



## Life Changing Trip to Japan for Alfie

By Lanarkshire Badminton

Alfie Martin from East Kilbride had the trip of a lifetime when had the chance to travel to Japan to compete in the 2024 International Badminton U16 SHONAI Invitational 2024 on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June. He was joined by fellow scot Jaagruti Mannem and coach Lena Robertson. The event was organised by International Badminton U16 Promotion Council taking place at the Tsuruoka City Komagihara Gymnasium, attracting players from across the globe including Asia, Europe, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Martin who is a pupil at the Glasgow School of Sport (GSOS), member of City of Glasgow Badminton Club and part of Badminton Scotland Junior Regional and National Programmes amassing an average 17 hours a week training juggling around school.

With this being a singles only event, the format involved a group round robin stage then into a knockout. It was clear that the standard of play was very high however it was a valiant effort from Martin who lost out to two group opponents in three sets. This included against number 1 seed, Australia's Aneesh Nirmal with Martin taking the opening set 21-18 before going on to lose 21-12, 21-12. From here Martin progressed into the Quarter Finals where he faced off against Australian Matthew Zhao, with Martin putting in an impressive performance winning 21-10, 21-5. Into the Semi-Finals, the next test was against Kevin Guowei Yang of Canada. With not much between each other, Yang edged the victory 21-16, 21-15.

Alfie expressed when reflecting on the event:

*“It was a great experience and will take a lot away from this competition that I can use for the future. I would like to thank the Japan Badminton Association for the amazing opportunity and for the great hospitality shown to all the players.”*

Well done Alfie and Jaagruiti – great effort and excellent performances throughout.

To view all the results from the tournament, click [here](#).

