



# DARTFORD BASKETBALL NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Number 03

March 2020

We now find ourselves in the later part of the 2019/20 season which again has seen our club continue to grow from strength to strength with great success and time for our third newsletter to update everyone with what has been happening since our last communication - hope you enjoy!

## Team News

Our senior men's first team have continued to set the standards in the Medway leagues (MBA) first division and just secured back to back titles and a three peat with games to spare, plus they are also in the Medway cup final which is scheduled to take place at Medway park on Saturday 28th March. Fantastic achievement Sharks I and good luck in the final - please try to come and support your Shark's in the final!

Meanwhile our senior men's 2nd team are flying high in the MBA's second division having had a challenging time last season in the first division and it looks like it will be a tense finish to the season with two other teams all pushing for the top spot - good luck to the sharks II.

The senior men's veteran team now in their second season in MBA division 2 after a successful launch last season find themselves on target to improve their overall final league position from last season which will be a great achievement.

Our women's team continue to train on a weekly basis at Becketts sports centre Dartford and have been playing friendly games to further test their skills and progress. We are continuing to look for potential to increase competitive games for our women's team - if there are any women interested in knowing more or would like to have a run out then please speak to any of our coaches or log an interest via our website.

## Junior News

The Junior programme which is now over halfway through its first full season, is again proving to be a tremendous success and we are continuing to receive great feedback, with huge numbers now on our waiting list. It is also proven with the success that our different age groups have had in the junior tournaments held so far.

Well done to Ben and all his coaches who are doing a fantastic job and continue to give their time to develop our future.

A huge thank you must also go to Lyn Marsh (you will see her running around with a clip board or table officiating the Vets game). Lyn is our Junior administrator and a big reason why this programme has so far been a success. It is also down to Lyn's hard work and organisation skills that we have the junior tournaments. Thanks to her it has kick started the MBA to invest and with her help set up a mini committee that has led to the tournaments being held so far. There has now been more interest from other clubs wanting to be involved which is great - thanks Lyn.

## Other Achievements

So far this season our club has had 3 members qualify as coaches and are part of Ben's team coaching the Junior's. Well done to Alex Stopford, Jon Velvick & Jono Hayward on gaining your coaching qualification.

We have also have had three members qualify as referees and are now officiating MBA games and earning a few quid in the process - well done Jono Hayward, Mantas Dobilas and Antoine Daniel, great achievement guys.

Special thanks and a big shout out must go to Jono Hayward, so far this season he has qualified as a coach, a referee (already officiated a senior men's MBA game) and recently joined the club committee. He is one of Ben's regular Junior coaches giving his time & doing a fantastic job.

## Venue Changes

We recently had to again change our senior men's training and Vets team home venue due to the court playing surface being slippery and dangerous plus the poor changing/shower facilities. Switching venues half way through the season is obviously not ideal but we had very little option given the risk of injury to players. The new venue however even though slightly outside Dartford (Northfleet) is a massive improvement with a good playing surface, more space for spectators and good changing/shower facilities which is important. Special thanks going to Alex who found and secured the new venue.

The club continues to remain vigilant for venues - the ultimate plan and vision being to have an available venue big enough (double court ideally) that would enable the whole club to either play/train on the same evening and help promote the overall club community.

If anyone has any suggestions or knows of any potential venues then please let a committee member or one of the team managers/coaches know.

## Sponsorship

Big thanks to Kieran Long (Knoll Landscapes) and Sean Plail (Aviemore Building Contractors Ltd) who have recently sponsored the Veterans team, the sponsorship has enabled the club to purchase T shirts. Anyone wanting or thinking of having any Building or Landscaping work then please contact Sean or Kieran.

If anyone is interested or knows anyone who may be interested in sponsoring the club or a team then please contact a committee member or team manager. The club will advertise their Business on our website.

## Changes to club subscription

Due to continuing increases in running and operating costs and to enable further investment the club will be increasing the monthly subscription for senior men and raising the Junior term fees as of September 1st 2020. This will be the first increase the club has made to subscriptions for over ten years.

Senior men's monthly subscription will increase by £5 to £40 per calendar month.

Junior term subscription will be increasing to £70 per term - if you have more than one child then the second will be half price.

The committee have also agreed that club members who give up their time and are part of the Junior coaching team should be rewarded. As such if a coach has a child attend the Junior programme then their child can attend free of charge or alternatively if a player coaches but does not have a child attend then their monthly subscription will be reduced by 50% to £20 a month. The only condition being that they have to attend at least half of the Junior sessions throughout the season and at least one Junior tournament.

If anyone is interested in becoming a coach, referee or even a table official then the club will pay and arrange the required course, just ask any of the coaches, committee members or team members to find out more.

Steve Fitchett  
Club Chairman  
**Dartford Basketball Club**

