**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

**PRESS RELEASE**

***Just three teams from the Club were in action last weekend and the Under 13 Boys closed 2021 with an unbeaten record, the Under 16 Boys cruised past “Riders II” but the Under 14 Boys second team lost in Kings Lynn***

**Under 16 Boys fare too strong for “Riders” second string**

**East Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 88 – 22 Leicester “Rider II”**

The Under 16 Boys comfortably defeated a below strength Leicester “Riders” second team last Saturday without even breaking sweat.

“Thunder” not only dominated all four quarters, but they also kept their opponents to single figures in each of the four periods of play. No matter which formation Coach Brad Hughes put on the court “Thunder” totally dominated play although to their credit the Leicester boys kept battling to the end of the game.

In the massive win the “Thunder” ‘big men; Jordan Gbanja and Rapolas Radavicius were unstoppable scoring 19 and 16 points respectively while Benas Maldutis and Andrew Lleshi both posted double figure hauls

**Under 14 Boys second team heavily beaten in Kings Lynn**

**Under 14 Boys Regional Conference**

**Kings Lynn Basketball 93 31 Northants “Thunder Too”**

The Northants Under 14 Boys second team made the long journey to Kings Lynn and not only suffered a heavy defeat but were also subjected to sub-standard officiating with one of the referees appearing after the game kitted up to play for the Kings Lynn men’s team; hardly a neutral referee while the score sheet was indecipherable. To add insult to injury Kings Lynn refused to give “Thunder” coach David Young a copy of that scoresheet, making a report on the game impossible.

The Northants Club will be reporting these details to Basketball England.

**Under 13 Boys stay undefeated**

**Under 13 Boys Youth Basketball League**

**Worcester “Wolves” 26 – 85 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants “Thunder” Under 13 Boys closed 2021 with a convincing win over Worcester “Wolves” to go into 2022 with a perfect Played 5 Won 5 record and in top place in the South Conference.

Against “Wolves” the Northants boys totally dominated proceedings and Coach Steven Matthews was able to give all twelve of his players plenty of laying time and they rewarded his with a solid performance both on offence and defensively.

Not for the first time the “Thunder” scoring was led by Logan Tanner with 16 points with Elijah Badero, Wilson Carr and Athanasios Kaifas also scoring in double figures.

**Under 11 Intra Group Tournament a great success**

With over **50** Under 11 boys and girls currently attending club sessions and with limited opportunities to play competitive basketball the Northants Basketball Club decided to organise an Intra Group Tournament and **30** boys and girls turned up to show off their skills last Friday evening. Six ad hoc teams were formed and placed in two pools giving each team three games in the course of the evening.

The standard of play was good, and the sportsmanship displayed by all the participants was excellent despite the games being extremely competitive.

The Club intends to repeat the exercise early in 2022.

**The season so far**

This season the Northants Club has fielded nine teams playing in both the Basketball England’s National and Regional Leagues as well as the for the first time, the Youth Basketball League. The records of the nine teams are:

Under 11 Mixed Team Played 4, Won 2, Lost 2 Currently 2nd in their pool of three

(Youth Basketball League)

Under 12 Mixed Team Played 5, Won 4, Lost 1 Currently 2nd in their league of seven

(Basketball England East 1 Conference)

Under 13 Boys Team Played 5, Won 5, Lost 0 Currently 1st in their conference of nine

Youth Basketball League South Conference)

Under 14 Girls Team Played 4, Won 2, Lost 2 Currently 4th in their conference of seven

(Basketball England’s Midlands Conference)

Under 14 Boys 2nd Team Played 3, Won 0, Lost 3 Currently 4th in their conference of four

(Basketball England Regional League)

Under 14 Boys 1st Team Played 8, Won 2, Lost 6 Currently 6th in their league of nine

(Basketball England’s East Conference)

Under 15 Boys Team Played 5, Won 2, Lost 3 Currently2nd in their league of seven

(Youth Basketball League Primis)

Under 16 Boys Team Played 8, Won 7, Lost 1 Currently 1st in their conference of seven

(Basketball England’s East Midlands Conference)

Under 18 Girls Team Played, 3 Won 2, Lost 1 Currently 4th in their conference of seven

(Basketball England’s North Conference)

Under 18 Boys Team Played 5, Won 2, Lost 3 Currently 5th in their conference of eight

**C H R I S T M A S B R E A K**

The Northants Basketball Club has completed their games for 2021, and will be taking a week break with fixtures resuming on 8th January 2022, Covid permitting of course.

 The Management Group, players, coaches, and team managers of the Club wish everyone.

For further information about this Press Release contact ***John Collins*** on **+44 7801 533151**