

Glasgow School of Sport U-12, September 2009

A good team of 6 boys and 2 girls made the trip from Stonehaven to the Glasgow School of Sport U12 badminton tournament last weekend at Bellahouston Academy. Holly Thomson, Eilidh Craigen, David Blacklaw, Scott Waddell, Jack Murray and Matthew Duguid, all Mill O' Forest, and Calum Lawrence (Arduthie) and Stuart Holley (Dunnottar) made up the Stonehaven representation.

In the Boys Singles, Matthew Duguid confirmed his $\frac{3}{4}$ seeding by winning his qualifying pool, while the others, all showing great keenness and determination qualified for the B event. Matthew progressed comfortably to the semi-final stage in the A event where he met old rival and 2nd seed on the day, Stuart Dyce (Mauchline), on this occasion Stuart the victor. The B event was a closely contested affair where unfortunately Scott and David would come head to head in the 2nd round. The result would have been impossible to predict given the determination shown by both but Scott finally took the honours this time. Calum also gave 100% in his 2nd round tie against the more experienced and eventual finalist, Douglas Crawford. Jack and Scott's journey was to end in the quarter finals but not before both boys displayed some fantastic skill and passion, Jack very unlucky to miss out on a semi final place losing 24 - 22. Stuart had a straight forward run through to the semi final where he also met Douglas Crawford, luck obviously not in evidence for the Stonehaven players, losing out in a very tense and close tie, 21 - 18.

The girls were up against strong opposition in their singles event, though both displaying great courage, both qualified for the B event. Eilidh was unlucky to meet eventual winner, Toni Woods, in the first round of the knock out, however she put on a very good effort. Despite a near calamity when the organisers started Holly's match with the wrong opponent, she managed to chalk up 2 wins and a place in the semi final before also losing to the experienced Toni Woods.

In the doubles events, all four pairs had some success. Matthew & Stuart, and Jack & Scott secured places in the A event, while Calum & David and Eilidh & Holly would feature in their respective B sections. Jack & Scott were unlucky to meet the very experienced Grimley twins in the quarter finals and were unable to defeat them. Matthew & Stuart made it to the semi final and were desperately unlucky to lose out 21 - 19 to close rivals, Anthony Grimley & Shaun Kavanagh. David & Calum progressed to the semi final stage where once again they were very unlucky to lose out to Douglas Crawford and partner. Eilidh & Holly looked much more comfortable in the doubles event where they were unfortunate not to secure a place in the final, losing out narrowly to Rothesay duo, Biatrice Gabbell & Lynn Nderith, 22-20 in a tense and exciting match.

All in all a great performance from this Stonehaven group who should be proud of the skill and determination they all showed throughout the tournament.



*Back l to r: Scott Waddell, Jack Murray, Matthew Duguid, Eilidh Craigen, Holly Thomson
Front l to r: David Blacklaw and Calum Lawrence*