

Henley Junior Squash Club 2012 Championship

Henley Junior Squash Club held its annual club championship last weekend. There were two competitions; one for players of primary-school age, the other for those of secondary-school age. Both competitions saw some great squash with all players showing boundless enthusiasm and energy. The preliminary round was held on Saturday and consisted of a series of league-based round-robin matches for both age categories, with the finals and third/fourth place play-offs taking place on Sunday.

The Under 11 final saw some excellent squash between county players Ruby Borg and Jake Ireland, who play for Oxfordshire and Berkshire, respectively. The first game was very tight with Ruby just prevailing 13-11. After Jake had taken an early lead in the second game, Ruby rattled off nine consecutive points with some deft shots to take the game 11-5. She kept up the momentum in the third and, despite some strong resistance from Jake, won 11-8 to secure the championship. The third/fourth place play-off saw Cameron Parke keep his concentration and overcome some extremely determined play from Beth Ireland to win a tight contest 11-7, 11-6, 11-9.



Medallists in the Under 11 Competition (left to right): Beth Ireland (4th), Ruby Borg (1st), Jake Ireland (2nd) and Cameron Parke (3rd)

The third/fourth place play-off for the Over 11 competition was even tighter. Keith Domnick looked to be set to win the match with three match points in the third game. However, Helen Henshaw saved all three and went on to take the third game 15-13. Helen had a game point in the fourth, but Keith saved it and held his nerve to win a

most entertaining match 12-10, 11-4, 13-15, 12-10. The final for the Over 11 competition was between Jonathan Betts and Freddie Borg both of whom play for the Oxfordshire U15 team. The standard of squash was superb with both players producing some well-crafted rallies that kept the packed gallery entertained. After losing the first game, Jonathan fought back strongly to take a 2-1 lead. However, Freddie ensured that the match went to the deciding fifth game by taking the fourth. There was nothing between the two players in the fifth and in a frenetic finale both players had match points before Jonathan finally prevailed, winning 9-11, 11-7, 13-11, 9-11, 15-13, thereby securing the championship for the second consecutive year.



Medallists in the Over 11 Competition (left to right): Freddie Borg (2nd), Keith Dornick (3rd), Jonathan Betts (1st) and Helen Henshaw (4th)