

County Success for Henley Squash Juniors

Players from Henley Junior Squash Club featured prominently in the recent Berkshire and Oxfordshire County Championships, gaining one county title, four second places and a third place.

The Berkshire County Championship was held at the Magnet Leisure Centre in Maidenhead and four Henley juniors competed; Miles Edwards, Ethan Milton, Beth Ireland and Jake Ireland.

Miles had finished 3rd in last year's U13 Boys' competition and played well to secure the same position in the U15 Boys' competition this year. Although only 10 years old, Ethan competed in both the U11 Mixed and the U13 Boys. He finished runner up in both competitions, a fantastic start to his County career. Similarly, although only 12 years old, Beth competed in both the U13 Girls and the U15 Girls, taking second place in both of her competitions too.

One of the matches of the Championship was the U17 Boys final between Jake Ireland and a much improved Matt Burr. Jake won the U15 last year and was definitely the one that everyone wanted to beat this year. Matt took a close first game but Jake came back strongly to take the next two games. Jake then relaxed too much and Matt took the fourth game. It was all down to the final game where, as with last year, Jake's superior shot selection, movement and cool attitude ruled the day.

The Oxfordshire County Championship was held at the Abingdon Squash Club. Ewan McCracken who had finished 3rd in last year's U13 Boys' competition was looking to make an impact in his first year in U15 competition. He breezed through the first two rounds but had a tough match with the eventual champion in the semi-final. He then lost a very tight battle for the 3rd/4th place play off, so he finished a disappointed 4th but vowed to be back next year with the aim of improving on this year's finishing position.

Commenting on the juniors' success, the Junior Club's chairman, Richard Little, said "These are great results for our juniors and reflect the hard work they have put in over the last 12 months with our coaches. We run coaching sessions each Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, and encourage new players to come for a free trial session and to make use of our holiday taster sessions which are supported by Invesco Perpetual's Community Support programme". More details about the club and its activities are available from www.henleysquash.co.uk.



Berkshire Boys' U17 Champion, Jake Ireland, with Berkshire County Coordinator Roy Dowling



Berkshire Girls' U13&15 Runner-up, Beth Ireland with Berkshire County Coordinator Roy Dowling



Berkshire Mixed U11 and Boys' U13 Runner-up, Ethan Milton with Berkshire County Coordinator Roy Dowling