

North East Secondary Singles Championships

26 June 2010

This year's Championships, postponed from 30 January 2010 due to bad weather, took place at the Beach Leisure Centre Aberdeen. This was a full 6 months after the originally planned date, mainly due to the busy badminton competition programme and the players' hectic schedules. The event was now for the first time being held outside the traditional badminton competition season. This small detail did not seem to deter the majority of the enthusiastic players who turned out to compete in style from 12 secondary schools across the NE!

Rosie Price and Jim Duncan, our table official and tournament referee, ensured the Championships ran smoothly with a well-organised programme involving the players in many competitive games. Some hard fought rallies and the spectators witnessed matches, along with some personal best performances, as players raised their games in an effort to reach the final stages from the pool rounds.

In the U14's boys semi finals Cameron Pyper (Mackie) overcame Aaron Nicoll (Inverurie) and Jacob Reynolds (Mackie) beat Keiran McAllan (Mackie) to go forward into the final. Although Cameron battled well with some long rallies and inspired shot play he was unable to take a game from Jacob who won 21:8, 21:12 with a convincing assured performance of controlled badminton.

The girls U14 result came from a pool of four girls that produced some competitive performances from Amy Watson (Aboyne), Laura Townsend (Mackie), Lucy Gourlay (Mackie) and Chloe Tough (Mackie). The girls battled it out with a hard fought match between Chloe Tough and Lucy Gourlay resulting in Chloe taking the honours 21:16, 21:18.

The closest matches were played in the Boys U16 age group where in the semi finals Jamie Duncan (Mackie) beat Daniel Ingram (Banchory) 21:16, 21:15, whilst Callum Roberts (Banchory) was unable to overcome Scott Duncan (Mackie) despite a strong comeback in the second game to go out 13:21, 20:21. The final between Scott and Jamie was a three-setter each taking a nervous first game before a nail biting third saw Scott clinch victory 21:18.

In the girls U16 age group Chloe West (Inverurie) strong match play secured a finals win over the improving Kirstin McInnes (Aboyne) with newcomer Miriam Abraham (St. Margaret's) taking the third place slot in her first Championship appearance.

A small presentation was made to Ryan Clunie (Westhill) in recognition of his many badminton achievements over his school years. Ryan worked his way through the Aberdeenshire and North East Athlete Development Programme where he progressed through squads to become one of the first Aberdeenshire pupils to be selected to attend National Squads. He was selected many times to represent North east Schools at Regional and National Competitions and played for Scottish Schools at the British School Games. One of his favourite wins was achieved with his doubles partner Robert Lynch when they both went on to beat some of the best in their age group to lift the coveted title of 2009 Glasgow Open U15 – 19 A Doubles Champions. Ryan continues to progress his game as he waits for his exam results and hopes next year he will be competing on the university circuit!