

“Activetendring” February Squash Festival 2011 – Press Release

## **“Activetendring” Festival wins for the two Lyons! And Charlotte Martin,**

This year’s “Activetendring” February Junior Squash Festival winners were brothers Horatio and Hector Lyon from Ardleigh in the boy’s year 8 and year 6 categories respectively, and Frinton’s Charlotte Martin in the girls year 8 event.

The finals held at the University of Essex were the culmination of a three day series of tournaments held at Harwich Sportscentre, Brightlingsea Sportscentre and the University as part of Tendring District Councils “Activetendring” half-term sports programme for kids. Between 15 and 19 juniors turned up daily to each venue to gain valuable attendance and match points to see who would emerge the overall winner on the rankings on finals day. Every match was keenly contested as every point counted and potential permutations of points were discussed and debated amongst the players on a daily basis.

On the finals day three or four potential winners looked likely in the boys year 6 event, Hector Lyon, 7-year old squash phenomenon Joel Braddock from Lexden, Tom Bird from Frinton and David Hawkes also from Lexden. In the final match of the day however Hector Lyons match against Tom Bird proved to be the decisive clash. Whoever won that match (best of two games up to 15 points was likely to prove to be the event’s champion. Lyon started the first game better as Bird made a number of serve return errors to give him an early lead which proved to be decisive winning 15-7, the second although a closer affair also went to Lyon 15-9 and this gave him the necessary margin for victory. Thus the winners were Lyon 1<sup>st</sup> – 317, Bird 2<sup>nd</sup> – 292, Braddock 3<sup>rd</sup> – 264, and Hawkes a very close 4<sup>th</sup>! – 262.

In the girls event Charlotte Martin from Frinton and Gemma Bonner from the same club, played on a daily basis with Charlotte winning eventually by a clear margin taking the title for the first time by 351 points to 283. Special mention however must be made of Ardleigh’s Elicia Andras, who ran both Martin and Bonner close despite only playing two out of the three days.

From day one at Harwich, in the year 8 and under event Ardleigh’s Horatio Lyon demonstrated his determination to be the number one by hitting hard serves, running for every shot, and using the court well with good shot selection, continuing in much the same way the two following days at Brightlingsea and the University. Ardleigh’s Clayton Hunt was running a close second needing to pick up quite a few more points on finals day to close the gap. Lyon was clearly the “class act” never relinquishing the lead he gained at the beginning although in his match against Hunt (a close fought affair) he lost the first game 10/11! – realising what was potentially at stake however, he won the second game decisively 11/7. Final tallies were Lyon (1<sup>st</sup>) – 299, Hunt 2<sup>nd</sup> – 283, Jamie Ampleford from Frinton 3<sup>rd</sup> – 203 and Hugo Johnson also from Frinton 4<sup>th</sup> – 145.

Once again playing every day saw all players improve and a huge thanks once again, to event organiser Sarah Clarke level three coach from the North Essex Squash Academy based at the University, assisted ably by John Braddock from Lexden.

**Chris Vine – February 2010**