



**OPENING WEEKEND**  
provisional for most leagues

**48** Sunday 30 August 2020

YBL.ORG.UK

@ybl\_basketball

2020/2021 season

**BREAKING NEWS**

Congratulations to our very own Liz Grinnell and her partner Chris on the birth of their baby girl Ella: Ella, Ella, hey, hey YBL, little Ella, Ella.

The BBL (British Basketball League) return to play on Friday 2 October with the opening rounds of the BBL Cup.

Return to Play Clubs at Level 2, while Leicester remain at Level 4. Review of lockdown in a few weeks.

# WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

## Nine more clubs join the YBL family

**In the Zone** **Kim Acallia**  
FEATURE admin@ybl.org.uk

The YBL team love this time of year, we get to look at the new clubs joining the YBL family and it's great to see that this season is no different with 9 brand new clubs expanding our family circle.

Aston Manor Academy are entering a team into the U15 and U17 Primis leagues. Their head coach Curtis Xavier spoke with James Davies about his teams joining the YBL this year and he said "I'm excited about the possibilities". Curtis delivered a coaching CPD last season for the YBL which gave other YBL coaches an insight into his coaching techniques. We agree Curtis, we are excited that your teams are in the YBL this season.

Another new team entering their first YBL season in the U17 Primis division is Ballers Heaven Warwickshire Warriors (BHW Warriors on our website). Roger and Bryce Payne have a wealth of coaching experience and it will be exciting to see what they have to offer in their first season.

We think the games between the two new clubs in the U17 Primis league will be one for the YBL staff to pop along to, or who knows some could even be officiating there.

Men2 Praegressus North welcomes Birmingham Bucks in their first YBL season. Whilst Birmingham Chinese enter the Men's 1 Primis division along with Rugeley Raptors. Rugeley are expanding their teams and we hope will be bringing a junior team to the YBL next season.

We have more teams joining us from the South West, we welcome Cheltenham Chargers who are a newly formed club and will be entering a team into the U13 South West division whilst established Stroud Sharks will be entering teams into the U13, U15 and U17 Zonal leagues.

A huge welcome to Northants Thunder, they are over the east of our region based in Northampton. They are entering a team into the U11 CVL and also into the U13 East league. It's great to see that the good work that the YBL does is reaching clubs on the outskirts of our area.

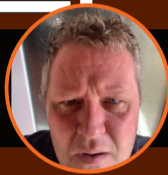
Women1 Primis league has two new teams joining them this season. University of Worcester Women have entered a team following on from their highly successful NBL season last year and we feel that coach Ryan Emery and his team will bring some strong competition to the league. The second team joining is a new team headed by Jill Turner. If some of you remember a few years back Jill Turner was the league secretary for the West Midlands Women's League and also played in the local league. Currently the team are sorting their name and as soon as it lands at YBL HQ we will get it on the website. Kevin Henry the YBL Development Officer is delighted that we have two new women's teams for this season, and will continue to work with clubs across the YBL to encourage more women to play competitive basketball.

James Davies said, "I'm delighted that the YBL family has grown again this season. I always look forward to the entry forms dropping onto my email and I get a little excited when I see a new club enter.

"Each year we grow, which means that we can offer even more quality grassroots leagues. I know that teams enjoy the YBL experience and I can't wait to see how teams perform this season".

# NEXT STEP

**In the Zone** **James Davies**  
COLUMN director@ybl.org.uk



## James' evolution

I think you would all agree the last 6 months have been very different. With no basketball taking place I have had the opportunity to ponder and be pro-active, particularly on our website. During the first few months of lockdown I redesigned and updated the website to make it a more mobile and tablet friendly site, as nearly 70% of our users look at our content on a mobile device. Even though it was a long task, it took my mind off being isolated and I now think the upgraded website looks and feels fresh and is far more responsive. Current 'work in progress' is developing a secure club login page on the website which I hope to have fully functional prior to the start of the season.

Just before lockdown I had a meeting with the YBL team, where we discussed the 2020/2021 season (little did we know then that it would bring changes that we would never have imagined). We had planned our biggest YBL Championships, we were planning to deliver new courses for referees, table officials and coaches but sadly this has not taken place. The one thing I am proud of is that our vision and passion is still as strong as it was when I started the YBL seven years ago.

I now have a great team of staff working with me, enabling the YBL to provide not only a great product but also a great service to the clubs that participate in the YBL leagues. My team are looking to plan for an even better season this year, we have contingencies in place should we have further issues due to Covid-19, we are planning to deliver our courses for officiating and coaching when Basketball England allow us to.

Each year, I am grateful to see the leagues continue to grow, their growth has helped me and my team to continue to develop. I know that the contact I have with my team and with the clubs, players and coaches help to keep my feet firmly on the ground. I think the YBL have found the right product where we can offer development for absolutely everyone involved (including me).

One of my goals was to be in a position to work full-time for the YBL, I am pleased to inform you all that from Monday 14 September 2020, I will be the first paid member of YBL staff. In fact this is a country wide first where a local league will be employing a paid member of staff.

Working full time will ensure that our member clubs, players and partners receive a quality service and will be participating in the best grassroots development leagues for juniors and adults in the UK. I will be available during the advertised 'office hours' to support clubs, update the website, re-arrange fixtures as well as providing a service to all clubs 'out of hours' in relation to Covid-19 reporting.

I am looking forward to my new career with the YBL, I want to continue to grow the participation by providing great grassroots basketball opportunities across not only the 'Central Region' but to continue to expand into other regions so we could have the winners of each region playing in the YBL Regional Championships in a few years. For those of you that know me, the YBL is my passion and I want to continue to build on the success of the previous six seasons whilst maintaining the welcoming, approachable professional reputation we have now.

