



IN THE ZONE weekly



West Brom Basketball vs Stourport Spartans



19:00

George Salter Academy, West Bromwich

Second place West Brom take on mid table; Stourport Spartans in Fridays only YBL fixture.



Youth Basketball League



Scan the QR code to go straight to the YBL Aviva Community Fund Page

The YBL continues to grow year on year. This year has seen us introduce an Under 9's league but also a wheelchair development league. We need funding to help us support that growth so that we can continue to provide competition across the area to a high standard.

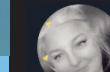
The YBL is a non-profit organisation, everything we do from administration through to the YBL Championships is funded through the entry fees paid at the start of the season and by any donations.

We have teamed up with the Aviva Community Fund Project which runs a 'Go Fund Me' page. We are offering incentives for donations and would really love to reach our target of £2,000 which would be used to continue to support and develop the U9 and U11 leagues.

If we hit our £2,000 target we receive additional funding from Aviva. Please can you share with your parents, friends and on social media to help us reach our target.

Either scan the QR code above to go to the 'Go Fund Me' page.

Help us to develop the basketball players of the future from the grassroots.



Kim

I have made a donation to @ybl_basketball crowdfunding through avivauk instead of sending Christmas cards. Why don't you join me in helping young children get involved in basketball and we can save a tree or two 🌲🌲🌲
[instagram.com/p/B5TuXZpJXVc/...](https://www.instagram.com/p/B5TuXZpJXVc/)

12:18 AM · Nov 26, 2019 · Instagram

Expanding the Board

Words James Davies

Increasing demand on the service by the YBL
Looking to the future and the expanding and growing YBL. The Board of Directors needs to grow with that demand. It is my pleasure as Managing Director to announce that we are appointing two new Directors to the Board.

It is with great pleasure to introduce you to the first new board member, Emma-Jane Gardner, who becomes our Officials Director.

I think it's safe to say that basketball is in my blood. Worcester became my home when aged 2 my family moved there from Derby. Aged 7 I was regularly seen at basketball venues across the region with my dad who was running 5 teams, coaching and officiating in both Worcester and West Midlands Leagues.

By the age of 15 I was qualified as a Level 3 table official. I officiated games for Birmingham Bullets at the NLA, for many years and this opened many doors for me such as officiating at the Youth Olympics in Bath 1995.

Over the past 35 years I have officiated across the region for various clubs and been chosen to officiate at Basketball England's; National Finals, UK Transplant Games, Sainsbury's School Games, Continental Clash, GB games, IZB, Help for Heroes as well as Wheelchair Basketball events.

In 2015 I was team liaison for teams at the European Wheelchair Championships and in 2017 I was the head official at the Special Olympics held in Sheffield.

I passed my level 2 coaching qualification aged 21 and I began working for Wychavon District Council delivering basketball sessions to teachers and children in schools as well as running development sessions at the leisure centre. I ran regular tournaments so the children played in competitions which included taking a Worcester school's team to the School games in Southampton in 2000 I was proud that the team came third in the country. In 2001 Wychavon District Council awarded me Coach of the Year.

I have been pleased to have coached players that have progressed to Regional programmes and England trials. I am delighted that some players who I coached as children in the 90's are still active and play on my men's team.

In 2007 I joined Worcester Wolves prior to this I had been involved with Worcester Spartans and Worcestershire Basketball Development Club who were competing at in National League competitions.

Along with two parents from Worcester Wolves we started up the Worcester Wolves Academy. The Academy which I think most of you will know me from has grown to having 7 junior teams competing at YBL and NBL. I also run Worcester Cyclones men's team that participates in the Gloucester League.

I am a qualified Level 2 referee and a game statistician and this year I was awarded South West Statistician of the Year by Basketball England.

I was honoured to be asked by James and Kim to become a Director of the YBL. My role will be as Officials Director overseeing appointments, training and development across the league.

A lot of experience and knowledge to be had from EJ. I look forward to all the great things we are going to achieve in the years to come.

