

# **NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Disappointment for Under 12 Girls in Sheffield**

#### **Under 12 Girls Northern Central Venue League (Play Off Finals)**

The Northants “Lightning” Under 12 Girls travelled to Sheffield last Sunday for the Northern Central Venue League Play Off Finals and returned with the bronze medal for third place overall.

#### **Poor third quarter costs “Lightning” dear**

**Manchester Mystics                      51 – 40                      Northants “Lightning”**

Having lost to “Mystics” on two occasions during regular season play the “Lightning” payers knew they were in for a tough game but thanks to the driving play of Kiris Ndubisi they took a 9-6 lead after the first quarter. This lead was extended to 21-9 midway through the second quarter before “Mystics” mounted an 11-3 charge to close the gap to 20-24 at half time.

During the third quarter and at the start of the fourth one or two “Lightning” heads ‘went down’ as “Mystics” increased the intensity of their defence. That defence forced a number of turn-overs leading to easy scores for the Manchester girls who opened up a healthy lead. To their credit “Lightning” finished the game in spirited fashion with an 8-zero run to reduce the final deficit to 11 points at 40-51.

In the defeat the “Lightning” scoring was led by Ndubisi with 12 points, good support coming from Athena Thompson and Amelia Stirling.

#### **“Lightning” just edged out by “Hatters”**

**Sheffield “Hatters”                      47 – 45                      Northants “Lightning”**

Having seen “Hatters” beat “Mystics” in the first game of the day, the “lightning” players knew they were in for a tough game but they were keen to get revenge for two narrow defeats in regular season play. The game proved to be keenly contested throughout with “Lightning” staying in touch with “Hatters” and closing the half time gap to 24-25 thanks to three back-to-back baskets from Mia Gajaga.

Late in the third quarter a lay up from Rosie Hodgson gave “Lightning” the lead at 36-35 going into the final quarter and a shock “Lightning” victory looked to be on the cards

By this time the Manchester players and their parents sensed a “Lightning” win which would give a three way tie and the title to “Mystics” on points difference so they added their vocal support to the parents who had travelled from Northamptonshire. In the raucous atmosphere “Hatters” edged ahead thanks to some strong drives from Nella Okoro but a short range ‘jumper’ from Amelia Heng got the scores back to 42 all. “Lightning” had the chance of moving ahead but were guilty of missing six free throws during the last two minutes of play and “Hatters were able to close out the two point win.

In the 45-47 loss Keris Ndubisi once again led the “Lightning” scoring with 10 points with excellent support coming from Gajaga with nine points; Heng, Hodgson and Athena Sterling.

To compete with two teams like Mystics” and “Hatters” is no mean feat and the “Lightning” team shows a great deal of promise for the future. They should be very proud of their achievements during the season and work hard during the summer in order to make the transition to Under 14 basketball.



The “Lightning” Under 12 Girls with their Northern Basketball League bronze medals

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