

# **NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Under 12 Girls finish with a double win.**

**Under 12 Girls  
(North of England Central Venue League)**

**Northants "Lightning"            56 – 27            Derby "Trailblazers"**

Having comfortably beaten "Trailblazers" in previous encounters, "Lightning" were shocked when the Derby girls took an early lead. "Lightning" responded with a 6-2 run inspired by Keris Ndubisi to take a 14-8 lead after the first quarter and this was extended to 25-12 by half time with Amelia Stirling catching the eye with some powerful drives to basket.

"Lightning" took away any doubt about the final result late on in the third quarter with a 16-zero run to extend their lead to 44-18 and during the final ten minutes of play Coach Karen Goodrich was able to give all her players ample court time as they ran out winners by 56 points to 27.

In the comfortable win Ndubisi top scored with 17 points while Athena Thompson contributed 9 points and put in an impressive defensive shift.

**Northants "Lightning"            62 – 17            Lancashire "Spinners"**

Against an inexperienced "Spinners" team, "Lightning" dominated the first three quarters moving out to a 54-11 lead. To their credit the Bury girls won the final quarter 8-6 as "Lightning" switched to a more passive half court defence.

In the 45 points win all eleven "Lightning" players contributed to the final total.

This was the final tournament of the regular season and "Lightning" have qualified for the Final Three Tournament in Sheffield on 7<sup>th</sup> April where the Northants girls will face Manchester "Mystics" and Sheffield "Hatters"

**Under 12 Boys go one and one**

**Under 12 Boys  
(Central England Central Venue League)**

**Abingdon "Eagles"            4 – 68            Northants "Thunder"**

The Northants Under 12 Boys travelled to Abingdon for their final Central England CVL Tournament of the season. Against the home side "Thunder" recorded an easy win with their scoring lead by Leo Smartt with 15 points.

**NEBC "Titans"            53 – 31            Northants "Thunder"**

It was a very different story against local rivals NEBC "Titans" who gave "Thunder" a bit of a basketball lesson. "Thunder" were unable to cope with "Titans" aggressive pressure defence and speed of play which resulted in numerous steals and easy scores. In comparison to "Titans" teamwork "Thunder" replied too much on individual play as they slipped to a 22 points defeat.

With this win "Titans" secured the Central England CVL title with an undefeated record.

**Hughes sees "Swifts" home**

## Under 14 Girls Challenge game

**Northants "Lightning"**

**61 – 66**

**South Essex "Swifts"**

In preparation for the forthcoming Play Offs the Northants under 14 girls took on South Essex "Swifts" formerly Southend "Swifts" in a challenge game.

"Swifts" dominated the early exchanges with some impressive fast break basketball jumping out to an 8-zero lead. "Lightning" responded thanks to the efforts of Lucie Wilson-Grey but still trailed 15-21 after the end of the first quarter. "Swifts" extended their lead by one point to 33-26 at half time, following a low scoring second quarter.

"Lightning" enjoyed their most successful period during the third quarter which they won 20-10 to take a 46-43 going into the final ten minutes of play displaying some excellent team basketball. Despite holding a narrow lead "Lightning" knew that the key to winning the game would depend on their ability to stop the talented Hughes who had already netted 24 points for her team.

The two teams exchanged baskets during the fourth quarter but over the final two minutes it was "Swifts" who dominated outscoring "Lightning" 9-5 to take victory in a very competitive game by 66 points to 61.

In the five points defeat all ten "Lightning" players scored led by Wilson-Grey with 14 points good support coming from Fiona Arthur, Zoe Ormshaw and Amelia Stirling.

### THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION

#### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

End of Season Presentation Evening

#### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March

9-30am – 11.00am

Junior "Ballers" session and Presentation Ceremony

12-30pm

Under 14 Girls Play Offs  
"Lightning" versus" Norfolk Inceni

2-30pm

Senior Men's Play Offs  
"Thunder" versus Huish Taunton "Tigers"

The "Ballers" session and the two Play Off games will all be staged at the Northants Basketball Centre which is situated at Northampton School for Girls, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton

Spectators are welcome and admission is FREE

Northants "Lightning Too" Under 13 Girls travel to Newcastle "Eagles" for a Play Off game.

### **Goodrich co-opted onto Advisor Group**

Karen Goodrich the Administrator of the Northants Basketball Club has been co-opted onto a Basketball England Advisory Group to discuss the competitive structure of the game at all levels. Goodrich was instrumental in setting up Central Venue Leagues for Under 12 boys and girls this season and has some very clear ideas about how to avoid one-sided games, the structure of schools basketball and the declining number of girls playing competitive basketball.

The Group had its first meeting earlier this week.

**For more information on this Press Release contact: John Collins on 07801 533 151**