**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Christmas Invitational Tournament a huge success**

Last Saturday National League Basketball took a back seat as the Northants club staged a tournament for under 11 boys. The Club has a large number of players of this age so were able to enter three teams with Coventry Tornadoes and two teams from Milton Keynes Scorpions providing the three other teams.

The tournament was organised on a round-robin basis and provided some very competitive and enjoyable basketball for a large crowd of family and friends.

The Northants team were handicapped by the loss of their most experienced player and lost all five of their games but were competitive in most of those games and never gave in. Thunder and Ballers finished with won two, lost three records to finish joint third with Thunder closing proceedings with two very close games.

The tournament was won by the Coventry outfit with Milton Keynes Scorpions Red clinching the runners-up spot but the real winner was basketball with no less than 60 boys participating.

A massive thank you goes to the two local referees who officiated the games supported by two coaches from the club who donned the grey to support the event and two newly qualified officials while a team of table officials made up of players from the club made sure the games ran smoothly.

It is the intention of the Club to stage further tournaments in the new year.

**Review of the season so far**

The Christmas break provides an opportunity to look at the fortunes of the club’s nine teams playing national league basketball. Although Conference positions are important, they are slightly unrealistic because some teams have played more games than others.

The Junior (Under 18) Women had a late start to their season with their competition being re-organised at the last minute. The team has won two of their four games in the National Conference and currently lie eighth in the ten team league.

The Cadette (Under 16) girls play in the Central Conference and have adapted so well to a new playing style that they are currently top of their Conference with a won five, lost two record.

The Under 16 boys have no less than four boys new to national league basketball but despite this they have won five of their nine games to claim fifth place in the eleven team East Midlands Conference which includes at least two teams of Premier League quality.

With almost 30 boys under the age of 16 the Club has entered a second team in the Regional Conference and faced by some very experienced teams currently hold sixth place in their seven team Conference with a single win from their seven games.

After losing their first game the Under 14 girls hit a rich vein of form but were inactive for most of December because of postponements and this has robbed them of top spot in the South Conference; they currently occupy second spot with a won six, lost one record.

 A very young team, playing as Lightning Too play in the Regional League and they have come up against some much bigger and far more experienced teams. The team has won just one of their four games and lie fifth in the six team league

Meanwhile, the Under 14 boys have been beaten just twice in nine starts and are third in the very competitive, ten team East Midlands Conference while Thunder Too are second in their six team Regional League winning four of their six games.

The Club’s youngest team is the Under 12 boys and they closed the first half of the season with a brace of wins and are second in their Regional League with a won four lost six record.

Overall, the Club’s nine teams involving well over a hundred players, have achieved a 55% win, loss ratio and the players and coaches are determined to improve that record in the second half of the season. With such good commitment from the players and coaches combined with high attendance at practices there is every chance that this objective will be achieved.

**CHRISTMAS BREAK**

The Northants Basketball Club has completed their games for 2019, and will be taking a three week break with fixtures resuming on 11th January 2020.

 The Management Group, players, coaches, and team managers of the Club wish everyone. ![merry_christmas_logo_by_angiesweetgirl-d4k9fup[1]]()

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