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For Application Form and Interview Contact

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## Silloth Tennis Club 'Orange'

Silloth Primary take Dalston by storm as both teams are "hailed" North Cumbria Orange Champs!



Photos & Report by: Ricki T Racket

Silloth Team 'B'

The weather may have been slightly dodgy, but there was only the smell of victory in the air for mighty Silloth Primary School as not one, but both of their year five and below teams qualified for the county finals as north Cumbria champions.

Held this year as a mixed team competition there were two events with five teams taking part in the morning and five in the afternoon with the victorious teams from each going on to the finals in Penrith on 25th May.

Team "A", with "Orange" debutantes Gareth Davenport and Patrick Brough making the step up set off superbly as captain Robbie Harrison showed the way with some excellently controlled play and the girls followed suit as Robert Ferguson school were brushed aside 6-0. They then moved on to St. Ursula's school from Wigton, and another set of fine results ensued with Patrick really getting the bit between his teeth and Hannah Story, Aimee Gray and Emily Wise recording fine victories to take the tie 5-1.

That match proved to be the toughest as both Inglewood "B" and St. Michael's School from Dalston were both brushed aside 6-0 as Nadyne Cole, Gareth Davenport and all the team made it comfortably into the county finals with some outstandingly skilful displays.

With the morning over it was the chance for the "B" team to shine and with the conditions changing rapidly from showers, to sunshine and then hailstones and back again their form was anything but indifferent as with four players brand new to competitive Tennis it proved an afternoon to remember.

As with the morning event there were five teams taking part, and as with the morning Silloth soon were off to a flying start as a tough battle with Maryport Juniors saw a 4-2 score line in Silloth's favour as Sophie Harrison, Kerry-Ann McGill and Luke Graham all recorded good singles victories.

This took Silloth on to the big match of the tournament and a crunching battle with Plumpton. This one ebbed and flowed all the way and after excellent wins for Megan Wise and Luke Graham in the singles the teams were locked at two-all with only the doubles to come. This was where the afternoon management team of Angus "Rafa" Harrison and Malc "Jose" Wise came into their own as their years of strategic tactical nous came to the fore with the decision to pair the obviously on-song Luke Graham with captain Oliver Neilly and a famous 10-9 victory ensued, and, although the girls were narrowly pipped 10-8 it was enough to seal the tie on points difference.

There was no looking back after that one with both Kirkby Stephen (5-1) and Inglewood "A" (6-0) being easily outshone as Oliver, Luke, Kerry, Sophie, Megan, Kieron Carr and the ever improving Dionne Blake recording impressive results.

Silloth Primary take Schools County Orange Title!



Silloth Team 'A'

Silloth Primary School's Tennis teams just get better and better. That was the general verdict as Silloth "A" took the county mini Tennis Orange schools title for a second year and Silloth "B" finished in third place at Penrith's Castle Park venue. With no less than four players missing from the regional qualifying teams through holiday commitments, or in Luke Graham's case a broken arm.

Silloth's strength in depth shone through as players of the calibre of Ross Johnstone, Georgia Hoodless and Ben Gribbon playing his first match of the year filled the respective voids quite beautifully. Up against the collective might of two schools from Barrow in Roose and Chetwynde respectively the event was played out as a "round robin" with each team playing each other throwing up the mouth

watering clash of "A" against "B", which in fact was the toughest match of all for the "A" team as they swept aside both Barrow teams 6-0 with the "Derby" game proving to be a real tussle as Oliver Neilly and Ross Johnstone fought out the match of the day with Oliver coming out on top on this occasion. Another fine doubles display from Oliver and

his partner Ben Gribbon also saw a victory for the underdogs and it was only a win for the girl's doubles team of Aimee Gray and Emily Wise that determined the tie 4-2 in favour of the "A" side.

The crunch match aside and it was right down to the wire for the "B" team. Because they had beaten Chetwynde in their first match the last match against Roose would prove vital in determining the competition runners-up. Again it was touch and go as the impressive Kerry-Ann McGill led the way with an excellent singles victory. Unfortunately though, despite an exhilarating doubles display from Georgia Hoodless and Megan Wise the game was up and another 4-2 defeat saw those runners-up medals slowly slip away, but with the majority of players young enough to compete again

next year an air of confidence was soon to return to our young players as they made the journey home.

