

**Primary Inter Area
Wishaw Sports Centre
Saturday 20 March 2010**

A team from the North East travelled to Wishaw Sports Centre last weekend to compete in this year's primary inter area badminton event. All of the winners from the recent Aberdeenshire Primary School SSBU national qualifying events were present in the team, Kiera Dalton (Milltimber), Becky Flaherty (Banchory), Eilidh Craigen, Holly Thomson, Jack Murray & Matthew Duguid, all Mill O'Forest and Stuart Holley (Dunnottar) and Rory Adamson (Arduthie) completed the line up. The youngsters were up against tough competition facing teams from Ayrshire, Edinburgh, Mid & East Lothian, Lanarkshire, Glasgow, Argyll & Bute and the Borders. They were unlucky to record an early defeat against Edinburgh, losing out 3 – 2 with 2 of the 3 lost games finishing 21 – 16 and 21 – 18. This did not deter their spirits as they went on to record victories against Lanarkshire, 4 – 1, Mid & East Lothian, 4 – 1, Glasgow, 4 – 1, Argyll & Bute, 4 – 1 and Borders, 3 – 2. Lanarkshire however did the North East a huge favour by beating Edinburgh 3 – 2, giving them a glimmer of hope. All of the players involved worked well together and did their best no matter what discipline they were asked to play, be it singles, doubles or mixed doubles. The match that was to decide the final placings was between a very strong and well practiced Ayrshire team and a keen and focused North East team. The head to head started well with Matthew winning the boys singles, Becky was unfortunate to meet U12 Scottish No. 1 Holly Newall in the girl's singles but put on an admirable performance scoring a well deserved 10 points. The doubles told a similar tale with the North East boys, Jack & Rory, winning a close fought match 21 – 16, however the girls, Holly & Eilidh were unlucky to lose to the experienced pair of Cara McCulloch & Eleanor O'Donnell, 21 – 9. This made the match 2 all and the pressure was on Stuart & Keira. A superb match ensued and though not a regular pairing Stuart & Keira certainly put on a great show against Stuart Dyce and Bethany Cook. It was a hard fought game but strength and experience won Ayrshire the victory and indeed the overall title. A fantastic performance from all involved secured the North East a very well deserved second place, the highest placing ever achieved by a North East Primary team. Joan Prieur, badminton development officer said, "Credit must go the players and their coaches as badminton is now a well established and well structured sport in the area. Thanks, as always, to the parents who are crucial in their support and encouragement of these young athletes whose endeavours have helped put the North East well and truly on the badminton map." Final placings - 1st - Ayrshire, 2nd- North East, 3rd - Edinburgh, 4th – East & Mid Lothian, 5th - Lanarkshire, 6th - Glasgow, 7th - Argyll & Bute, 8th - Borders.



*Back row l to r : Rory Adamson, Stuart Holley, Jack Murray, Matthew Duguid
Front row l to r: Holly Thomson, Keira Dalton, Becky Flaherty, Eilidh Craigen*