

Recognition for 4 Stonehaven rising stars.....

Following some fantastic results during the current badminton season four Stonehaven youngsters have received recognition from the governing body, BadmintonScotland, in the form of favourable seedings in the forthcoming Bank of Scotland U13 National Championships to be staged at Meadowbank Arena, Edinburgh, on 18 and 19 April. Brothers Mark Leith (11), Mill O' Forest Primary School and Sean Leith (13), Mackie Academy and fellow students Jacob Reynolds (13) and Fiona Craigen (13) have all been rewarded for their hard work and efforts. Sean has been seeded 2nd in all three disciplines, singles, doubles and mixed, whilst Jacob has been seeded 5/8 in the singles and 3/4 in the doubles. Youngster Mark has also received a 3/4 seeding in the doubles. Fiona has been seeded 2 in the doubles and 3/4 in the singles event. Mark and Fiona will pair up in the mixed event and will be ranked just outside the top 4. This will be the finale to a fantastic season for all four players who are always grateful for the support they receive from their coaches and families. Badminton development officer, Joan Prieur, says "she is delighted with this recognition and it proves that as a region we are doing something right. We have a great enthusiasm for the sport in Aberdeenshire and this shows that we can compete with the best in the country." All four players will travel to Copenhagen, Denmark, on Thursday 9 April as part of the Grampian team which will represent Scotland at the ISCA Badminton Festival 2009. We wish these youngsters and the rest of the 17 strong team every success as they compete in this prestigious festival which is a great opportunity for the children to mix with children who have one common interest from over 20 countries within the EU. Thereafter their focus will be on the National event.