



NORTH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR OPEN

Almost 100 juniors competed at the North of England Junior Open held at The Northumberland Club in November.

The winner of the Boys U11 event was unseeded Yorkshire player Harry Anderson who beat top seeded local player **Max Forster** in the semi-final before beating **Lewis Follin** in the final. In the Girls U11 event the top seed could not be derailed with **Erin Vitty** beating **Lowri Waugh** 3-0 in the final.

The U13 events were both won by top seeded local players **Laura Neill** and **Michael Mattimore**. Neill beat fellow Northumbrian **Josie Barker** and Mattimore backed up his win on the previous week in Sheffield with a convincing 3-0 win over Yorkshire's Lewis Southward.

The Boys U15 final was excitingly close and played at the highest level. The final was between **Jamie Todd** and **Chris Wiggins** who served up a treat with the match going to five games, Wiggins clinching it 11-9 to take the title. The Girls U15 event was a round robin format and was won by Yorkshire's Charlotte Fish with **Georgia Webster** finishing in second place.

The oldest age group was U17, the Girl's event again being a round-robin with **Maria Bainbridge** topping the group and **Jayne Oswald** as runner-up. The Boy's event was full of close long matches but the final was a reasonably quick 3-0 win for Durham's Alex MacFarlane against **Elliott Carr**.

TOP SQUASH AT NORTHUMBRIA SENIOR OPEN

The Northumberland Club was again the venue for the first Northumbria Senior Open and the crowds were treated to some high level squash from professionals coming from far and wide.

The Men's entries were topped by Joel Hinds (world ranked 84) and Shaun Le Roux (world ranked 90). Both top seeds reached the final although Hinds was pushed hard both in the quarter-final by local **Paul Lord** and in the semi-final by Lewis Walters who had previously beaten Northumbria no.1 **Dave Barnett** in the quarter-final. Le Roux's path to the final was smoother, dropping only one game against Yorkshire's Neil Cordell in the semi-final.

The packed audience was treated to a high paced final with Hinds volleying at every opportunity but Le Roux was able to take the lead in every game with more accurate shot placement and impressive short game. Every game took a similar pattern with Le Roux taking control early on to win 11/9, 11/8, 11/7.



Perry

The Ladies' event didn't go to seeding with Sarah-Jane Perry upsetting no.1 seed Dominique Lloyd-Walter 3-2 in the semi-final. Lloyd-Walter had beaten Northumbria champion **Samantha Ward** in the quarter-final. In the other half draw no. 2 seed and world ranked 58 Amanda Landers-Murphy from New Zealand fought off Yorkshire's Carrie Ramsey 3-1. In the final Perry used her superior racket skills to control the early exchanges in each game and Landers-Murphy fought back each time to create a very fast, feisty final.

However Perry just edged each game of this closely fought contest taking it 11/9, 11/6, 12/10.

'B' and 'C' graded events ran alongside the main events with entries from local clubs and further afield.

The 'B' event was won by Northumberland Club player **Nick Hale** who beat Nick Pugsley from Cleveland 3-2 in a tough final. The 'C' event final was an all junior match with Consett's **Matthew Youngman** just edging out Hexham's **Simon Graham** 3-2.



Le Roux

NORTHUMBRIA SENIOR COUNTY CLOSED

13 -15 January 2012 at Northern Squash Club
Entries £5, with events for all standards
CLOSING DATE Friday 6 January
see www.northumbriasquash.co.uk for details

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2011-12

- 19 Dec **Junior county coaching**, Tynemouth Squash Club
- 22-23 Dec **SQUASHATHON**, Northumberland Club (Juniors play non-stop for 24 hours in relays to fundraise for junior county events)
- 8 Jan **Junior county monrad**, Northern Squash Club
- 13-15 Jan **SENIOR COUNTY CLOSED**, Northern Squash Club