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**Silloth Tennis Club**

**AIMEE NETS COUNTY TITLE AS SILLOTH TAKES KENDAL BY STORM**

Aimee Gray, on her debut in full Tennis really hit the heights, becoming Silloth Tennis Club's first individual County Tennis champion since the heady days of the Thompson brothers, in the 1990's.

After a rapid ascent through the ranks of mini Tennis Aimee has seen a massive improvement in her play over the summer months and her hard work has really paid dividends with a fine triumph over the best Cumbria has to offer.

The good news doesn't end there though for the club as four of the eight final slots available went to our players with Nadyne Cole taking the plate trophy and Ross Johnstone beating Robbie Harrison in the boy's plate final. With our other 2 players, Hannah Story (beaten by Aimee in the semi final) and Sophie Harrison retiring ill on her way to the plate final on a day of stifling heat and long matches the Silloth contingent really did us proud and with our policy of continued



match practice our players can really look forward to the prospect of challenging for more and more titles in the future.

So again, it's massive congratulations to Aimee on becoming under 9 county singles champion and let's hope that it's the first of many such titles.

Further congratulations go to Hannah Story, who, at under 10 level took the plate event at the county championships at Penrith. Another of our budding stars Ryan Johnstone also had a good debut in the under 12 competition and was narrowly beaten in the plate final.

**REIGNING CHAMPS RICKI & ANNA WON'T LET GO OF THEIR UNDER 16 TITLES**

Reports by: Ricki T Racket

It was a case of "hands off" as last year's winners Ricki Sutcliffe and Anna Jones kept the young pretenders to their under 16 thrones at bay for another year. Ricki, in fact was making it a hat trick of titles as he saw off a very dogged display from a definite champ of the future in Rory Johnstone.

Both players had breezed through their respective groups with relative ease and after Ricki came out all guns

There was also a similar feel to the girls' event with massively improved performances from Sarah Akitt, Charlotte Charters and Rachel Holden, with both Charlotte and Rachel making the semi finals.

The surprise of the competition, though, was the success of plate winner Hannah Story, who, at just 9 years old showed that she has a great future with an excellent display in the final. With Dawn Graham's continued success, both at home



The winners and their trophies

α-blazing to take the first set 6-1 it was feared that the final would prove to be something of a damp squib, however, Rory was having none of that and the second set became a thriller with two games going to 7 deuces as the set saw-sawed back and forth. After serving at 5-4 Rory just couldn't hold on as Ricki came roaring back to take the set into a tie break, which he eventually took 7-5.

With the match finishing at 6:30pm after a tournament start of 9:30am Rory's comments of "Thank God for that!" summed up the all-round feeling of exhaustion perfectly.

The "young pretenders" mentioned earlier really have the competitive bit between their collective teeth these days with players such as James Gribbon, Ryan Johnstone, Liam Kalvik and plate winner Jaime Harrison all providing excellent displays as they move up from mini Tennis to the full game and into their respective secondary schools.

and in the county it is very easy to forget that she, too is only just making the move up to secondary school this year, and again, showed that if players like Hannah want trophies then she will be the one to beat, as she made her way to the final in a quiet and ruthless manner.

On the other side of the draw Anna Jones was doing the same and a head on clash of epic proportions was forecast for the final. The "clash", though didn't materialise as Anna produced some of her best ever Tennis as Dawn wasn't allowed to settle and a display of big hitting saw her through to a comfortable defence of her title with a 6-1 win

In previous years this competition has suffered from a rather weak field, but with an influx of new players from our mini Tennis programme starting to come through 2005's event will be a one to savour, so watch out Anna and Ricki, they're coming after you!

**Olympic Torch**

Sillothians from all over the world now read the Buzz using our web site, and some of them have the most interesting jobs.

John Barton sent this picture from Athens where he is proudly holding the Olympic Torch.

He is an old boy of Silloth Secondary and his Uncle Dick was the County Weights and Measures Inspector for many years.

His father Ben emigrated to Australia many years ago where John was born, however, as circumstances dictated the family came back to Silloth



John Barton  
 Head of Sport  
 Head of Broadcast Operations  
 Athens 2004 Olympic Games  
 Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union

where John spent nearly ten years.

It is nice to know that so many people still want to remember and keep in touch with our attractive little town.

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