

**North Wales  
Basketball Association**

## **NWBA Annual Report 2017**

### **Chairman's comments**

"A very successful season for North Wales Basketball in many aspects. As a league we have increased in size, both with membership and on our committee. The addition to our dedicated team of volunteers that keeps basketball ticking in the North has been our best development this year. Our local Media coverage has increased and our Social media and website usage has rocketed. I am also pleased to say that this has converted into participation figures, with several clubs receiving an increase in memberships.

As a league we have also seen development on the basketball court with our juniors improving every year and our senior league raising their standards with new teams raising the competition. This can be seen after a successful Welsh Finals (Terry Price Cup) hosted by BW in Aberystwyth University. The North fully supported this event, not only enjoying the weekend of basketball and socialising but bringing the Welsh National title for the seniors back to the North. Congratulations to Mold Magic on their successful win and being the Senior National Welsh Champions 2017.

I look forward to expanding our volunteer workforce for next season and further increasing participation across all age groups of North Wales."



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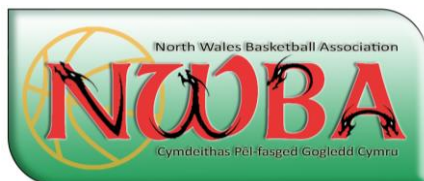
## **Committee and organisation**

The NWBA committee is the strongest it has been in a while with a wealth of experience and expertise in curtail areas of our league. We have had a very good season organisationally and both our junior and senior competitions have run very smoothly. Our committee is starting to see more volunteers from each club getting involved with the organisation of the league and helping to share the load. We hope to fill more volunteer roles for 2017/18 and increase our representation across the league.

It was decided at the start of the season that NWBA meetings this year would be hosted by our senior clubs on a rota. The meetings were hosted at the clubs training venue and bounced around the whole of North Wales, from Wrexham to Caernarfon. This proved successful and not only increased our attendance to meetings but helped to improve working relationships, which in turn has aided the developments we have seen this year.

We hope to continue with our success within our committee next year and grow our volunteer base, increasing the size of our committee.

In the past our dates have not always been stuck to and this has caused problems for end of season, finals and events. This year we have been a lot more organised and strict with our calendar, and it has shown. Our end of season tied up better with our finals and we decreased the waiting gap between that and the Welsh finals. With some more careful forward planning and coordination with both SWBA and BW we can really tighten up our season and calendar of events.



# **North Wales Basketball Association**

## **Committee Structure**

### **Chairman**

James Morgans  
07896603460  
chairman@northwalesbasketball.com

### **Vice-Chairman**

David Ellis  
07702035044  
vice\_chairman@northwalesbasketball.com

### **Secretary/ Treasurer**

Pat Sanders  
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secretery@northwalesbasketball.com

### **Junior CV League Secretary**

Iola Jones  
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Junior\_league@northwalesbasketball.com

### **Officials Development Officer**

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officials@northwalesbasketball.com

### **Child welfare Officer**

Arwel Jones (awaiting ratification at AGM)  
07825556041  
child\_welfare@northwalesbasketball.com

### **Public Relations Officer**

Richard Holden  
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public\_relations@northwalesbasketball.com

### **BW Representative**

Arwel Jones  
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### **Website & Social Media Officer**

Aled Jones  
TBC  
web@northwalesbasketball.com

### **Player Representative**

TBC  
TBC  
TBC

### **Mini Basketball Development Officer**

Sion parry



# **North Wales Basketball Association**

## **Junior Central Venue League**

NWBA junior Central Venue League had a busy and successful year. Games were played at St David's High School Leisure Centre, Saltney every Tuesday nights from 6 till 9.15pm with three games played each evening.

In order to ensure three games were played they were set up as 4 x 10 minutes running clock for the U14's , U16's and U18's age groups.

However, a new format was experimented with this year with the under 12's where they played 2x10 minute halves, playing 2 games on the night. Also, as encouraged by FIBA, teams were restricted to 4 v 4 in order to improve fundamental aspects of the game early on. From coaches' feedback this seemed to have worked well.

## **U12's**

Under 12's were split into Div 1 and Div 2. We had one new team enter this year from the newly formed Ynys Mon Celts coached by Sion Parry. With 3 teams in each group, each team played each other 3 times giving 6 games in all. Bromborough Bulldogs One won the Div 1 and Ynys Mon Celts won the Div 2 . At the end of the season a mini tournament was arranged where 5 of the 6 teams entered into a round robin format with 2 x 6 minute halves. Again, this format seemed to be a success with positive feedback from all involved. Christleton won the tournament

## **Under 14's**

3 teams entered in September but 1 pulled out in November leaving just 2 teams. Caernarfon Celts decided to enter a team in January and Bromborough Bulldogs split their team into 2 making it a 4 team league which started in January. Unfortunately, Christleton were unable to play several of their fixtures due to their coach's work commitments. 5 league games were played by Celts and the two Bromborough teams giving NWBA a good base from which to work for next season. Brackenwood Bulldogs won the league.

## **Under 16's**

5 teams entered which included Conwy Cannons a newly formed club and it was great to welcome them into the league. All the fixtures were fulfilled with some very close matches. Celts Caernarfon won all but one of their games and won the league.



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## **Under 18's**

Once more, 5 teams entered with all but one fixture played. Celts Caernarfon won all their games to win the league.

## **Under 16's and Under 18's cup competition.**

This year the cup competition took place at the Brailsford centre Bangor on April 1st. NWBA were very grateful to Prokil for sponsoring the hall hire for the day. Their generosity was publicised via posters, leaflets, the tournament day programme and on facebook and NWBA website.

