

## Silloth Tennis Club

Report by Gareth Lewis

The tennis club ended the year on a high with the introduction of a new tournament, the David's Cup. This is a team based contest for our junior members and is based loosely on the Davis Cup.

The inaugural event took place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December in the senior school hall. Four teams were on hand to compete for the honour of becoming the first David's Cup champions.

The first round contests consisted of singles matches, doubles matches and an open tennis match in which all team members participated at the same time. The Doody Dogs (Joe, Leanne, Clare & Carl) proved too strong for the confidently named Best Tennis Players (James, Abigail, Nadyne & Gareth), winning the first round tie 5-3.

Special mention must go to Gareth and Carl who had a superb singles battle that Gareth just edged by 10 points to 8.

The second tie was between the two teams who had only three players each. The Weakest Link (Dawn, Kelly & Joby) proved anything but, as they booked their spot in the final by beating the Tweenies (Sarah, Claire & Bethany) by a score of 3-2. Joby was the star of the tie. With his brand new racket in hand he confidently won both his singles and doubles matches.

The whole tournament had to be completed in the hour we have the school hall, so the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> place play-off and the final were completed with open tennis games where all team members are on

court at the same time and points are scored if your opponents let the ball roll, or they hit the net. The matches are fast paced, exciting and demand good team work to bring success.

The Best Tennis Players salvaged some pride, and claimed third place, beating the Tweenies 3-2. The final was an excellent contest between the Doody Dogs and the Weakest Link. Spurred on by their spiritual leader Anne Robinson, the Weakest Link mounted a comeback, it wasn't to be as two quick points claimed the first ever David's Cup for the Doody Dogs by a score of 5-2.

The presentation ceremony was held straight after the final. The Best Tennis Players and the Tweenies received bronze medals for coming 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> respectively. The Weakest Link were awarded silver medals and the Doody Dogs were the proud recipients of gold medals and the prestigious



The David's Cup

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The competition was such a success that we are holding it again in the summer outdoors. The David's Cup will be a twice yearly event held in both winter and summer.

Just a final note to remind you that the Saturday morning junior coaching sessions continue as normal (10am to 11am at the Skinburness courts, Christ Church hall when weather is poor). Also the Tuesday evening sessions are still taking place in the senior school hall (7pm to 8pm). Please contact David Wise (tel. 32988) if your child is interested in the Tuesday sessions as places are limited to only 16 children.

## Silloth Junior Rugby

The Junior Rugby are experiencing a busy period with an away fixture at Wigton on the 24<sup>th</sup> November then a return fixture with Cockermouth on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December.

We travelled to Wigton with under ten & under twelve teams and returned with mixed fortunes. Both teams lost on the day but acquitted themselves well against stiff opposition. The under twelve's team were beaten by 2 tries to 1 with Bobby Benson scoring for Silloth. The under 10s team were not as fortunate losing by 5 tries to nil. This was a good day and more experience for the children, well done to all.

On Sunday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> the Juniors entertained Cockermouth in a home fixture. This was a three match fixture at under 8, under 10, and under 12. At under 8s Silloth ran out winners by 2 tries to 1. At under 10s we were beaten by 5 tries to 2 and at under 12s we lost by 4 tries to 2.

Now that we have

finished 2002 and the coaching staff have had time to sit down and analyse the progress of the Juniors we are more than happy with the progress they have made. When everything is taken into consideration the results at first glance may not seem too good but when you take into consideration that we have only been in existence for 6 months and are playing teams that have been playing for much longer then we see it in perspective.

We are starting to see quite an improvement across the board with quite a few of the youngsters starting to sparkle now that they have got confidence and know how.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who have followed us across the County in support and hope they have got as much enjoyment out of watching their children play as we have. We start 2003 full of optimism.



Doug Fisher, former top class jockey, leads in two winners on Carnival Day ridden by Australian girls Jessica and Rebecca.



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