

County Success for Henley Squash Juniors

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

The Berkshire County Championship was held at the Windsor Squash Club and four Henley juniors competed; James Dunning, Miles Edwards, Beth Ireland and Jake Ireland.

James and Miles had finished 4th and 5th, respectively, in last year's U13 Boys' competition and were looking to improve this year. They played well during the event with both showing significant progress over the year, with James taking the runner-up position and Miles 3rd position. Last year Beth did not drop a game all tournament. However this year her main rival, Danni Kalar, had been training hard and pipped Beth in both her categories (U13 and U15 Girls). Beth has promised to be back next year with some new shots to take back her crown.

The match of the Championship was between long-term rivals Jake Ireland and Jason McAnally. Jake has been runner-up for the last two years and was determined to go one better this year in the U15 Boys category. Jake took the first game but Jason came back strongly to take the next two close games. With Jake edging the fourth, it was all down to the final game where Jake's superior shot selection, movement and cool attitude overcame the more physical approach of Jason.

In the Oxfordshire County Championship held at the Abingdon Squash Club, Jonathan Betts had some hard fought matches in the U19 Boys' event and did well to finish 3rd overall. In the U13 Boys' competition, Ewan McCracken was keen to improve on his 6th place finish from last year. He came through his first round of matches comfortably and, although he then faced some tough opponents in his final round of matches, he did very well to finish 3rd overall.

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 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' U15 Champion, Jake Ireland, with Berkshire County Coordinator Roy Dowling



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