I would now like to introduce you to the long-time serving YBL staff member, Mr. Brian Kinch, who has been with the YBL since its founding in 2014. One of the original members who helped create the YBL. Here's what our new Marketing Director says about his time around basketball.

I'm from inner city Birmingham and went to a secondary school that did not have a basketball team, despite being the home court for 2 West Midlands basketball clubs. While at school I found the main opportunity to play basketball was to play for my older brothers team in the Warley League and then at college I played in the West Midlands league for a couple of teams.

My basic basketball education came from jumping on a variety of buses to get to any basketball camp or scrimmage I could find. After a few injuries in my teenage years, I decided that maybe an education would be a good idea. I went polytechnic (now a university) to study for a Mechanical Engineering degree, because I enjoyed some elements of physics, but did not want to study physics.

My early years of basketball based on many fundamental skills and repeated drills, helped me to realise that hard work, focus, discipline and passion for something can take you a long way. This discipline and enjoyment I had from the game and being part of a basketball community helped to build my confidence and develop my core values based on positive team work. It also helped me to realise that if I applied the same attributes to my education I may actually get somewhere. Some of my best times while studying were getting away from the library and playing ball at the only decent sports hall in the town.

I have had a successful business career, working in some great teams and developing colleagues, applying many of the values and principles I gained from basketball. I forgot to mention that I started coaching at school. Although my school year did not have a basketball team the years below did. I knew more drills than our PE teacher, so I used to help out before and after school. I continued this coaching at Poly, basically teaching the many drills I had picked up from my coaches.

My passion for basketball and developing young people guided me to formal coaching, which I have done at National League Girls and Boys at U14 - U16 age groups, and then at youth local league from U11 - U19 for over 20 years.

I was fortunate enough to play a key role in building the main development programme in Birmingham for 5 - 18 years, from a handful of players to over 100 every Saturday morning. Working with children of mixed abilities, different cultures and sexes was exciting and educational. After years of organising events with other local clubs, I met with like minded souls to form the Youth Basketball League over 5 years ago... and here I am now... and I still work in an office developing teams to solve problems.

Two very talented and dedicated ballers who help shape the game. I would personally like to thank them for their services to date and the services they are yet to provide. I welcome you both to the Board of Directors.

With great minds like EJ and Brian the YBL continues to grow and prosper.



Some Recent Results

Bromsgrove Blaze Hotshots	22	15	The Bears Women
The Bears Development	28	11	The Bears Women
Worcester Wolves	8	18	Bromsgrove Blaze Hotshots
Worcester Wolves	17	28	The Bears Women
Worcester Wolves	10	32	The Bears Development

Photo Gallery

Wheelchair Development League

Words James Davies

First WDL weekend goes off without a hitch!
Teams arrive early, with supporters to-boot, in anticipation of the games ahead and they're eager to get started!

With the teams ready to go and the referees and table officials having had their coffees and pastries the day gets underway.

The Warwickshire Bears Development team and The Bears Women take centre stage for the first ever WDL game. This inter-house match gets the ball rolling and the competition starts. Along with the two Bears team, Bromsgrove Blaze Hotshots join in the festivities and the three teams play each other twice over the course of the day.

Sunday sees them returning to play the fourth WDL team in the form of Worcester Wolves. You can see a few highlighted game results on the right hand side, however, you can see the league table and the full standings on the WDL page on the web site.

The whole two days, players from all four teams competed for the W. However, it wasn't about the end result. You saw great sportsmanship from all the players. With the adults encouraging the younger players from the opposing side to shoot for the basket. All round encouragement for everyone to be involved in the game. It was a spectacular sight to see. Players learnt new skills and team work on and off the court.

The YBL's Wheelchair Development League was designed to get players, at the development stage and returning players court time, on their basketball carer.

With support from BWB, the YBL were extremely excited through-out the weekend, seeing everyone come together to play ball. With smiles plastered across everyones face to match the enjoyment had by all. The first WDL weekend was a great success. From players, coaches to officials, players and spectators. See you all in February 2020 for another round.

