

**SSBU Secondary Schools Quaich**  
**Tryst Sports Centre, Cumbernauld**  
**2 March 2010**

NE Secondary Schools were represented by two teams from Mackie Academy at the recent National Scottish Schools Secondary Quaich competition at the Tryst Sports Centre, Cumbernauld. Once again the Aberdeenshire Mackie Academy players proved that their badminton teams are up there with the best in the country with superb performances. The junior team consisted of Eve Gammack, Lucy Gourlay, Chloe Tough, Fiona Craigen, Cameron Pyper, Jacob Reynolds, Mark Leith and Sean Leith, and the senior team included Samantha Holden, Kirsty Thomson, Rachel Macleod, Danielle Nicoll, Fiona MacDonald, Craig Buchanan, Douglas Adamson, Jamie Duncan & Scott Murray. In the junior section 10 schools were competing in 2 pools of 5. Mackie were seeded no. 2 and had to face the following schools to challenge for a place in the final. Bishopbriggs Academy, Dollar Academy and Preston Lodge were all unfortunate to fall 5 – 0 to the on form Mackie side. St. Andrews managed to take one game off them and Kirkwall Grammar were their closest rivals only losing the tie 3 – 2. These fantastic results set them up for a final showdown against Auchinleck Academy, Ayrshire. The senior team started the day seeded no. 5 and faced a tough pool also containing no.1 seeds, Auchinleck Academy and no. 3 seeds, Dalziel High School, Lanarkshire. Mackie however were more than up to the challenge. With some shrewd team selection and superb skill and determination they saw off the opposition, Graeme High School, 5 – 0, Bishopbriggs Academy, 4 – 1, and the higher seeds Auchinleck and Dalziel both losing out to the focused Mackie team 3 – 2, both very close and exciting contests. This also meant a finals place for the senior team against Lothian's Preston Lodge. The seniors were desperately unlucky to go down 3 – 2 in a very exciting and dramatic final, losing 2 of the games 21 – 19 and 24 – 22. The juniors fought hard but lost out 4 – 1 to a very experienced Auchinleck team. It was a great achievement for both teams to be in the finals and though they finished runners up they were a credit to themselves and to Mackie Academy, and will no doubt continue to be a force to be reckoned with next year.