

# **NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Cadet Boys go down to “Hawks”**

#### **Pre-Season Friendly**

**Warwickshire “Hawks”                      69 – 66                      Northants “Thunder”**

A Northants “Thunder” Under 16’s team travelled to Moreton Morell College for a friendly game against Warwickshire “Hawks”. “Hawks” are new to the National League but have been successful in the West Midlands based YBL League and in the end their team work was to prove decisive.

“Thunder” travelled to Warwickshire with 13 players five of them with little or no game experience. These five have a great deal of potential but without exception struggled in this game.

“Thunder” made an excellent start to the game jumping out to a 12-4 lead thanks to the efforts of Ashley Kitchen and Kris Dambrauskas. “Hawks” were able to re-grouped but by the end of the first period of play still trailed 14-19.

In the second period “Thunder” had problems containing the driving play of “Hawks” guard Forman and the Warwickshire team took the period 20-16 to close the gap to 34-35 at half time.

The third period saw “Thunder” make one of the basic mistakes of basketball, namely, failing to protect the back court and midway through the period saw a five point lead disappear as “Hawks” went on an 11-zero run and “Thunder” found themselves trailing 49-53 going into the last ten minutes of play.

“Hawks” were able to maintain their lead throughout the final period of play once again scoring from breakaways as “Thunder” failed to cover their backcourt. With three minutes of the game remaining “Thunder” found themselves trailing 58-65 but mounted a spirited response and closed the game with an 8-2 run. Had it not been for a missed lay up and two missed free throws they might have edged the game but in the event slipped to a 66-69 defeat.

In the three point loss, the “Thunder” scoring was led by Kitchen and Dambrauskas with 19 and 17 points respectively while Tom Greenfield contributed 10.

Coach John Collins was philosophical in defeat commenting, “The reason for our defeat was easy to identify and we can put that right. On positive note 13 players all got a lot of playing time and I learnt a great deal about our new players.”

## **Junior Development Programme a massive success**

The club's Junior Development Programme has proved to be massively successful and last Saturday almost 90 boys and girls enjoyed coaching sessions at the Basketball Centre.

The "Budding Ballers" session for the very youngest children has proved particularly popular with 18 boys and girls enjoying fun-based basketball related activities. Forty boys and girls attended the two Academy sessions while 30 players took part in the Junior "Ballers" Programme.

Because the programme has been given more floor time this season there are still places available on all four sections. Any parent who would like more information should contact **Karen Goodrich** at [northantsbasketballclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:northantsbasketballclub@hotmail.co.uk)

### **THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION**

#### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

**9-30am to 10-30am**

**9-30am to 11-00am**

**11-00am to 12-30pm**

**12-30pm to 2-00pm**

**1-00pm**

Budding "Ballers"

Junior "Ballers"

"Ballers" Academy

Under 12 and Under 13 Girls

Under 14 Boys versus Abingdon "Eagles"

This game and the "Ballers" sessions will be staged at the Basketball Centre which is situated at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DG

Spectators are welcome and admission is **FREE**

Under 14 and Under 16 Girls travel to Bracknell "Cobras"

#### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

Under 16 Boys travel to Derby "Spartans"

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