

Anglo Scottish U13 Invitational Tournament

Meadowmill Sports Centre

Sunday 4th April 2010

This is the first time that the North East has been invited to participate in this Anglo Scottish badminton event. Teams from Lothian, Scottish Borders, Yorkshire, Isle of Man, Lanarkshire and Northumberland joined the North East in this select line up. Representing the local team were Eilidh Craigen, Holly Thomson, Chloe Tough, Laura Townsend, Rory Adamson, Matthew Duguid, Mark Leith and Jack Murray. The players were tasked in all three disciplines, singles, doubles and mixed doubles, and all displayed great determination and team spirit. The first match was against Scottish Borders which finished 8 – 2 in favour of North East with all players winning at least one of their matches, an almost perfect start. Next they would face joint favourites, Yorkshire, who proved why they were tipped for the title. Although they lost the tie 9 – 1, three of the results were within 2 points and a fourth was 21 – 16 proving that the North East had put up a tremendous fight, Matthew and Mark being the only victors in the boy's doubles. The final pool match was against Lothian 'B' which proved to be a very close fought affair with the Lothian team needing a win to progress to the semi finals. The North East however had their sights firmly set on that semi final place too and managed to hold them to a tense 5 all draw which was all that was needed. Lothian 'A', joint favourites were winners of Pool B which meant they would face North East in the semi final as runners up in Pool A. Once again both teams delighted the spectators with fantastic displays of skill and long rallies with both sides fighting for every point. The team spirit was again in abundance with great encouragement from the sidelines. Lothian 'A' in the end proved too strong winning the tie 7 – 3, but this was by no means an easy victory for them. The North East then faced a very experienced Lanarkshire team in the 3 / 4 play off, Lanarkshire having lost to Yorkshire. This was possibly the closest and most tense match of the day for the local team. After the singles events the match was tied 2 all, after the doubles the match was still tied at 4 all. This left only the 2 mixed encounters to decide the result, but despite a spirited display from the North East pairs, Lanarkshire's experience paid off finally winning the tie 21 – 16 in the last match, a result the North East should still be very proud of, 4th place in their first experience of this type of tournament at this age group. The final between the joint favourites Lothian 'A' and Yorkshire was a tremendous match, Lothian 'A' edging ahead 5 – 4 going into the last match. Despite spraining an ankle earlier in the day, Lothian's Gemma Wright soldiered on partnering Shona Whillans in the deciding game to finally take the title 6 – 4, a great Scottish victory. Badminton development officer, Joan Prieur, said "this type of competition allows the players to put into practice, at a highly competitive level, the skills they are developing at Aberdeenshire squads and encourages mutual respect and support for all of those involved. These children have excelled themselves once again and are a credit to the area and their coaches and supporters."



*Back row l to r: Jack Murray, Matthew Duguid, Mark Leith, Jack Murray
Front row l to r: Holly Thomson, Laura Townsend, Chloe Tough, Eilidh Craigen*