**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Casual Sessions are a big hit**

The growing popularity of basketball has been clearly shown by the success of the two Casual Community Sessions being run by the Northants Basketball Club. The sessions have attracted **seventy** boys and girls and this is in addition to the players involved in the Club’s sixteen teams playing competitive basketball and the two “Ballers” sessions. The sessions comprise a certain amount of skill development plus fun games and an intra-group league. The coaches of the Casual Sessions carefully monitor players and several have been recommended to coaches of the competitive teams.

Club President, John Collins commented, “As a club we are really pleased that so many boys and girls want to play basketball and we are delighted that we have been able to provide recreative play for them.”

**Two wins in Pre-Season Friendly games**

**Junior Men’s Pre-Season game**

**Milton Keynes “Breakers II” 55 – 79 Northants “Thunder”**

The “Thunder” junior men made the short trip to Milton Keynes to take on the “Breakers” second string and despite missing several players picked up a comfortable win.

“Thunder” made an excellent start to the game and jumped out to a 23-10 lead after the first quarter. “Breakers” were much more competitive in the second quarter which they won 21-13 to close the gap to

31-36 by half time.

Thanks to an increased defensive effort in the second half “Thunder” were able to restrict their opponents to just 24 second half points while pouring in 43 themselves to take the game by 79 points to 55.

In the 24 point win the “Thunder” scoring was lad by Benas Maldutis and Rapolas Radavicius with 26 and 20 points respectively.

The team start their national league season this coming Saturday when they entertain Shropshire “Warriors”.

**Under 14 Girls Pre-Season game**

**Leicester “Riders” 32 – 68 Northants “Lightning”**

The “Lightning” under 14 girls played their second pre-season game and recorded a comfortable win over Leicester “Riders”. The win will give the team a great deal of encouragement because last season “Riders” finished second in the North Conference.

“Lightning” started the game firing on all cylinders with their aggressive pressing defence forcing a number of “Riders” turn-overs leading to easy scores. By half time “Lightning” had established a commanding 43 to 18 lead with the only negative being a calf injury to Amelia-May Wesley Maryan.

In the second half “Lightning” coach, Mark Spatcher rotated his players but his team still took the half 25-14 to record a convincing 68 points to 32 victory, Campbell Spatcher top scoring with 21 points. Good support coming from Macie Latimer and Michelle Makuna with 12 and 11 points respectively. Coach Spatcher made special mention of the all-round contribution Grace Eighteen.

**Lucy is *el capitan* at Oxford University**

Former Northants “Lightning” player Lucy Needham is currently studying at Oxford University and has played on the university team for the past two seasons. This summer the Northampton native was selected as captain of the *Dark Blues* for the coming season.

Leading a team containing several newcomers Lucy will be hoping for a successful season and particularly victory in the annual Varsity Game against Cambridge.

**Northants BBC host “Mavericks” Cup game**

As part of the club’s policy of co-operating with all sectors of the sport they have agreed to host the National Cup game between Northampton “Mavericks” and Chelmsford “Charge” at the Basketball Centre at Northampton School for Girls.

Northants B.B.C. administrator, Karen Goodrich commented, “Mavericks are in their second year in the National League and play their games on a small court with limited spectator accommodation. We have limited time available at The Basketball Centre but thought it would be a nice gesture to stage this early season Cup game.

The game against Chelmsford tips off at a quarter past five and spectators are welcome.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 23rd September**

**9-30am to 10-30am** Budding “Ballers” session

**10-30am to 11-45am** Junior “Ballers” session

**12-15pm** Under 15 Boys versus “Titans” Under 16 II

**2-30pm** Junior Men versus Shropshire “Warriors”

**5-15pm** Northampton “Mavericks” versus Chelmsford “Charge”

***National Cup game***

**Sunday 24th September**

***Rose of the Shires League games at the University of Northampton***

**1-10pm** Under 13 Girls versus Bedford “Thunder”

**2-20pm** Under 13 Girls versus Northamptonshire “Titans”

The “Ballers” activities and home games will take place at The Basketball Centre which is based

At Northampton School for Girls, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DGJ

Spectators are welcome at the games, refreshments will be available and admission is FREE

For further information on this Press Release contact:

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