**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB SPREADS WINGS**

The Northants Basketball Club is starting 2020 with a venture designed to bring new players into the sport.  The club has received accreditation to extend their catchment area, with Parker E-Act Academy in Daventry becoming a satellite club for the Northampton-based club.

Satellite Clubs aim to help attract a new range of participants into basketball, increase opportunities to be active locally and enable a smoother transition from school to community participation.  The Basketball England initiative is driven by accredited basketball clubs, with the aim of creating regular informal opportunities for participants who do not currently have the access to or have not made the commitment to regular club basketball or are completely new to the game.

Northants Club President, John Collins, said “As a club we have long been conscious that there are many young people throughout the country, and Northamptonshire in particular, where there has not been the opportunity for them to participate.  We have established a very strong connection with the Parker Academy, and they were the natural choice to be our first satellite venture.  Hopefully it will not just be Parker students who join, but other secondary school pupils in the area”.

Parker Head Teacher, Simon Cox, said, “Part of our aim in the school is to offer extra-curricular sporting and academic opportunities for our students.  We have already established links with Daventry Rugby Club and with basketball now becoming a major sport within the school, a link with a prestigious club such as Northants is a further chance for all young people in and around Daventry to progress”.

The club will be known as Parker Storm (Northants teams are known as Lightning and Thunder) and training sessions will be run at the school on Thursday and Friday evenings.

**KAREN GOODRICH APPOINTED AS AN “ALL GIRLS” AMBASSADOR**

Karen Goodrich, administrator and coach with the Northants Basketball Club has been appointed as an “All Girls” Ambassador by Basketball England

As an “All Girls” Ambassador, her role will be to promote basketball and motivate and inspire others to get involved in the sport. Basketball England are looking to raise the profile and awareness of women and girls’ basketball at all levels and facets of the game and will be looking to spotlight the work Goodrich is already doing for girls’ basketball. Over the past years she has, created new opportunities for girls’ to get involved in basketball as well as encouraging the development of female officials and coaches.

Basketball England is looking to capitalize on the achievements of the Great Britain Women’s team and their Olympic dream and are seeking to break down the barriers women and girls face and create more tailored opportunities to play, coach, officiate, and follow our game.

Goodrich a native of Northampton, is a former national league and England player and her appointment comes as a result of building a successful programme for females at the Northants Club which sees 70 girls aged 4 to 17 playing basketball on a regular basis. She also runs six teams at Northampton School for Girls as well as open sessions for girls of all abilities.

**NEW SPONSORSHIP DEALS FOR NORTHANTS CLUB**

The Northants Basketball Club is delighted to announce four sponsorship deals as the current season resumes.

**NISA LOCAL (Goldings)**, have provided funding for three new kits for the Under 12 boys and girls teams and the Under 14 girls team. Each uniform will carry the company’s logo.

Three local businesses have combined forces to provide funding which will allow the Club to give every player in Conference and Regional league teams a tee-shirt. The three companies are: **FLAME FAST Fire Systems, TRES ANGELOS Tapas Bar,** and **WATER WIZARDS Swim School**

Club President, John Collins commented, “We are extremely grateful to the four companies who given so generously to help local boys and girls. The tee-shirts will be used as warm up tops and will enhance the appearance of our ten teams while the new reversible uniforms will be a massive boost to three of our younger teams.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 11th January**

9.30-10.30am Budding "Ballers" Session

9.30-11.00am Junior "Ballers" Session

11.00-12.30pm “Ballers" Academy Boys Session

12.30pm-2.00pm U12/13 Girls Practice

1.00pm Under 18 Girls versus Derby Trailblazers

3.00pm Under 14 Boys versus Leicester Riders II

5.00pm Under 16 Boys versus Derbyshire Spartans

These activities and games will take place at the Northants Basketball Centre which is based at Northampton School for Girls, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton

Under 14 Girls travel to Winchester Royals

**Sunday 12th January**

Under 16 Boys travel to Leicester Warriors II