**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE & NEWSLETTER**

**Last weekend saw the Northants Under 11 and Under 13 Girls winning the**

**Rose of the Shires Play Off titles.**

**Rose of the Shires League Play Offs**

The Rose of the Shires League was the brainchild of Hannah Valentine -Rice and her husband Paul and with the help of funding from the Basketball England and Sport England *Together Fund* was set up in September 2023. Two competitions for Under 11 and Under 13 Girls have run on a tournament basis all season and last Sunday the Play Offs were staged at the Northants Basketball Centre at Northampton School for Girls.

Both competitions were won by Northants “Lightning” with both their teams producing impressive performances

**Under 13 Girls**

**Semi Final**

**Northants “Lightning” 52 – 2 Duston “Hawks”**

**Final**

**Northants “Lightning” 33 – 7 Bedford “Thunder**

**Under 11 Girls**

**Semi Final**

**Northants “Lightning” 51 – 4 Northants “Lightning Too”**

**Final**

**Northants “Lightning” 33 – 7 Kettering “Phoenix”**

**“Storm” complete an undefeated YBL programme**

**YBL Under 11 League**

**Northants “Storm” 49 – 5 Oxford “Hoops”**

**Northants “Storm Too” 35 – 13 Oxford “Hoops”**

**Northants “Storm” 38 – 33 Northants “Storm Too”**

The Northants “Storm” Under 11 team completed the regular YBL season with an unblemished record after two wins last Saturday. The Northants second team also recorded a win over Oxford “Hoops” to secure second place in the Conference.

“Storm” will advance to the Play Off Final Four event in Telford on Saturday 25th March.

**Under 11 Challenge Games**

**Northants “Storm Too” 26 – 37 Northants “Lightning”**

**Northants “Storm” 58 – 28 Northants “Lightning”**

**Northants “Lightning” 30 – 20 Oxford “Hoops”**

Further games were staged at last Saturday’s event with the Northants “Lightning” Under 11 Girls playing three games against the YBL teams and picking up two very creditable victories

**Benas and Danielius see off Vytis**

**Junior Men’s Challenge Game**

**Peterborough “Vytis” 39 – 67 OEH Northants “Thunder”**

Peterborough “Vytis” finished in a midtable position in the National League East Conference a similar position as “Thunder” in the Midlands Conference so a close game was expected when the two team clashed in a Challenge game last Saturday. In the event “Thunder” recorded a comfortable 28-point win with Benas Maldutis and Danielas Jokulis both recording 26 points.

“Thunder” opened the game in impressive fashion taking a 23-10 lead after the first quarter. “Vytis” rallied well in the second quarter which they won 12-8 but it was business as usual in the third taken 22-6 by “Thunder” and they closed the game out in the fourth.

**Under 15 Boys Challenge Game**

**Kettering “Phoenix” Under 17’s 54 – 64 Northants “Thunder” Under 15’s**

Coach Brad Hughes was able to give his loyal bench players plenty of court time in this ‘friendly’ game against the older boys of Kettering and work on some new offensive strategies. “Thunder” jumped out to a big first half lead and held on to win despite a determined second half rally by “Phoenix”.

***In the absence of Basketball England Play Offs for the Under 14 Girls Conference teams some clubs are looking to organize unofficial Play Offs so the Northants “Lightning” Under 14 Girls may be able to complete their season with games against teams from London and the South.***

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 27th April }**

**}** Possible YBL Ply Off games

**}** Times and venues to be announced

**Sunday 28th April** **}**

For further information about this Press Release contact **John Collins** on **+44 7801 533 151**