

NE Primary Schools Badminton Championships 7 & 14 March 2010

Over 180 children took part in the recent NE Primary Schools Badminton Championships that not only finds the overall NE Primary School Champions but acts as a qualifying event for the national finals which take place at the Bells Sports Centre, Perth, on 22 May 2010. It was fantastic to see 120 boys compete at Banchory and 64 girls compete at Portlethen in both singles and doubles disciplines. There were many close fought encounters and children of all ages and standards were encouraged to be part of this popular event. Schools from throughout the Shire were well represented along with a few City Schools. Players making it to the quarter final stages would earn a place to represent NE Schools at the National Primary Schools finals. All matches were played in great spirits and spectators and players alike were very supportive and encouraging. In the girl's events Banchory, Dunnottar, Milltimber, Mill O'Forest & Peterculter will all have representation at Perth, whilst in the boy's events those schools are joined by Arduthie, Catterline, & Oyne. The boy's event was held first, at Banchory Academy & Sports Centre and made for a day of entertainment for the many parents who stayed to support. The boy's singles event proved a great challenge for the organisers that was taken in their stride and executed admirably, as they sorted 120 boys into pools of 4 fitting the many games into the allocated time. The quarter finals was made up of the following matches, M. Duguid (Mill O'Forest) beat R. Taylor (Peterculter), S. Waddell (Mill O'Forest) beat D. Blacklaw (Mill O'Forest), J. Murray (Mill O'Forest) beat S. Connell (Milltimber) and S. Holley (Dunnottar) beat S. Muir (Mill O'Forest). The semi-finals were a Stonehaven affair with S. Waddell losing to school mate M. Duguid and J. Murray losing to S. Holley. The final between Matthew Duguid and Stuart Holley once again proved to be a very entertaining match, Matthew taking the honours, 21 – 13. The doubles quarter finals also featured many of the singles quarter finalists joined by O. Plummer & F. Mowatt (Catterline), J. McKay (Mill O'Forest), A. Prothero (Dunnottar), C. Wilson (Milltimber), J. Lyons & J. Rumsey (Oyne) and R. Adamson & K. McCulloch (Arduthie). The semi finals were again an all Stonehaven clash with M. Duguid & J. Murray beating S. Holley & A. Prothero, while S. Muir & S. Waddell saw off the challenge of R. Adamson & K. McCulloch. An all Mill O'Forest final saw Matthew take the double winning with Jack against Scott & Sam in a good spirited and exciting match. The girl's event was held a week later but proved just as closely contested and exciting as the boys event. Porthlethen Academy was the venue and attracted the highest number of entrants to date. The doubles discipline was first to be contested and the quarter finals saw C. Irvine & M. Leith (Mill O'Forest) lose to K. Dalton & E. Beveridge (Milltimber) and in a reversal of fortunes F. McKay & S. Cliffe (Milltimber) lost out to E. Kemp & L. Hinchcliffe (Mill O'Forest). Kemp & Hinchcliffe's reward was a place against schoolmates E. Craigen & H. Thomson in the semi final and Dalton & Beveridge would challenge Dunnottar's E. Mitchell & C. Holley. Both semi finals were a pleasure to watch Craigen & Thomson and Dalton & Beveridge claiming their places in the final, and what a final it turned out to be. Craigen & Thomson built up a good lead initially however Dalton and Beveridge fought back, both pairs displaying some fantastic skill and teamwork. In a nail biting, point for point finale Dalton and Beveridge clinched the title 21 – 20. The singles event saw the arrival of B. Flaherty (Banchory) who had not played in the doubles event. Becky made it comfortably through the pool stages to the quarter finals along with E. Kemp, C. Holley, F. McKay, K. Dalton, E. Mitchell, H. Thomson, who had all featured in the doubles quarter finals and S. Reid (Peterculter) deservedly filling the last quarter final place. Flaherty won through to face McKay, and Dalton succeeded along with Thomson to contest the semi finals. Again 2 very entertaining matches ensued with Flaherty & Dalton securing places in the final. Dalton put up a good fight but Flaherty proved too strong in the end, winning the tie 21 – 9. Development officer, Joan Prieur, offered a vote of thanks to all those who assist with these events for their continued support. She also congratulated all the children and their teachers and coaches on their demonstration of skill and fairplay and encouraged them to continue the good work in their schools and clubs whilst wishing those children who have made it to the final stages good luck on the 22 May in Perth.