

## 2023 WORLD JUNIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS FUNDRAISER

A series of events have been planned through the first half of 2023 to try and raise funds to send a team of eight junior players from across Scotland (five girls and three boys) and two coaches to the World Junior Squash Championships in Australia over two weeks in July. The first event is the Individual Under 19 event and this will be for the top 128 girls in the world and the top 128 boys in the world, with all eight selected players participating in this event. This will then be followed by a team of four girls staying on and playing in the team event. The girls team is at a very high standard all of the girls ranked in the Women's top 20 in Scotland.

The key fundraising event was held at the Edinburgh Sports Club on Friday 12th May 2023, commencing with an exhibition match between Scottish Men's No.2 Rory Stewart and Scottish under-19 number 2 Rory Richmond. Richmond has improved dramatically in the past 6 months, recently finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in the Men's Scottish National Championships. The evening was introduced by Scottish Squash President Paul Macari, then Sky Sports News' Dave Fulton ran proceedings as World No.55 Stewart went on to beat his teenage opponent 11-8, 11-7, 11-8, all under the watchful eye of match referee Thomas Myers, the Scottish under-13 champion.



L to R: Oliver Hunter, Rowan Niven, Anna Halliday, Natalie Main, Rory Richmond (all under 19 team), Paul Macari (President), Rory Stewart (World number 47), Thomas Myers (Under 13 Scottish champion), Dave Fulton (Sky Sports)

A sit-down dinner for 97 plus auction followed, with the event raising nearly £12,000 in the process (over twice the anticipated amount), to bring total funds raised across all events to £26,000 and to 75% of the cost of the trip. Auction items included a training session with Scottish Men's champion Greg Lobban, through to a Loch Lomond boat trip and a week's holiday in Elie, all of which were generously bought by the guests. An excellent three course dinner was prepared by ESC Chef Dougie Kempself and served by the Scottish junior team members.



Without some of the fundraising efforts this year, some of the players would not be able to take part. They are incredibly dedicated, training one to two hours a day, six days a week to get to this level and participate self-funded in tournaments across Europe to elevate their competitive standard. Scotland took part in the European Mixed Team Under 19 in Zurich at the beginning of April, finishing in 5th place and in the individual European championships, the Scots performed well with Richmond the highest finisher ending in 14th position in Europe. Hopefully, European Championships will have prepared the team well for the World Team Championships and it is hoped that this could also help serve as a motivation for younger players in Scotland too.

You can follow the progress of the team on Scottish Squash's social media channels, with the tournament taking place between 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July in Melbourne.

# World Under 19 Squash Championships Fundraiser

Friday 12th May  
Edinburgh Sports Club



Rory Stewart (26 years) v Rory Richmond (18 years)

2	SCOTTISH MEN'S RANKING	12
1	COMMONWEALTH MEDALS	0
50	MEN'S WORLD RANKING	554

7.15pm Player Interviews  
7.30pm Exhibition Match  
8.00pm Drinks  
8.30pm Three Course Dinner  
9.30pm Auction  
Cost: £50



Fundraiser to send Junior Women's & Men's Team  
Evening hosted by Sky Sports TV Presenter Dave Fulton  
Contact: [adrianrichmond@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adrianrichmond@yahoo.co.uk) / 07747 622869

