

SSBU U14 / U16 Age Group Doubles Tryst Centre, Cumbernauld, 24 Oct 2009

The Tryst Centre, Cumbernauld, was the venue for Saturdays Scottish Schools Badminton Union U14 and U16 Age Group Doubles event and as usual all the Stonehaven competitors put on very strong performances. Matthew Duguid, Mill O' Forest teamed up with Cameron Pyper (S1), brothers Mark Leith (S1) and Sean Leith (S3) paired up, Jacob Reynolds (S2) met up with regular partner Robert Clark, Glasgow School of Sport, in the U14 event, while Calum Hay and Scott Duncan both S3, competed in the U16 event. After some initial confusion over groupings in the pool stages it was very unfortunately that Matthew and Cameron and Mark and Sean landed in the same pool. However all pairings played well in the initial stages and not surprisingly all progressed through to the main 'A' knock out event in both age groups. Matthew and Cameron had a tough draw in the first round of the knock out stage but put on a brave and talented performance losing out narrowly to the experienced partnership of Andrew Thomson and John Clifford, 21-16, 21-15. Jacob and Robert were more fortunate and progressed to the quarter finals with a 21-14, 21-17 win over Jake Thomas and Fraser Wright. In the U16 event Calum and Scott went straight to the quarter finals where they met Glasgow School of Sport pair, Callum Riddell and Calum Stevenson, once again they performed well but were unable to overcome the Glasgow duo and eventual finalists, losing 21-12, 21-11. Mark and Sean were fortunate to receive a bye through to the quarter finals where they met relative newcomers, Samir Amir and Darren Reid, who they overcame with relative ease winning 21-11, 21-4. Jacob and Robert faced another strong pairing in the quarter final, Struan Ross and Callum MacMillan, but were able to dispose of them narrowly winning 21-19, 21-18. This made for the second head to head of the season between Mark and Sean and Jacob and Robert which as usual did not disappoint the spectators. A great match ensued with both pairs giving 100%. Jacob and Robert fought hard in the first game to clinch victory 21-19, however the Leith brothers replied with a 21-15 win in the second. The third game started in favour of Mark and Sean who gained an early lead but Jacob and Robert fought back well. At 20-14 up it looked a certain victory for Sean and Mark but Jacob and Robert held in there clawing back to 20-18 when a well placed smash from Sean finally sealed victory. A place in the final against old rivals Andrew Mawbey and Alistair Gordon, Lothian, was the reward for Sean and Mark and they almost caused upset, winning the first game 21-19 it seemed like this might be their day. In the second game fortunes changed Mawbey and Gordon taking the honours 21-15. Mark and Sean were unable to sustain their earlier form and were unlucky to lose the third 21-5, however their overall performance and that of their Stonehaven counterparts was a credit to all concerned, players, coaches and parents alike. Joan Prieur, badminton development officer commented that "these regular consistent performances from the young athletes show that they are committed to the sport of badminton. They are all prominent players in these age groups nationally and are a splendid example to our up and coming youngsters in the sport. Stonehaven and the North East are now most definitely recognised as one of the strongest and well organised regions in Scotland in the sport of Badminton."



Sean Leith, Matthew Duguid, Calum Hay, Cameron Pyper, Scott Duncan, Jacob Reynolds & Mark Leith