**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

With so many boys and girls wanting to play regular competitive basketball the Northants Club has taken the decision to enter two boys teams in both the National under 16 and 14 leagues and two girls teams in the under 14 National league. In all three cases the first teams will play in the Conference whilst the second under 16 and under 14 boys teams and the under 13 girls squad, will play as Thunder Storm and Lightning Storm and compete in the Regional divisions.

**Thunder Storm under 16 boys learn a lot from their first tournament**

**Under 16 Boys Regional League Triangular Tournament**

**Southend Scorpions II 53 – 30 Northants Thunder Storm**

Many of the boys who travelled to Southend last Saturday, were experiencing their first competitive basketball and in the first quarter this certainly showed as the home team stormed into a 10-2 lead. Scorpions extended this lead to 27-7 but following a time out the Northants boys relaxed and began to play to their full potential and by the end of the third period of play had closed the gap to 30-37.

Under the ‘all must play’ rules Southend were able to play their best players in the final period and placed under pressure Thunderstorm were guilty of making bad decisions, and rushing shots. The home side kept scoreless for the final period while scoring 16 themselves and running out comfortable winners by 53 points to 30.

**Barking RDF “Lions” 67 - 40 Northants “Thunder Storm”**

With just a short break between the two games there was always a risk that fatigue would play a part and so it proved with Thunder Storm in well in the game at 14-18. Lions extended their lead before tiredness set in the Lions went on a 29 -12 run to take an unassailable 57-26 lead.

To their credit the Northants boys battled hard in the final period of play and won it 14-10 without ever seriously threatening the Lions lead.

The min- tournament was a great learning experience for the Northants boys and the team expressed an intention to work hard in practice to improve future performances

**Under 13 Girls impressive in first competitive outing**

Playing in the Regional League was intended to allow the team, who actually have players still at primary school, to gain valuable experience in their first year of play. The rules dictate that all players have equal playing time in the first three quarters of the game, with just the final period allowing coaches to make free substitution decisions.

**Under 14 Girls Regional League**

**Northants “Lightning Storm” 22- 53 London “Thunder”**

 For their first outing, the team encountered London Thunder, a side who would not be out of place in the Premier division. Northants struggled against the superior skill and athleticism of their much more experienced opponents and found themselves trailing 36-4 at half time. A much better 3rd period left the deficit at 45-8 before the young ladies gave a glimpse of their potential, actually winning the final stanza to lose a slightly mismatched contest by 53 points to 22, Isabel Milenciute leading the scoring with eight points.

**Under 14 Girls Friendly game**

**Northants Lightning Storm 56-34 Sussex Storm Blue**

The 2nd period again saw an imbalance with Sussex scoring the first seven points before the home side reeled off the next 10 points to tie the game up at 19 at half time; 11-year olds Jessica Jesu and Kelis Foster scoring four apiece.

Scores from Isabel Milenciute and Tiegan Burrows gave Northants their first lead, but Sussex had the next seven points and it remained to be seen how the youngsters would react under pressure.

A 7-2 run showed their resolve to lead by two going into the final period before, after conceding the first basket, the ladies went into overdrive. Great defensive work from Ella Smith and Lucie Caulfield triggered fast breaks and with Burrows, Milenciute and Jesu scoring from all angles, suddenly the lead was double digit. There was no sign of easing up and an astounding 26-6 last period led to a 56-34 win that brought prolonged applause from the large watching crowd. Jesu with 15 points and Burrows and Milenciute with 11 each, leading a fine debut for the whole squad.

**Tough day for depleted Under 12 Boys**

**“Thunder” were handicapped Under 12 Boys Regional League**

**Northants “Thunder” 32 – 39 Leicester “Warriors”**

“Thunder” were handicapped when two players withdrew from the team on the morning of the tournament due to injury and illness. Despite losing these two players the depleted squad should have recorded a win against Leicester Warriors. Thunder were lazy on defence, missed too many lay ups on offence  and scored just 6 from 21 from the free throw line.

In the disappointing performance Tafari Pryce led the scoring with nine points, while Reggie Majwega contributed seven points.

**Northants “Thunder” 38 – 71 City of Birmingham “Rockets”**

Thunder’s team of eight became the team of seven after Jack Cole suffered a broken finger in the opening game.  Thunder showed more purpose and aggression against a talented COB team and took the opening period 18-10. A superior Rockets team took control for the remainder of the match and ran out easy winners against a tiring home side.

Yet again missed lay ups and just 12 free throws made from 32 contributed to a heavy loss. Reggie Majwega led the Thunder scoring on 14 pts including 10 of 16 free throws while Kieran White scored eight points.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

**Saturday 26t h October**

There will be NO “Budding Ballers”, “Ballers” or “Ballers Academy” sessions because of Half Term.

Under 16 Girls travel to Cambridge for a friendly game.

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