

## Orkney Squash Championship

Last weekend saw the Orkney Championship with many close and entertaining games which once again made this the highlight of the Orkney Squash calendar. The high entry numbers in both the mens and ladies meant busy evenings of squash on all three nights giving spectators somewhat of a feast. It's encouraging to see such high numbers especially in the ladies competition making it one of the biggest entries in recent years.

With depleted Junior entries sadly there was only enough for finals in each junior category. First up was the Boys Under 15 between Sweyn Cowie and Michael Schinkel. They've enjoyed a close rivalry this season with nothing between them in recent months. On this occasion however it was Michael who claimed victory 2-0. In the Girls under 18 Sarah Cowie had to pull out due to injury leaving Aimee Drever to Claim the prize. In the boys U18 Graeme Murdoch beat Greg Kemp 3-0 with good strong shots from both boys showing great potential for the future.

Christine West was up against Melanie Slater in the first of the Ladies semi-finals. Christine played very well to knock out second seed Melanie to get to the final. Marie Wylie and Betty Stanger were on next in the other semi-final. Marie showed Determination early on but Betty soon kicked into gear taking the set and the 3-0 win to reach the final.

The mens semi-finals couldn't have been any closer. First up was Ian Stout and Terry Flett. Terry was flying high after some pretty convincing results and looked as though he may have edged it to the final. Ian however battled on and proved too strong to win 3-2. Number 1 seed Adam Stanger met Mick Swanney in the other semi-final and provided just as close a match. Adam rampaged into a 2-0 lead turning around a 8-3 scoreline in the second to complete an impressive come back. Mick however dug in and clinched entry to the final by the narrowest of margins. It see sawed on 9-9 for several rallies until mick eventually won 10-9.

Aimee Drever claimed her second medal of the event by beating Amy Walker 3-2 in what was surely one of the most exciting games of the tournament. It could have gone either way and went right down to the wire. Scott Tulloch and Matthew Wylie took to the court next in the mens plate final. Although Matthew started strongly Scott began to claw back and win it 3-1 with a catalogue of great shots.

Next on was the ladies final between Betty Stanger and Christine West. Christine showed great movement and shots throughout but Betty once again gained increasing momentum that Christine found difficult to limit. Bettys confidence seemed to grow and she eventually won 3-0 to win the ladies Orkney Championship.

So to the final game of the night and the big crowd was expectant of something special. That it was. Both players really wanting to lift the trophy and both players showing flurries of brilliance needed to win it. Early on it was very difficult to predict a winner as both players looked more than worthy but Ian eventually won 3-1 with some clinical finishing. It was a long game to end a long night with play finishing well after 10 and it was good to see a different winner after years of dominance by Adam Stanger and Adam Bews.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped throughout the competition and hopefully we can continue the good play in the upcoming intercounties. Remember to keep up to date with goings on at the courts at [www.kirkwallsquashclub.co.uk](http://www.kirkwallsquashclub.co.uk)