

NORTH EAST BADMINTON TEAM FINISH 3RD IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2008 SCOTTISH PRIMARY INTER AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The North East joined nine other areas to contest the Scottish Primary Inter Area Championships held in Wishaw on 9th March 2008.

The ten area teams were divided into 2 pools of five with the top two going through to the Semi Finals - Games to be played between each area were boy's singles girls singles, boy's doubles, girl's doubles and mixed doubles. Different players had to be selected for each discipline but players could be swapped around between subsequent matches to suit the strengths and weaknesses of the opposing team thus injecting a considerable amount of tactical team selections to try to outwit the opposing team.

Teams in the North East half of the draw were West Lothian, Edinburgh, Mid & East Lothian and Renfrew. The North East team consisted of Team manager Robbie Robertson, Team players Jacob Reynolds (P7) Callum Carmichael (P7), Liam Robertson (P7), Hamish Burr (P7), Mark Leith (P6), Fiona Craigen (P7), Emma Buchanan (P7), Lindsay Howie (P7), Nicola Findley (P7), Kaitlin Andrew (P6).

In the first match against Mid & East Lothian, Jacob Reynolds and Fiona Craigen won their singles games comfortably with Mark Leith with Callum Carmichael, Emma Buchanan with Nicola Finley and Liam Robertson with Lindsay Howie all winning their doubles matches after extremely close fought games to beat Mid & east Lothian 5-0, a good start to the competition.

In the second match against Renfrew Jacob Reynolds and Fiona Craigen again won their singles comfortably, Mark Leith with Callum Carmichael and Fiona Craigen with Lindsay Howie also winning their doubles games comfortably, Liam Robertson with Nicola Findlay losing a very closely fought game giving NE a 4-1 victory

In the third match against Edinburgh Mark Leith and Nicola Findlay y lost their singles games, Liam Robertson with Hamish Burr and Jacob Reynolds with Fiona lost their doubles games although all four players put up a good fight. The highlight in this match was undoubtedly Emma Buchanan with Lindsay Howie who put up a tremendous fight to win their game by a couple of points resulting in Edinburgh winning 4-1 our first loss.

In the fourth game against West Lothian the players new they had to win if we were to go any further in the competition and they did not disappoint. Jacob Reynolds and Fiona Craigen both winning their singles comfortably backed up by similarly comfortable victories for Mark Leith with Hamish Burr and Liam Robertson with Kaitlin Andrew. Lindsay Howie and Emma Buchanan also winning a very closely fought game to give the NE a 5-0 victory and a place in the semi-final

We met Lanark in the semi-final, Lanark being the winners of the other pool so we were not expecting an easy match, however we got off to a good start with Jacob Reynolds playing some fantastic badminton to win his match 22-20, Unfortunately this was the only game we managed to win Fiona losing the other singles and Mark Leith with Liam Robertson, Emma Buchanan with Lindsay Howie and Hamish Burr with Nicola Findlay all producing gutsy performances in closely fought games resulting in a 4-1 win to Lanark

This left us in a playoff for third place with Ayrshire, a team we were determined to beat. In the singles Jacob Reynolds beat Callum McMillan 22-20 after a thrilling game that was nip and tuck throughout. Fiona Craigen beat Kitty McLaughlin 21-7 in a comfortable victory, In the doubles Mark Leith with Callum Carmichael lost 21-15 to Willoughby Bertie with Duncan McMillan and Liam Robertson with Nicola Findlay lost 21-9, neither games score reflected the effort and determination of our players and they could have been much closer. This left the result in the balance both teams having won two games, In the girls doubles Emma Buchanan and Lindsay Howie played against Jarmansy Gibson with Holly Lewall. Again this was an incredibly close game with long rallies, the two NE girls playing brilliantly to eventually win the game 21-19 giving a 3-2 win to the northeast and third place in the championship.

Altogether it was a tremendous performance by all the NE players who not only played a high standard of badminton but also displayed an equally high level of sportsmanship throughout the days competition.