

West of Scotland U15
Cockburn Centre, Glasgow
Sat / Sun 6th / 7th March 2010

The Cockburn Centre, Glasgow was the venue for the recent West of Scotland U15 / U19 Badminton Championships. Stonehaven was represented by 4 athletes, Mark Leith (U13), Jacob Reynolds (U14), Sean Leith (U14) and Kirsty Thomson (U15). All players participated in all 3 disciplines, singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Mark, Jacob and Kirsty were all unfortunate in their first round singles matches, Mark losing to 4th seed, Callum Riddell, Jacob losing to doubles partner Robert Clark in a very close 3 set encounter and Kirsty over powered by Edinburgh's Julie Macpherson. Sean justified his 8th seed place by disposing of Northumberland's Philip Pahatouridis, 21-11, 21-11 in the first round then overcoming close rival Alistair Gordon, Edinburgh, 21-19, 21-18 in the second. This earned him a quarter final tie against Highlands Joshua Holder. The first set was close, Joshua taking the honours 21 -19. After a very even start in the second, Joshua pulled away winning the tie 21 – 12. Jacob and Mark both won their 3rd round matches in the consolation before coming head to head in the quarter finals. Jacob was once again too strong for his younger opponent and took the match 30 – 16. Jacob continued in his winning ways disposing of Euan Watson in the semi-final and Northumberland's Jishnu Bhattacharya in the final. Kirsty was unlucky to meet Ayrshire's Tammi Gibson in the first round of the consolation and after a hard fought match lost out 30 – 21. The doubles event was to see similar fortunes with Mark & Callum MacMillan losing to Alexander Caughey & Euan Cameron and Kirsty & Fiona Chatterton losing to Laura Imrie & Kelly Sands in the first round. Mark & Callum then lost out in the quarter final of the consolation event 30 – 28 to Glasgow School of Sports Callum Riddell and Callum Stevenson, while Kirsty and Fiona went out in the semi final to experienced Ayrshire pair Tammi Gibson and Holly Newall. Jacob and Sean and their respective partners made it through the first round to retain a place in the main event, Jacob and Robert Clark losing out to 3rd seeds Joshua Holder & Tommy Reynolds 21 – 17, 21- 18 in the quarters. Sean and partner Robert Dunn once again justified their 4th place seeding almost causing upset in the semi final where they met 1st seeds Adam Hall & James Milton, pushing them to a 3rd set, only losing 21-17, 18-21, 21-13. The mixed event was held on the Sunday where Sean & Kirsty teamed up, Jacob partnered Hannah Baird and Mark accepted an invitation on the day to play with Ayrshire's Holly Newall (U12). All 3 pairs were unlucky to lose their first round matches and would all compete in the consolation event. It was a day for the youngsters to shine with Sean & Kirsty and Jacob & Hannah exiting at the quarter final stage, Mark and Holly made progress to the next stage only losing out 21-17 in the 3rd set of a thrilling encounter against Sofia Cogliano and Tommy Reynolds. Joan Prieur, Aberdeenshire Council Badminton Sports Development Officer said "These Aberdeenshire Performance Squad Players are going from strength to strength as they continue to work hard and gain experience playing against Scotland's best in their age groups.