded to the 2nd round where he met 5/8 seed Callum Riddell and again experience won through on the day. Kirsty and Jacob did well to reach the last 16 in their respective events ultimately losing out to Hannah Morrison (1st seed) and Adam Hall (3/4 seed). In the U19 event Rachel was unfortunate to draw Scotland team player, Emma Cook, Mauchline in the first round but gave her a run for her money only losing 21-15, 21-16 and Ryan had a tough match losing out to Scott Campbell. Fiona and Sean, both still in the U14 age group, made it through to the quarter finals where Fiona lost out to 3/4 seed Heather Macpherson, Edinburgh, and Sean, having caused upset in the second round by dispatching 5/8 seed Kris Hawkins, met 2nd seed, Jordan Gilvear. Both gave it their best shot but lost out to the, older and more experienced players. The doubles events proved just as challenging, with Scott and Callum unluckily drawing 1st seeds and eventual winners, Adam Hall and Josh Neil in the last 16. Jacob and partner Robert Clark progressed to the quarter final stage where they were also unfortunate to fall victim to Hall and Neil. Rachel, with partner Anna Kay, once again came up against the eventual winners Emma Cook and Caitlin Pringle in the last 16, losing out, but only after a very close battle. Ryan and partner Robert Lynch were faced with a mammoth task against first round opponents Matthew Carder and Gregor McVean, losing out after a hard fought contest. Fiona and Sean, with partners Julie MacPherson and James Milton, had to return on the Sunday after proving their worth on the Saturday and achieving a well deserved place in their respective semi finals. Unfortunately this is where their journey would end, Fiona & Julie losing out to winners, Hannah and Sophie Morrison, and Sean and James joining the other Stonehaven boys at the mercy of winners, Hall and Neil. The mixed event saw Fiona & Scott and Sean & Kirsty team up, while Jacob partnered Hannah Baird, in the U19 mixed event Ryan partnered Louise Mitchell. All four pairs displayed some fantastic teamwork along with great skill and determination however all lost their first matches, two of them being very close 3 set affairs. Joan Prieur, badminton development officer, said “this continues to emphasize what a great standard of players there are in the Aberdeenshire area, and credit must go to the coaches and the now evident structure that is offered to these players through performance squads and the school clubs. These are great results not only for the area but for the individual players too.”



*Back row l to r: Samantha Holden, Kirsty Thomson, Scott Duncan, Callum Hay, Fiona Craigen,
Front row l to r: Sean Leith and Jacob Reynolds*