**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Northants Basketball Club all set for the new season**

The 2023 / ’24 basketball season is set to be a bumper one for the Northants Club. The trend of last summer has been repeated over the last two months with the Club receiving numerous enquiries from prospective players. As a result the Club will run an unprecedented **sixteen** competitive teams playing in four different leagues plus four Casual sessions.

To accommodate the 350 boys and girls in the Club the Club’s Management Group has taken the important decision of moving some team practices to a second court at Thomas Becket Catholic School and some games will be played at a third venue yet to be confirmed.

This season the Club will play in the Basketball England National League, the YBL plus two new leagues the East of England League for under 14 girls and the county based Rose of the Shires League for under 11 and under 13 girls. After careful deliberation and consideration, the Club has decided to enter a team in the YBL under 9 mixed league. Commenting on this decision Club President, John Collins said, *“I know many people think that competitive sport for very young children is wrong but we have found that our younger players are naturally very competitive. We will make sure that our young players always maintain the highest levels of sportsmanship with an emphasis on competing properly and understanding how to win and lose in the correct way.”*

Following the various team Try Outs during the summer months the decision was taken to enter two teams in four age groups in order to keep as many players as possible players as possible playing competitive basketball. In addition, the Club will run two Casual sessions plus the “Budding Ballers|” and “Junior Ballers” sessions for younger players.

To run such a comprehensive programme requires a large number of volunteers coaches and for the coming season fifteen fully qualified coaches. Included in this coaching team will be **Adam Latimer** who is a new coach to the Club. Adam will be in charge of the second Under 14 girls team while Shane **Rowland** who acted as an assistant coach last season will look after the Under 11 girls team this season. These coaches will be supported by a team of Young Leaders many of whom are working towards official coaching qualifications.

The new season will also see increased co-operation between the Club and two of the other county clubs running National League based teams. With limited court time available the Northants club will encourage older players to attend casual sessions run by the Northamptonshire Titans Foundation while several girls from “Titans” have moved to the Northants club because “Titans” didn’t quite have enough players for a full team. In addition the Club will host the National Cup game of Northampton “Mavericks” at the Northants Basketball Centre on Saturday 23rd September.

If any boy or girl is are interested in trying out for one of the Club’s teams or signing up for the “Ballers” or Casual sessions their parent / careers contact the club at the following email address:

northantsbasketballclub@hotmail.co.uk

For further information on this Press Release contact:

**John Collins** on 07801 533 151