

## **Orkney v Caithness Junior Inter County**

Orkney juniors crossed a lumpy Pentland Firth on 13th March to meet Wick and Thurso in the Inter County and Cameo Cup. The 13th was not an unlucky date for the Orkney team however as they all played very well and won by 8 matches to 3. The Cameo Cup was not played for last season and had been held by Caithness for 6 years prior to that.

Many thanks go to Donald Durrand from Wick Squash Club for his help in arranging accommodation and transport and to Jackie Beales who arranged a lovely spread of food at the courts during the day.

The team travelled to Thurso on Sunday morning where they won 10 matches to 1. Many thanks to Ian Adamson, Alison Henderson and all who helped them in providing another great days squash with loads of food to fuel the players in their matches.

The Orkney juniors had a great weekend. As well as their main games they all had the opportunity to play a second game each day gaining valuable experience. Thanks too must go to Tony Scott who travelled over with the group. His help in supporting the team is much appreciated.

Michael Schinkel got the team off to a fantastic start when he won his match after being 8 - 1 down in the fifth set against Wick's Scott Simpson.

Michael dug his heels in winning serve after serve to win the final set 10 -9. In Thurso he again got a good start for Orkney winning his match against Thurso's Shannon Fulton 3 -0.

On Saturday Cameron Robinson played at number 10 for Orkney. Nerves took over in his first match against Rory McDougall. This resulted in a 3 -0 win for Wick. Cameron recovered however and won his second match in Wick. It was a friendly game but it gave Cameron the boost he needed for his match in Thurso on Sunday. He played very well against Lucy Owen and went on to win the match in 3 sets.

Greg Kemp, another playing squash for the first time away from home had a comfortable win against Wick's Morgan Robertson. Greg continued on form winning all of his matches over the weekend. On Sunday he met Hannah Hutson and although he dropped a set he had another great win in the end when he took the match 3 - 1.

Sweyn Cowie carried on the winning streak when he kept his cool and had two good wins, first against Andy Cormack(W) 3- 0, then 3- 0 in Thurso against James Hawes. Along with Michael, Sweyn is one of the youngest team members but both boys seemed unphased and made an excellent account of themselves.

Up next each day was Alistair Scott. He has not played squash for very long, but already he is making an impact. He had easy wins both in Wick when he beat Graham Rae in 3 sets and then in Thurso winning in 3 sets against Sam Hutson.

Playing at number 6, Sam Scott was up against Adam Bremner from Wick on the Saturday. Sam dropped a set but stuck in and won the match 3 - 1 notching up Orkney's fifth win of the day. In Thurso on Sunday although on warmer courts than our players are used to Sam won in 3 sets when he played Bruce Cameron - the sixth win of that day's play.

Graeme Murdoch's focus never wavered in any of his matches as he won in 3 sets both in Wick and Thurso when he played James Alexander (W) and Charlene Banks (T).

Sarah slotted into the order of play at number 4 where she met Liam Beales.

She also had a match with Stephanie Campbell. Both the Wick players have played for a number of years in Wick and further afield. Sarah played extremely well but the experience of both Wick players ensured that they won their matches. Sarah did take a set off Liam Beales.

On Sunday Sarah fared better when she won her match against Thurso's Sarah MacKinnon in 3 sets.

David Chalmers, Erlend Cowie and Andrew Moar, the 3 "old" boys of the team also met familiar faces in Wick when they played Kobe Sutherland, Owen Harrold and Gary Beales. Unfortunately David hurt his ankle at the start of his match which slowed him up. He had won the first set but went on to lose 3- 1 to Kobe. Erlend and Andrew played Owen and Gary winning both matches in 3 sets.

On Sunday David recovered well to play and win his match against Thurso's Scott Kelman. Erlend too had a comfortable 3 set win against Darren Shek. Andrew, however, was matched against Sean Miller whom he has met in the Senior Inter County match before. Sean playing in his last junior match beat Andrew 3 - 0.