

## Success for Stonehaven Youngsters

### Ineos Midland U15/U19 - September 2009

As the new badminton season kicks off Aberdeenshire athletes continue to prove their worth on the national circuit. The first tournament of the season was for the U19 and U15 age groups and was held at Grangemouth sports centre. 7 players made the journey south to compete, Fiona Craigen (13), Mark Leith (11), Sean Leith (13), Jacob Reynolds (13) and Scott Duncan (14), all Stonehaven, competed in the U15 age group and Rachel MacLeod (16), Stonehaven and Ryan Clunie (17), Westhill, competed in the U19 age group. All players performed at a very high standard and caused upset in the results with Sean Leith and Rachel MacLeod making appearances in 3 finals between them. Fiona Craigen with partner Julie MacPherson, justified the 4<sup>th</sup> place seeding by making it to the semi final of the doubles but unfortunately Fiona had to withdraw from the singles due to illness. Jacob Reynolds did well in all disciplines winning through to the last 16 of the singles and the quarter finals of both the doubles and mixed doubles, while Scott Duncan showed great skill and determination winning him a quarter final place in the singles before losing out to the eventual winner, Fraser Whillans. Sean Leith proved he was a force to be reckoned with making it to the final in both the mixed doubles and the doubles with partners Sophie Morrison and James Milton. His singles journey was ended in the quarter final when he went out after a hard fought 2 set match, losing 21-17, 21-18 to Callum Riddell. Rachel MacLeod had a good run in the singles event, making it through to the quarter final stage before losing out 21-15, 21-17 to Megan Richardson, eventual finalist. In the doubles event, partnering Anna Kaye, Rachel took the 1<sup>st</sup> seeds, Gail Woodburn and Fiona Archibald, both Scottish team players, to task only narrowly losing out in 2 sets, 21-17, 21-19, a fantastic result given her age. Ryan Clunie and partner Louise Mitchell competed well to secure a quarter final place in the U19 mixed event, whilst Ryan, partnering Robert Lynch took it one step further going out in the semi finals, only losing 21-19, 21-18 to eventual winners Patrick Machugh and Craig Morrison.



James Milton & Sean Leith



Sophie Morrison & Sean Leith