Under 16's played in the morning with U18's from 3pm. 5 teams entered the under 16's playing a round robin format. Mold Magic were the winners, winning all their games, with Celts runners up. Both teams going on to represent NWBA in the Terry Price Cup.

Under 18's, 4 of the 5 teams entered again playing a round robin format. Caernarfon Celts won all games and became champions with Wrexham runners up. Both went on to represent NWBA in the Terry Price Cup.

New in the league this year was the MVP selected by the coaches of the opposing team which worked well. The names of the MVP's and top scorers was announced on the result posters and on game results on the website. The player with most MVP in the Under 14's, 16's and U18's were awarded a trophy at the end of the season as was the top scorers.

## **Next season**

With last season seeing the establishment of 2 new junior clubs in North West Wales, Ynys Mon Celts and Conwy Cannons, and also Celts Caernarfon entering an Under 14's team for the first time, hopefully 2017/18 will see more teams involved the NWB league. Ynys Mon Celts and Conwy Cannons will hopefully enter more than one age group next season whilst Celts Caernarfon will again enter teams in the three age groups. Wrexham, who entered an U18's this season, will hopefully enter teams in more age groups and it would be good if Mold could include an U14's team to add to their U12's u16's and U18's. In order to have an interesting, competitive league teams from over the border Bromborough Bulldogs, Whitby and Christleton High School would be welcomed again next season as well as any other teams from across the border wishing to join our junior set up.



# **North Wales Basketball Association**

## **Senior League**

We have just finished our most successful senior season in several years. We have been 7 teams strong this year in our league from across the whole of North Wales and just across the border in Ellesmere Port. The competition has been very high this year and has made for an exciting season with a lot of very competitive and close games. Our season finished with new team Cheshire Brewers winning the regular league, Mold Magic winning the Playoffs and NWBA Cup and Caernarfon Celts Winning the NWBA Plate.

Both Mold Magic went on to represent NWBA in the Welsh Finals at Aberystwyth with Mold Magic returning to the North with a clean streak and winning the Welsh Finals.

The senior league players and coaches have had a very good relationship this year on and off the court. This has been aided by the development of our website and social media usage. The increase in the use of social media has proven to be a big success with the league and the senior teams have engaged well this year. As with the junior league we re-introduced the Match MVP for every game, however the senior teams were asked to provide the league with MVP's names and photos and score sheet after each game. All this information was promptly uploaded to social media for all members and interested parties to follow.

Last season we started the North Wales Select (Senior) program. Chris Horrocks and James Morgans coached the summer program with 30 North Wales players trying out for the team. We gained a kit sponsor and fielded a team ready to play the Wales senior men in preparation for their FIBA Europe campaign. The game was a very steep learning curve for the undersized North Wales team but an enjoyable experience. This year the North Wales Select team is back and we hope to see more players trying out. We are scheduled to play South Wales Select in BW's pre-season event on the 9<sup>th</sup> September in Cardiff.

Next season we hope to see a couple more teams' enter the league to continue strengthening and improving the competition. We also hope to continue with our Social media and Website usage giving the teams even more responsibility with uploading results etc... We are in discussions with committee members on how we run the playoffs and cup competitions next year. We will look at a few tweaks to maximise any benefits possible to our membership and teams to get the best playing experience possible.





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## **Social Media and website**

Thanks to our new Website and social media officers, Lesley Broadhurst and Aled Jones, there has been up to date results and news about the junior league throughout the season on NWBA facebook and website. They have produced templates and procedures for all teams to follow this season and this has worked very well.

As Aled said in his report to NWBA in February –

“The website is running well, with 15,510 visitors since we re-vamped the site on October 1, 2016 (As of 7/2/17) – almost 4,000 visitors month. Previous statistic was 155,374 since November 2010 – which works out at almost 2,100 per month. Therefore, we’ve seen a significant increase in traffic.

Facebook page is not utilised as a marketing tool as much as it could be. Although the ‘People Reached’ this season is averaging at around 1,500 a week compared with around 100 a week last season. Each individual post averages around 600-800 people reached this season compared to around 10-50 people reached on average last season. “

The use of Social Media has generated a lot of interest in basketball in North Wales and we have seen an increase in participation numbers from our work with social media this season. Several teams have reported an increase in communication about their clubs via Social Media and with a good uptake in new participants.

Next season we hope to build on the great foundations set for Website and social media this year and use both to increase participation across North Wales. We plan to place more responsibility with the teams, to use and upload regularly.



# **North Wales Basketball Association**

## **Officiating**

Officiating has proven to be a problem the last few seasons. That said, the few officials we have had, have worked tirelessly all season to ensure that the majority of games have been fulfilled across North Wales. NWBA would like to thank all the officials that have made this season possible and we hope to see them all return next year. As with many areas of sports organisation, we see the same faces doing many jobs to ensure our teams, leagues and events continue to run and be successful. This is not sustainable and will eventually crack! We are working towards making sure that every team in our league contributes to officiating throughout the season. We plan to introduce a new officiating initiative, where every team must provide a minimum of 2 named and qualified referees and table officials. The league will appoint 2 neutral teams to a game and it will be those teams responsibility to appoint one of their named referees. NWBA will host a couple of officiating courses over the summer to qualify new officials and upskill current officials. We will be making it clear to all our teams that introducing a new initiative like this will have some teething problems and we will see some new referees in our league games. We hope that all teams will support and respect this, to help us develop a new officiating work force for the future.

## **Senior Presentation evening**

This year we hosted a presentation evening, this is something we have not done for many years. Although numbers were lower than planned we had representation from 5 of the 7 teams and the night proved to be very successful. We had an array of awards for players, teams and coaches across the league. We have already added and booked next years to our calendar of events and hope to encourage full participation in this end of season social event.