

## **Scottish squad rally at Clickimin's new courts**

Scottish squash player and Shetlander Jamie Macaulay will officially open the new squash courts at the Clickimin Leisure Complex this Saturday (28 July). Also trying out the new facilities will be the current Scottish squash squad, in Shetland for a training weekend.

Supported by a Lottery award of £200,000 from **sportscotland**, the three new courts will meet the increasing demand for squash facilities in Shetland, which has produced several national squad players over the years. The courts were built using an innovative design with moveable internal sidewalls which creates a flexible space. This allows either three single or two doubles courts for squash, or easy conversion into a space for other sports and activities including martial arts and aerobics.

The Clickimin Leisure Complex was the hub of activity during the 2005 NatWest Island Games in Shetland and the project to build the squash courts was split into two phases to ensure that the first phase of the project, the construction of the courts, was completed in time for the Games. The new courts are the only public doubles courts in Scotland and the 15-strong Scottish squash squad, which includes Jamie Macaulay, are in Shetland to take advantage of this. Squash is certainly a popular sport in Shetland and interest is growing since the new courts have been available. There are currently over 80 people playing regularly in 16 leagues with around 40 junior players receiving coaching each week.

Joe Irvine, Chairman of Shetland Recreational Trust, said: "Quality squash facilities had been severely lacking in Lerwick prior to the completion of the Clickimin courts. Not only did they serve as a centrepiece for the NatWest Island Games but they will provide a lasting legacy for the future."

Stewart Harris, Chief Executive, **sportscotland** said: "**sportscotland** is delighted to have supported this great project with a Lottery award of £200,000, improving the sporting opportunities for the people of Shetland.

"We are committed to providing quality, accessible facilities for communities across Scotland. This is particularly important for island communities, ensuring that they have the same sporting opportunities as their counterparts on the mainland. The innovative design of the squash courts has provided a flexible and multi-purpose area, ensuring that the people of Shetland can participate and develop their skills in a range of sports."