

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

New season off to a positive start for Northants Basketball Club

Northants BBC awarded grant by Sport England

With the basketball world still talking about the Olympic Basketball Tournament and the brilliant performances of the American national team comes excellent news for the Northants basketball Club. Last week the Club were informed by Sport England that their application for support from the Small Grants Programme had been successful. The application spearheaded by Management Committee member Mike Round had been made to enable to establish a senior men's team.

For many years players graduating from the club's junior men's team or returning from university were unable to lay with the club they had often been associated with for many seasons. The Club made a successful application to play in the National League and this season will compete in Division 4. The Sport England grant which is excess of two thousand pounds will help with the additional administrative and running costs associated with running a senior team.

The Club's Coaching Co-ordinator John Collins commented, "The addition of a senior men's team is a natural progression in our development and hopefully the team will be an inspirational influence on our younger players who now will have senior players to look up to."

The Senior Men's team will be known as "Thunder", just like the other male teams in the Club and under the guidance of their coach Grahame Yates will compete in the Midlands Conference of the National League. The Senior Men's team is just one of ten teams playing in national and regional competitions and there is also a programme for boys and girls aged 4 to 9. Any player or parent interested in any of the teams or activities run by the Northants basketball Club should contact the Club Administrator **Karen Goodrich** on **01604 644 772**

Winning start for Senior Men

Senior Men's Pre-Season Friendly

Oxford "Hoops" 68 – 77 Northants "Thunder"

The Northants Senior Men travelled to Oxford for their first ever competitive game and returned after recording a 77-68 win over Oxford "Hoops". At the start of the game both teams found scoring difficult but "Thunder" displayed their ability to play up-tempo basketball but at the end of the first quarter found themselves trailing 16-12.

Scoring remained a problem at the start of the second period of play but a switch to a zone defence generated a number of 'steals' resulting in 7-zero and 8-zero runs for "Thunder" so at half time they lead 35-29.

In the third quarter stand-in coach Rob Eddon experimented with some changing defences but it was at the offensive end that the problems occurred with "Thunder" being guilty of taking early low percentage shots. In addition they were committing a lot of fouls allowing "Hoops" to stay in touch by converting from the free throw line.

Going into the final period of play "Thunder's" stood at 53-49 as the two teams traded baskets. With "Thunder" maintaining their narrow lead Oxford threw a press at them but the Northants players handled the pressure well and extended their lead to nine points as they 'bounced out the ball' for the win.

In the 77-68 victory nine of "Thunder's" ten players scored led by Leon Henry with 22 points while Jonny Yates totalled 17 personal points.

THE NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB'S PROGRAMME

All activities take place at the **Northants Basketball Centre** which is situated at Northampton School for Boys in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DG

Boys and Girls

"Ballers" Fun Programme for boys and girls aged 4 to 9.
Every Saturday morning

"Ballers" Academy for boys and girls aged 10 to 12
Every Saturday morning

Boys

Under 13	National League
Under 14	National League
Under 15	National League
Under 16	National League
Under 18	National League

Girls

Under 13	Regional League
Under 14	National League
Under 15	National League
Under 16	National League
Under 18	National League

Senior Men

National League

For further information about any of these teams and activities contact **Karen Goodrich** on
01604 644 772

Huge Club representation in East Midlands squads

Throughout the summer the various East Midlands teams have been practicing in preparation for the forthcoming Inter Regional Tournaments. Most of the teams have now been announced with the following players from the Northants Basketball Club gaining selection:

Under 13 Boys Jacob Round
Under 13 Girls Holly Winterburn

Under 15 Boys Andre Arissol, George Calvey, George Paul and Josh Round
Under 15 Girls Amy Boot, Charlotte Berridge, Tara Hings, Lauren Milne, Steph Ogden, Harri Owens, Nia Owens, Sarah Round, and Caitlin Stewart

Under 17 Boys Sam Round
Under 17 Girls A fourteen strong squad is still practicing with the final selection expected next weekend.
Rio Blessyn, Lauren Brookes, Lois Bain, and Izzie Johns

The Inter Regional Tournaments are integral parts of selection for England, New Horizons and Area Performance Centre squads.