

Stonehaven Youngsters Compete in Penicuik

Stonehaven was well represented this weekend at the Midlothian U10 badminton tournament. Seven youngsters, Catriona Holley (Dunnottar), Maria Leith, David Blacklaw, Josh McKay, Sam Muir, Brodie Stewart and Scott Waddell, all Mill O'Forest, made the journey south to Penicuik on Saturday to compete in their first Scottish Open tournament. The boy's event attracted a record 49 entrants from all over Scotland making for a very entertaining competition. As is the norm, numbers in the girl's entry was far fewer with only 13 girls competing but none the less the competition made for just as good viewing. Both girls played well in the pool stages with some very close matches losing on a few occasions by only 2 or 3 points. After the pool stages they both made it to the semi-final of the 'B' event, Catriona only losing out in a place in the final 23 – 21 to the eventual winner. The girls teamed up in the doubles event and came home with 'B' group runners up medals. The large boys entry resulted in 3 knock out events, A, B & C, after the pool stages. All the boys put on a grand show for the supporters who had made the journey with them. David, Josh, Sam and Scott all won 2 games in the pool stages qualifying them for the 'B' knock out and Brodie was unlucky, losing out narrowly in his pool games, qualified for the 'C' event. Unfortunately Sam and Scott were narrowly beaten in the first round of the knock out stage however for David, Josh and Brodie a quarter final place was well earned. For reasons unknown David's quarter final opponent did not show giving him a free passage to the semi-final where after a good performance, his journey was to end. Josh and Brodie both showed great courage and skill in their quarter finals but unfortunately the competition was just too strong. The boy's doubles event saw Josh team up with Brodie and David pair up with Scott. Both pairs displayed fantastic teamwork with David and Scott winning 2 of their 4 pool games and Josh and Brodie winning 1 of 4 however the games lost by both pairs were very close. These results qualified both pairs for the 'B' knockout event where unfortunately after first round wins they met each other in the quarter final. On this occasion David and Scott came out victorious but it was not without a tremendous effort from their schoolmates. David and Scott then lost out in the semi-final to the eventual winners of the 'B' event. Once again this was a superb performance from these youngsters given their ages, Maria, Josh and Brodie are all only 7, Cationa (8), Sam and Scott are 9 and David (10). Badminton development officer, Joan Prieur, said "all these youngsters have shown great determination coupled with skill and teamwork to achieve these fantastic results, well done to all."



Brodie Stewart, Scott Waddell, Maria Leith, Catriona Holley, David Blacklaw and Josh McKay