

Indoor Season Kicks off with SportTayside & Fife Championships

Saturday 12th December saw the first ever **SportTayside & Fife** Indoor Championships at the Pitreavie Athletics Centre in Dunfermline. All age groups were catered for from Under 11s through to Seniors with the full range of indoor events on offer. The Senior and Under 20 athletes were competing not only to win the championships and set a marker down for the new indoor season but also for the opportunity to represent **SportTayside & Fife** at the inaugural Scottish Inter-Regional Championships at the Kelvin Hall in January.

The indoor arena provided some timetabling issues but the officials pulled together fantastically to produce a fantastic event with a great atmosphere and a friendly supportive environment in which the athletes could compete. This was best demonstrated in the final event of the day where the crowd gathered round the High Jump fan to create an intimate, supportive atmosphere where every jump by every athlete was supported by the large crowd. It helped the athletes to some great performances, notably Under 15 Jack Garrigan (Arbroath & DAC) jumping 1.75m for a new personal best and his clubmate Michael Downie doing likewise with 1.85m in his first competition as an Under 20 athlete. It was the end of a busy day for Michael, also competing in 60m hurdles, Long Jump and Pole Vault (see photo) to complete a great week's work after last weekend winning the Schools International Indoor Pentathlon.

Multi eventers were to the fore with Jackie Tindal (Pitreavie) winning the High Jump, Long Jump 60m hurdles and taking second in the shot. Her hurdles win was icing on the cake for Pitreavie's female hurdlers who won all four female hurdles events, with Naomi Fox looking particularly impressive in her first competition over the higher Under 17 hurdles.

The Triple Jump also produced some impressive showings as England Under 15 Triple Jump bronze medallist Douglas Paul (Falkirk VH) set a new pb, breaking the mark he set at the **SportTayside & Fife** outdoor championships as he leapt into the Under 17 age group with 13.11m on his home track. Also jumping well was Emma Dawson (Perth Strathtay) who hopped, stepped and jumped to a pb of 10.86m in the Under 17 Women's event.

A great note of thanks should go out to the officials and centre staff who helped to make the whole event run so smoothly and efficiently.