

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB



PRESS RELEASE

Invitational Tournaments a great success

Last weekend the Northants Basketball Club ran two tournaments for Under 13 Boys and Girls. Over the course of the two days almost 120 boys and girls participated in 30 games most of which were very competitive. Tournament organiser, Karen Goodrich pronounced herself delighted with the way the two days had gone and paid particular tribute to the team of county based referees and table officials which included several who were only recently qualified.

Girls Tournament

Northants "Lightning"	21 - 36	Bristol "Flyers"
Northants "Lightning"	36 - 38	Solent "Kestrels"
Northants "Lightning"	50 - 20	S.E. Essex "Swifts"
Northants "Lightning"	39 - 38	Manchester "Mystics"
Northants "Lightning"	46 - 30	Lancashire "Spinners"

"Lightning" opened the day with a lethargic performance against Bristol "Fliers" but looked much sharper against Solent "Kestrels" finally losing a game they could have well won, by just two points. The team recorded a convincing win over South East Essex "Swifts" before facing unbeaten Manchester "Mystics". "Lightning" started the game slowly but gained in confidence after the half time break and encouraged by some magnificent parental support managed to edge the game by a single point. "Lightning" concluded their programme with an easy win over Lancashire "Spinners" to finish with a won 3 lost 2 record identical to "Bristol who claimed third place on the merit of winning the game against Northants.

Manchester and Solent finished with identical records but Manchester claimed the title on the basis of beating "Stars" by six points.

"Lightning" coach, Kim Thompson was pleased with the way her teams finished the tournament and commented that all ten players made important contributions at key moments. She made special mention of Karly Osgood who displayed great determination and tenacious defence along with Brooke Leo who really 'stepped up' and made significant contributions at key times. If the team can become more consistent they should do well in the Under 14 National league next season a league they played in this season as under-aged players.



Northants "Lightning" Under 13 Girls

Boys Tournament

Northants “Thunder”	34 – 30	City of Birmingham “Rockets”
Northants “Thunder”	21 – 33	Leicester “Warrior”
Northants “Thunder”	36 – 16	Abingdon “Eagles”
Northants “Thunder”	20 – 40	Mersey “Mavericks”
Northants “Thunder”	34 – 29	Nottingham “Hoods”

“Thunder” played out of their skins in their first game against C.O.B. “Rockets” finally beating a big team by just four points. They were brought down to earth by a skillful Leicester “Warriors” team but recovered to convincingly beat Abingdon “Eagles”. This set up a big game against a well drilled Mersey “Mavericks” team but “Thunder” were guilty of some very basic errors and poor decision making and slipped to a disappointingly 20 points defeat. To their credit the team bounced back to beat Nottingham “Hoods” in their final game like the girls, cheered on by some very enthusiastic parents.

“Thunder” finished the tournament with a won 3 lost 2 record the same as C.O.B and Mersey to give them joint 2nd place but when the deciding mini league was drawn up they had an inferior points difference to the other two teams so finished in 4th position. Leicester “Warriors” finished first, losing just one game

The “Thunder” team was coached by Brad Hughes and Ryan Koolen assisted by John Collins and these three were impressed by the all-round efforts of Jordan Gbanjana and the backcourt play of Benas Maldutis. They were also pleased with the rebounding of Rapolas Radivicius and delighted with the breakthrough performance of Andrew Lleshi.



Northants “Thunder” Under 13 Boys

So, 12 hours of basketball action at the Northants Basketball Centre with 30 games played in a good spirit, excellently refereed which once again highlighted Northamptonshire as a county in the forefront of under-aged basketball development.

**For more information on this Press Release contact:
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