

North East juniors to compete at National Junior Badminton Championships

The first Bank of Scotland National Junior Badminton Championships of 2009 is set to get underway as players from all over Scotland converge on Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, on 18 & 19 April.

The tournament has attracted a bumper entry, with 195 of Scotland's top junior players competing across the three age groups at U13, U17 and U23 level. And the North East region is well represented with a number of players from Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire seeded at Under 13 level.

[Sean Leith \(Stonehaven\)](#) is second seed in boy's singles, boy's doubles and mixed doubles, partnering Struan Ross (North Kessock) and Hannah Morrison (Motherwell) respectively. [Jacob Reynolds \(Stonehaven\)](#) is seeded in boy's singles and doubles, and Mark Leith is also seeded in the doubles. [Fiona Craigen](#) is another [Stonehaven](#) youngster who is expected to do well – she's seeded joint 3/4 in the singles and second in the doubles, partnering Julie MacPherson (Edinburgh).

Aberdeenshire Council Badminton Development Officer Joan Prieur who has recently returned from Copenhagen with a team of NE Grampian Performance squad players said "The players have been working hard with their coaches all season and are looking forward to competing against the best in Scotland at the Bank of Scotland National Junior Championships. All the NE seeded players have come through the Aberdeenshire Badminton Development Pathway.

BADMINTONscotland Chief Executive Anne Smillie, who has recently returned from Milan where she was watching Scotland's hottest young prospects in action at the European Junior Championships, said today: "It is marvellous to see such quality talent emerging through our junior ranks and I am particularly keen to watch those players in action who are stepping up to a higher age group. I want to see the progress they are making as they represent Scotland's future."

Sarah Cran, Head of Sponsorship for Bank of Scotland, said: "It's great to see such a high entry level for the forthcoming Bank of Scotland National Junior Championship. These players represent the future of Badminton in Scotland and it will be interesting to see how they progress over the next few years. Looking forward to 2012 and 2014, tournament's like these are key to their development."

Play gets underway at Meadowbank Sports Centre at 9.30am on Saturday 18 April and is scheduled to continue until 8.30pm. On Sunday the semi-finals start at 10am and finals start at 1.30pm as Scotland's top juniors battle it out for the titles.

For further information or pictures contact **BADMINTONscotland** on 0141 445 1218 or email peter@badmintonscotland.org.uk