IOMBA Junior U19 Tournament

*Colley and Li - Triple Title Winners*

St Ninians Upper School was host to the Under19s Championships (on Sat 27th Feb) sponsored by Hemensleys Pharmacy. Ian Hemensley kindly supports the event in memory of his father, the late John Hemensley, Past President of the Isle of Man Badminton Association and a stalwart of Manx Badminton over many years. He was official Badminton reporter both in the papers and on Manx Radio for a long period. John was a well respected member of the badminton community and provided valuable input as a member of the Executive.

Adam Colley (Marown) was the top seeded player in the boys singles event and easily reached the final after meeting Alex Hewlett (St Ninians) and Alex Buck (Vikings) en-route and only dropping 5 points in each match. Younger brother Matthew was hoping to meet Adam in the final however after a well fought semi, Sam Mills (Vikings) denied him the opportunity. Adam earned his No 1 seed ranking and won the match against Mills 21/6, 21/7.

Jessica Li (Fencibles) had a similarly comfortable route to the girls singles final as the top seed. Kristina Buck (Vikings) tried played well against her in the semi-finals along the way. Philippa Li (Fencibles) met Bethany Callow (Tynwald Celts) in the other semi-winning 21/10, 21/3. The final between Jessica and Philippa resulted in a win for Jessica 21/9, 21/7.

The Colley brothers teamed up for boys doubles. Vikings team mates Aaron Dougherty and Josh Mills put up a spirited fight in the semil but lost 21/15, 21/9 securing the Colleys a place in the final. Singles runner up Sam Mills partnered Alex Hewlett who took on current U17 champions Alex Buck and Tobey Cheng (Fencibles) in the semis. Buck/Cheng took the first game to the final point 21/20 but then Mills/Hewlett staged a comeback and won the next two 21/15, 21/12 to reach the final. The Colleys were on great form and in a good natured battle beat Mills/Hewlett 21/8, 21/10.

Kristina Buck and Bethany Callow played a strong game in the girls doubles and successfully secured themselves a final placing after beating regular partners Charlotte Dougherty(Vikings) and Emma Nicholson (Vikings)21/17, 21/15. In the final, Buck/ Callow played hard but Li/Li were a formidable partnership and they secured the win 21/11, 21/13.

Mixed doubles were pushed for time due to limited facilities so there was a sense of urgency about all the matches. They were all reduced to a single ‘sudden death’ match. Alex Hewlett/Kristina Buck were knocked out in the semi by Adam Colley/Jessica Li 21/8. Josh Mills and partner Chloe Teare (Fencibles) met elder brother Sam and partner Emma Nicholson who quickly completed the match 21/6. Immediately back on court for the final and Colley/Li found a focused partnership in Mills/Nicholson who had their sights on the title. In a point by point match (and with the clock ticking loudly as hall hire was almost over) it all came down to the final point. Colley/Li securing a win 21/20 and for both of them the triple title.

Thanks to the sponsor and everyone who attended to help on the day.