

## **Badminton Success for Stonehaven Youngsters Craigén and Leith lift titles Midlothian U14, Penicuik, Sept 09**

Penicuik was the venue for the recent Midlothian U14 badminton tournament and Stonehaven youngsters once again tasted success. Six Mackie Academy pupils, Cameron Pyper and Mark Leith (S1), Fiona Craigén, Jacob Reynolds and Kieran McAllan (S2) and Sean Leith (S3) all made the journey south to compete. After a disappointing start in the singles event Fiona found her form and succeeded in winning the B event and with partner, Julie MacPherson, Edinburgh, cruised to victory in the A doubles event. Cameron and Kieran were unfortunate in their singles draws facing experienced opposition early in the tournament however both boys played with skill and enthusiasm, Kieran making the last 16 of the B event and Cameron going one stage further, making the quarter final. Mark, Jacob and Sean all won their respective pools securing them a place in the A event. Mark (11) continued his recent form dispatching close rival Andrew Thomson in the last 16, but finally losing out to eventual finalist, Andrew Mawbey, East Lothian, in the quarter finals in an exciting 3 set match. Jacob and Sean both progressed comfortably through to the semi-final stage where unfortunately, they went head to head. A fantastic display of skill, determination and stamina ensued with both players keen to secure a place in the final. Jacob took the honours in the first game 21-18, and looked favourite to secure the win at 20-18 up in the second however Sean never lost sight of the target and fought back to take the second set 26-24. The third started in the same competitive style however Sean managed to edge ahead and finally win the tie 21-12, the game however much closer than the score suggests. Sean went on to meet Andrew Mawbey in the final which again proved very tense and entertaining, Sean finally taking the honours after a fiercely contested 3 set match, 21-18, 12-21, 22-20. In the boys double event Cameron and Kieran teamed up for the first time and showed some great skill making it to the semi-final of the B event. Brothers Mark and Sean paired up for the first time in a tournament outside the local area and Jacob played with Robert Clark, Glasgow. Both pairs won their pools and progressed comfortably to the semi-final stage where once again they met each other. A very competitive match followed and this time Jacob and Robert came out victors 21-9, 21-15, earning them a place in the final against 1<sup>st</sup> seeds Andrew Mawbey and Alasdair Gordon (Edinburgh). Jacob and Robert put on a good performance but were unable to conquer the well practiced and long standing partnership of Mawbey and Gordon losing in 2 sets. Once again these performances prove that these Stonehaven youngsters are a mighty force to be reckoned with. Badminton development officer, Joan Prieur said, "we are delighted with these results which show the time and effort put in by the children and the coaches at the performance and development squads are really paying dividends. These kids are a great example to the up and coming youngsters and are great ambassadors for the sport in general."



*Fiona Craigén  
B singles winner  
A doubles winner*



*Jacob Reynolds, Cameron Pyper, Fiona Craigén,  
Kieran McAllan, Mark Leith & Sean Leith*



*Sean Leith  
A singles winner*