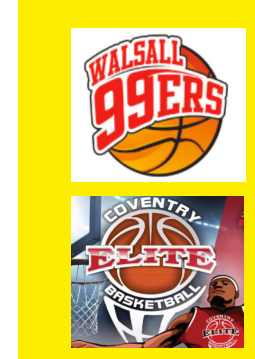


IN THE ZONE

Weekly news publication from the YBL
ybl.org.uk
@ybl_basketball



YBL U15 East #FridayNightYBL
Tomorrow Night
20:00 Walsall 99ers vs Coventry Elite
Bloxwich Active Living Centre, Bloxwich.

Stop Us!

Controversy as YBL set to hike up entry

Words James Davies
Two weeks ago, we shared an article within 'In the Zone' and across social media about the Aviva Community Fund (see below). This fund was to help raise money for our Junior-YBL programmes; mainly our U9s. However, when asked to share across social media, most haven't.

If we could raise money and meet these targets, the YBL wouldn't need to increase prices to clubs to help run the league. Thus, if the YBL had a little bit more funding it would save clubs money in the long run. Help us, by supporting the Aviva Fund. Even if, every parent or supporter donated £1. It would make a significant difference and we wouldn't need to increase any prices for next season!

Help us help you - stop us by supporting us!



The YBL continues to grow year on year. This year has seen us introduce an Under 9s 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.

Tamworth Tigers

YBL U15 East
pos. 6 of 8, pld 8, won 2, lost 6, for 434, against 528, diff. -94, pts. 12

Game Stats

46-65	H	-19	Leicester Riders
73-55	A	-18	Walsall 99ers
71-46	A	-25	Nuneaton Predators
51-72	A	+21	JM Grizzlies
77-46	H	+31	Yardley Defenders
66-50	A	-19 -16 -35	Leicester Riders
70-31	A	-39	Warwickshire Hawks
57-86	H	+29	Coventry Elite

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sun 12 Jan	H	13:15	Warwickshire Hawks
Sun 19 Jan	A	12:30	Coventry Elite
Sun 9 Feb	H	14:00	Nuneaton Predators
Sun 16 Feb	H	13:15	JM Grizzlies
Sun 1 March	H	13:15	Walsall 99ers
Sun 14 March	A	13:30	Yardley Defenders

Team Leaders

Free Throw %

F. Dunn	50%	(5) 21 of 42	U15 East
J. Glasgow	33.3%	(5) 9 of 27	U15 East

Top Scorers

J. Glasgow	PLD 5	88 pts	3PTS 3	235 FT 9/27	33%	U15
F. Dunn	PLD 5	60 pts	3PTS 1	218 FT 21/42	50%	U15

Words Gareth Harrison

You're a brand new club. Why did you choose this season to enter the YBL? We launched an academy in April this year and couldn't believe the response we got. We ended up having such a big turn out it was great. From this we knew we had to enter some teams even though we were going to train for a year first.

Do you have any plans to expand next season? Yes. We currently have an U9s and U17s team, but sadly we did not have the coaches at the start of the this season who could take on these roles. However they are training hard and should be ready for next season!

Has the YBL been everything that you expected? Is there anything you can suggest that we could improve on? The YBL has definitely met our expectations and we're really happy with the platform it provides for our players. One of the main challenges we have faced is managing to get officials as both refs and table officials are hard to come by in our area.

What's been your biggest achievement this year? We're really proud to say that we managed to really rally together with parents and the community to raise enough money to buy 4 new adjustable basketball rings. This helped us when we hosted the Under 11's CVL. We often work with the community and have even done things outside of the sports hall to raise money for wheelchair basketball.

We can see you've had a lot of success with one of your U11s team as they have 8/0 from the first CVL. How have you managed to keep your U15s just as motivated when they aren't winning as many games? [The] U15s [have] never had any grassroots training and are improving all the time. Experience is beating them at the moment. They compete every game and it's inspirational to watch. We make sure all players no matter what age believe in the club ethos which is, 'We don't win, we don't lose, we learn.'

They get together outside of the court and watch tapes on games they find it really rewarding.

How do you think your first ever CVL went? [The] CVL was a success after being at the first one we realised what was needed to make it a success and how we could adapt it to our place. We realised very quickly it was very important to have enough room for the many fans that come to watch the players play. The only small thing was that the refs were slightly late which did throw some of the timings off but we managed to bring it back and the whole day turned out to be such a success and we would love to do it again.

'Great Standards' U9B & U11D - From a Referee

Words Gareth Harrison

Last weekend I had the pleasure of being at Sport Marley for the Under 9s and U11s CVL. I was refereeing both tournaments and it's the first time I've had the task of refereeing the under nines.

