**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Easter is a strange time for basketball clubs with some teams having completed their seasons while others are still involved in Play Off action.**

**A good time therefore, to take a look back at the fortunes of the Northants Club during the 2022 / ’23 season.**

So far this season teams from the Northants Basketball Club have played **155** Competitive games. This has been made up of ‘friendly’, YBL and National League games plus one Play Off game.

The youngest age group to have played games is the *Under 11’s* with the girls’ team winning both their games. The Club entered two teams in the YBL Mixed League, and they have been very successful although the season has been a little disappointing because the teams have played the same opponents on four occasions. The older team, “Storm” won all twelve of their games to became Conference champions while “Storm Too” were only beaten by “Storm” to claim runners-up spot.

The two teams will play in the Championship and Plate Play Off semi-finals to be held at the Northants Basketball Centre on Saturday 29th April with West Bromwich and Worcester “Wolves” their opponents.

As with the younger girls the *Under 12 Girls* only played friendlies winning all three of their games and it is very pleasing that no less than 50 Under 11 and 12 girls are practicing every week.

The *Under 12 Mixed* team played in the Region 1 Conference of the National League and finished in **fifth** place winning six of their fifteen games with several of the nine losses being very competitive. The team was very young with seven of the team eligible for next season’s squad.

The *Under 13* age group has proved to be a very successful one for the Club with both the boys and girls winning their YBL Conferences. *“Lightning”* were unbeaten in their Conference losing a ‘friendly’ game to City of Birmingham “Rockets”. Unbelievably their opponents in the Play Off semi-final have conceded the game so the team will play either Kettering “Phoenix” or Leicester “Riders” in the Final on 13th May at the University of Worcester.

*“Thunder”* also lost just a friendly game going unbeaten in their **eight** YBL East Division Conference fixtures. In the Play Off quarter finals the team will host Redditch at the Basketball Centre on 22nd April with a semi-final against either Leicester “Riders” or Worcester “Wolves” the prize should they win.

A very young *“Lightning” Under 14 Girls* team competed in the North 2 Conference of the National League winning **six** of their **ten** games to claim **7th** place. With so many of the girls still eligible for the team next season there is every reason for optimism.

After their successful YBL season the *“Thunder” Under 14 Boys* found the step up to the National League tough but they won **11** of their **16** games to claim **3rd** place in the Midlands Conference running the Conference winners Tamworth, close on two occasions.

The *“Thunder Under 15 Boys”* played in the YBL Primis and became champions losing just one of their ten games. In the Play Off semi-final the team will face Abingdon “Eagles” one of a series of games to be played at the Basketball Centre.

In terms of miles racked up this season’s prize would probably go to the *“Lightning Under 16 Girls”* who competed in the East Conference of the National League. The team finished **5th** in the Conference winning **four** of their **ten** games.

The *“Thunder Under 16 Boys”* also had a tough season winning just **three** of their **20** Midland Conference games as they finished in **10th** place. Both Under 16 teams should be commended for their commitment despite struggling competitively.

The *“Thunder Junior Men”* played in the Midlands 2 Conference finishing the season with a

**Played 16, Won 15 Lost 1** record to clinch the Conference title. The team has already played one Promotional Play Off game narrowly beating Surrey “Rams II”, they will now play True Vision Surrey Elite this coming Sunday.

Of the 155 games played by the Club’s teams **95** of them were won giving a winning percentage of just over **61%**.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

The **Northants Basketball Centre** is still closed for the Easter holidays so there are no home games until the YBL Play Offs on **22nd April**.

Sunday 16th April Junior Men travel to True Vision Surrey Elite

Try Outs for the Summer Programme squads will take place on the week commencing **17th April.**

Any boyor girl not already involved with the Club who would like to try out for one of the club’s twelve teams should contact the club on **northantsbasketballclub@hotmail.co.uk**

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