

**Richards Takes Title Again at Welsh Junior Closed Championship**

An excellent event filled with exciting squash and fantastic camaraderie between players, the Karakal Welsh Junior Closed Championships demonstrated the best and brightest young squash talent the country has to offer on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Staged at Bangor University, more than 50 youth prospects headed north to compete across eight competitive age categories for boys and girls.

The U11 girls' final was hard-fought between Nia Thomas and Nia Lincoln, but it was Nia Thomas who came out on top and took the winner's title. Aled Davies proved that if you're good enough, you're old enough, as he stormed to the boys under 11 title after convincing wins over Dylan Vite (second), Reuben Davies (third) and Joe Morris (fourth).



In the under 13s, Archie Turnbull bested Jerad Evans in their final (11/7, 11/1, 11/7), as James Silvester pipped Louis Stephens to bronze; while Isobel Beynon-Cobb beat Eve Griffiths in the girls' showpiece (11/3, 11/9, 11/5).

Ellie Breach came out on top of a very competitive girls under 15s pool, prevailing over Olivia Stephens (second) and Alyx Kelleher (third) courtesy of points difference after all three finished with a record of two wins in their group. The boys' competition proved more straightforward as Daniel Lewis beat Joshua Davies outright in the final (11/4, 11/7, 11/6); while Ioan Sharpe overcame Lewys Audsley for third.

With a clean sweep in a five-man field, Rhys Evans won out in the boys under 17s, ahead of James Smith and Joshua Audsley; Srikar Mummidi proved similarly clinical in the under 19s group with wins over Lewis Poole, Siôn Evans and Kieran Hillman to claim gold.

Bringing her time in junior squash to a stylish close, Ciara Richards won a ding-dong affair in the under 19s final against Layna Beattie (11/4, 3/11, 6/11, 11/7, 11/6). As a fitting way to finish her journey in age-grade squash, Richards now takes the step to seniors next season – marking her victory by thanking her family, friends and coaches along the way for their help, guidance and support.





Squash Wales would like to thank title sponsors Karakal, as well as Merchasyllum, Dunlop and Bangor University. Thanks also go to all players that participated, with best wishes for the future to Ciara Richards as she takes her next exciting steps in the sport.

To see the full results from the tournament, please click [here](#). To see more photos from the tournament, please click [here](#).

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*Issued on behalf of Squash Wales by Thomas Owain Davies.*



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