I want to give congratulations to Emma Gardner from the Worcester Wolves Basketball Academy such a great event upon arrival it was all set up and ready to go with everything completely organised. The staff were a delight and were all hands on deck helping organise the whole event and make sure it runs smoothly.

The U9s tournament was made up of the Worcester Wolves, Stourport Spartans, Bromsgrove Bears and Worcester Bears. With some close games and great spells of individual skill. It just goes to show why we start competitive basketball at this age. All teams were ready to go and focused on trying to get their team the win. The overall winners were the Worcester Wolves and from the games I refed they showed a great ability to push the ball and drive as close to the basket as possible to make the shot easier.

The U11's tournament was made up of the Worcester Wolves, Worcester Bears, Stourport Spartans, Bromsgrove Bears and Bourville Bears. For me just having the short jump in age really showed with the ability displayed. There was an element of tactics in this tournament which you don't get with the U9's. I saw teams set great screens to get the team mates a easy drive to the basket and some great long range shooting. Coaches seemed to change the way the players approach each game differently, depending on opponent, which is a great thing for young players to learn. Some teams were mainly made up of drivers whilst others had more shooters. This meant the defence had to be changed up depending on which team you were playing and it was great to see.

Two tips from a reffing point of view:
1. Coaches know the rules before attending so please in training sessions before make sure your team knows 'half court defence' this was the only thing I had to constantly remind all players about.
2. If you're not doing it already please get your players to stop when they hear the whistle. Too many times players continued to run and bounce the ball after the referee had blown it.

For me the day was a complete success it ran smoothly and on time and everyone enjoyed themselves. There was a great standard of basketball and all teams should be proud.

Great Start First Ref Course Complete

Words James Davies with Kevin Henry

Last weekend, Kevin and I travelled to Nuneaton to conduct our first Level 1 Referee course of this season, offering the participants the opportunity to start their basketball refereeing career.

All that attended were in good spirits through-out the four hour course. There were some great and even superb questions asked. The practical at the end of the course was fun and a lot was learnt. We both wish all the candidates the best in the start of their career and cannot wait until we catch up soon as part of their development.

If your club wishes to host a Referee or Table Official course, then please get in touch with Kim at the YBL.

Gratitude Thanks Tamworth Tigers Academy

Words James Davies

Tamworth Tigers held a Charity Fun Day in memory of Paul Jackson, with lots of fun activities; including face painting a bouncy castle and several fun games in November.



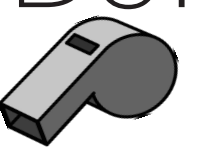
An in-house game against the 'adults', where their U15s team played with pride and a wheelchair game where several people had their chance to try, saw members from the Tigers family and the Warwickshire Bears come together for the fun.

Paul Jackson having an impact on almost all of the attendees. Paul Jackson had a vision, similar to the YBL, to get young people into the game. To honour that Tamworth Tigers donated £200 to the YBL towards our Wheelchair Development League.

Everyone at the YBL wishes to pass on their gratitude for the donation and wish everyone at Tamworth Tigers the best for the rest of the season and beyond.

How Well Did I Do? Refereeing in the YBL

Words Dave Finch



As this league is a youth and development league it has been decided that guidance should be given to all referees within this league and especially level 1 or inexperienced level 2 refs.

Refs Guide. Being a referee in basketball can often be a lonely position. Yet refereeing is an essential part of the game. Often worked in isolation with the exception of your co officials. But improving your own performance will often give you a lot of satisfaction and will also enhance the standard of the game.

Guidance: After every game ask yourself, "Did basketball the game win?" If the answer is yes then you had a reasonable game. If "no" or "not sure" then start to self analyse:

- Did I call all shooting fouls?
- Did I call all the fouls which put the team at a disadvantage?
- Did I get into the correct position to be able to call the fouls and violations correctly?
- Did I call poor skills such as travelling /illegal dribbles so that playing standards are enhanced?
- Was I able to communicate my calls clearly and with authority?
- Did I cooperate with all other officials? Did I give them help when needed but ensure that my areas of responsibility were upheld?

If at all possible ask more experienced referees to give you a pointer to improve your game. Can you select one improvement from the above guidance and work hard at it next game?

Coaches Guide
Coaches are some of the best persons to help referees! Yet many will criticise a referee in a negative manner especially in the heat of the game. Get into a good habit of letting a ref know that they have a good game, often this can be done either at the end of the game or next time you see them. Work to balance your criticism. Any improvement you want to see in a ref is also linked to what they did well. Good coaches use praise to motivate their players, do the same with referees.

Clubs Guide
Good clubs will often initiate an officiating career often by asking a parent or enthusiast to help out in the first instance. Take this one step further by enquiring on their progression on a regular basis so that the officials feel wanted.