My planned office hours are below, but this will be flexible to meet the changes implemented due to Covid-19 and to meet the needs of the YBL members.

Thank you for being part of the YBL and I hope that you have an enjoyable 2020/2021 season.



# RESUME PLAY



**In the Zone** **James Davies**  
ARTICLE director@ybl.org.uk

## YBL set weekend in November

The whole team are excited that we can be playing this season, we are well underway organising the fixtures for the 2020/2021 Season. First tips of the season will be on the weekend of the 14 November 2020.

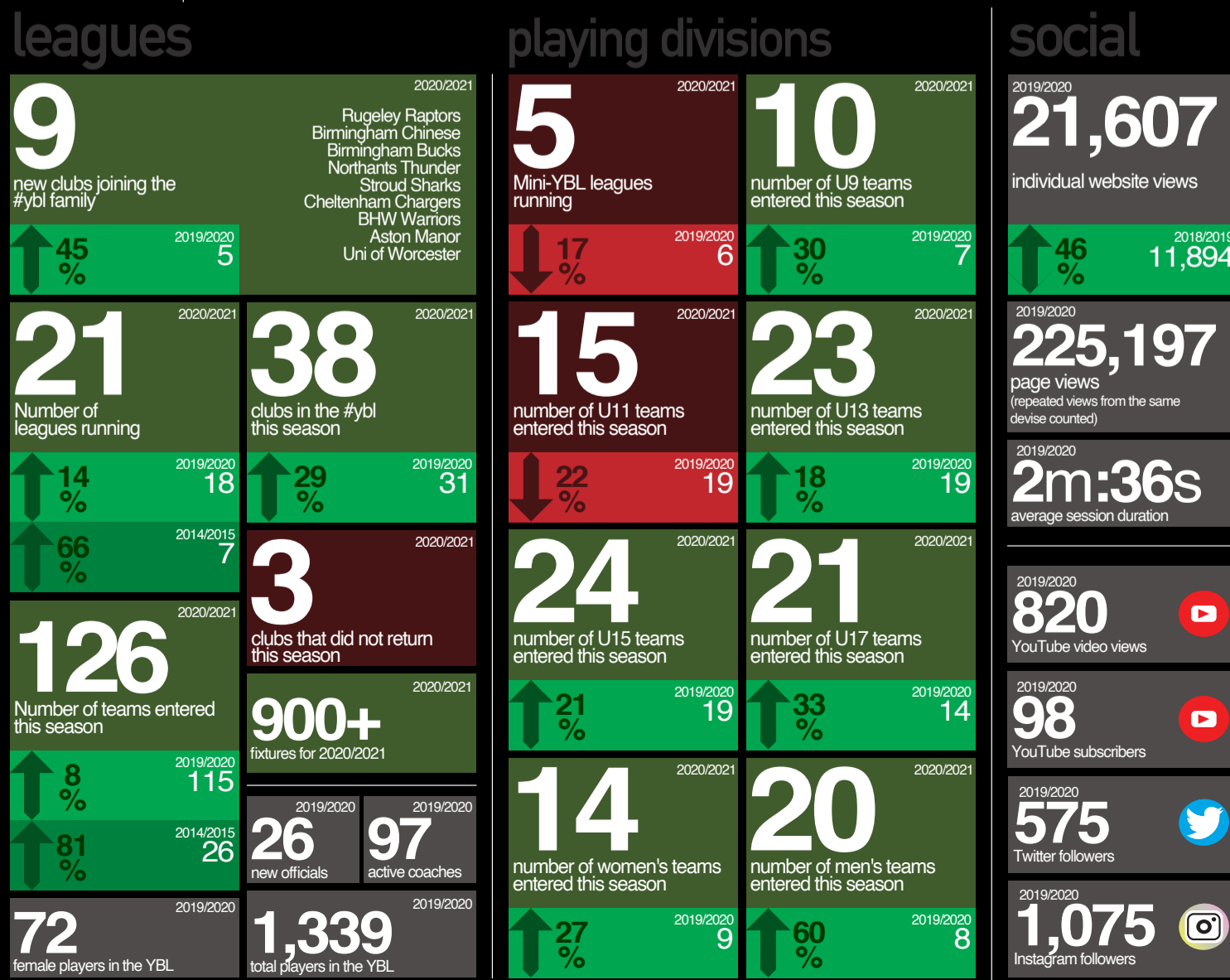
We have grown again this season so with even more fixtures for teams and with the impact Coronavirus may have on the leagues this year teams could have their work cut out if they are aiming to reach the play-offs for a spot in the 2021 YBL Championships.

Our junior and senior leagues start in November, while, at present, we are looking for a January 2021 start for our Wheelchair Development and our Central Venue (U9 & U11) leagues.

The late start push our finish date and our YBL Championships back too. So with no interruptions the season closes May with our YBL Championships taking place in June.

Flexibility will be the word of the season, clubs and teams will need to be adaptable when it comes to dates the league have set and not be resistant to any change due to the Coronavirus. It's going to be an interesting season.

## 2020/2021 season The Numbers



**2020**  
**14**  
SEPTEMBER

**OFFICE HOURS**

From Monday 14 September 2020

- Monday 08:00 - 15:30
- Tuesday 08:00 - 15:30
- Wednesday 08:00 - 12:00
- Thursday 08:00 - 15:30
- Friday Closed
- Saturday 19:00 - 22:00 \*
- Sunday 19:00 - 22:00 \*

\*in season only - times will vary

**MEMBERS MAILING LIST**  
WANT TO BE IN THE KNOW?

Would you like to be added to the General Email list for the latest updates from the YBL including; new 'In the Zone' releases, league statements and general league news?

**check out the website now!**

**JANUARY 2021**

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