

ASHAWAY MEADOWBANK XMAS TOURNAMENT
29/30 DECEMBER 2011

The Ashaway Meadowbank Xmas Tournament this season attracted a larger participation than in any year since 2002 – this in spite of the tendency in recent years for increasing numbers of families to be away over the Christmas-New Year period visiting relatives or taking a winter break in warmer parts. The only group to buck the upward trend was the Under-19 girls. What, I wonder, keeps them busy between Christmas and New Year? Winners came from as far west as Linlithgow and Bathgate, and even Falkirk (via Stewart's-Meville College), and from Longniddry in the east, with a large representation as usual from Edinburgh itself.

Sisters Heather and Julie Macpherson, of Royal High, were the biggest winners this year, both going off with five titles. Together they won the Girls' Doubles at Under-19 and Under-17, with Heather also taking both Singles titles and the Under-19 Mixed. Julie added the Under-17 Mixed, as well as the Singles and Mixed titles at her own Under-15 Age-group. Looking on with pride was their mum, who, as Hazel Murchie, was a winner here thirty years back! And, just to go one better than her sister, Heather had to lift the main raffle prize, an Ashaway racquet.

Next biggest winner was Shona Whillans, Preston Lodge High and Longniddry, with four titles - a treble at Under-13 and the Under-15 Girls' Doubles. Then we have five who took two titles – Matthew Carder (Glasgow University and South Queensferry) at Under-19, Alistair Gordon (Currie High) at Under-17, Glen Lewington (Craigmount High) at Under-13, Michael Farnood (Corstorphine Primary) at Under-11, and Rachel Andrew (George Watson's) also at Under-11.

Three annual memorial trophies were also awarded - the Joe Tait Trophy for most improved Under-18 going to Graham Pettigrew (Linlithgow and Stewart's-Melville), while the Hamish Millar trophies for most promising player went to Shona Whillans at Under-14, and Lily Farnood (Corstorphine Primary) at Under-12.

The new arrangements at Meadowbank undoubtedly helped us to cope with the increased numbers, giving us an extra court in each hall. In particular, the new flooring in Hall 2 was a great boon, giving us five courts instead of the four Hova courts of recent years.

Thanks go to Goode Sport (Ashaway UK), Meadowbank Sports Centre, and all those who gave their time to help with the organisation of this important local event, the Junior Restricted Championships of Lothian Group.

Douglas Walker, Tournament Organiser and Referee (for yet another year!)