

## Up and Coming Chloe Marshall - Squash Champion

Chloe Marshall, a sixteen year old currently studying for her GCSEs at Burford School, is a force to be reckoned with on the squash court. Not only is she Oxfordshire's Number One player but she also plays with the England under 17s and under 19s teams.



She travelled to Manchester and played with the Under 19s team for the County finals. Two 'away matches' took her to Tel Aviv for a week for the European Championship and to Germany with England Squash. In Israel Chloe won and the England team were third overall.

### A Natural Talent

Chloe originally played football but, when the team folded, moved on to playing squash with her older sister Gemma. She soon realised that she had the competitive edge needed for this sport and started training with her coach Sue Wright at Thame. She trains once or twice a week with Sue and plays at Chipping Norton or Brize Norton on most other days. When I talked to Chloe she was sporting an impressive black eye, an extra prize earned in the County finals!

She also plays with the Brize Norton Men's team. Apparently women can play in the men's team but men are not allowed in the women's team. That's more sexist than the WI!

Now, as part of the England U17s team, she travels at home and abroad, for competitions and tournaments.

In May she took part in the County Finals in Essex, when Oxfordshire came second to Yorkshire, reversing last year's result.

### Playing For England

Such dedication involves the whole family and mum, Debra, usually travels with Chloe. 'Head' provides racquets and bags but most of her funding comes from her family. She has received grants from Oxfordshire County Council and the British Legion in Chipping Norton. It would be wonderful if a local firm or individual could sponsor Chloe to help with her training and travel costs.

Sadly squash has not been included as an Olympic sport but Chloe is hoping for a place in our Commonwealth Games team. The highest point in her career so far was being picked to play for England. It is hard to imagine that Chloe has time to relax but she does fit in the occasional disco with friends. They even re-schedule their parties so she can attend! Chloe is looking forward to a school trip to the Ardeche in the summer holidays, when she will enjoy some water sports for a change.

We wish her success in all she does.

**Christine Halliday**