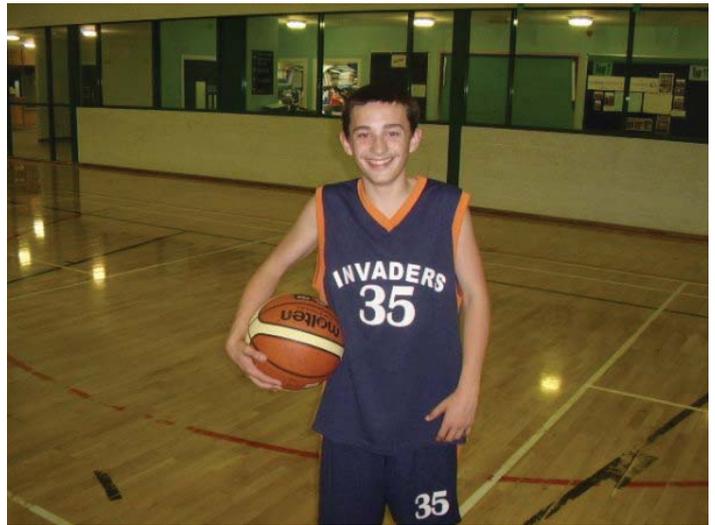


Boteler Basketball Club Review Of 2009

Club captain Josh Woodward (11LC) reflects on a record-breaking year of success and development in school basketball.



We started 2009 as joint leaders of the U16 basketball league and only narrow defeats against Penketh and

Birchwood stopped us staying there until the end of the season. In the end of season tournament in the Ball Hall we beat Culcheth for the first time since the Ball Hall opened. They had reached the semi-final of the English Schools' competition so that was a great win.

We had more people training on Fridays than ever before with an average of 25 and some weeks there were 30 players and ex-players and they were all members of proper teams and played outside school as well. When you have to practise against better and older players it improves your standard and shows you new moves and tactics to try.

We had a memorial game in the summer term for Temi and it was won by our year against last year's Y11 so we knew we would have a good team this year. After the school fixtures had finished we all continued to play matches in the Ball Hall and Vipers, Swish, Wizards, Invaders, Leopards and Flyers all won games and players from our school topped the scoring charts. Mr Chambers ran training through the summer holidays and we had about 15 players at the practises.

We started Friday training again in September and some people had trials with Chester Jets. Ashley Latham and Declan Clarke are playing for them regularly at the moment. Former players Sam Wernham and James Griffiths got into a strong Priestley team and Morrison Kirk and Adam Hayes were the best players in the WCI team.

We lost our first match this season against a strong Culcheth team but we have beaten Woolston and Newman by large scores. Some schools won't play us, which is disappointing. In November there was a Y7 Interform to look for new players of the future. One of them, Cameron Burrows, has played for the school. When the year finished just before

fChristmas we had our 37th training session without a break. This was another record to be pleased with.

During the year we met a few Boteler players from the past; John Ellis (95) Mike O'Dea (99) Paul Screawn (81), Derek Flannery (81), Neil Skelland (82) We had seen photos of them and read about them on our website. They think our skills have improved over the years. Other past players saw our website on the Internet and phoned up to let us know.

The Boteler Basketball website (www.boteler.org.uk/basketball) has just been updated with profiles of recent players, The Hall of Fame, end of year trophy winners and photos of the squad. If you get a chance, have a look. When the weather gets back to normal our matches should start and we are aiming to finish in the top three.

Pressgang English Club



During the last week of term, members of Pressgang club donned their reporting hats and had a go at being a TV interviewer like Jonathan Ross. The club has been looking for people to interview for their BBC Live news day in March and decided that the performers of the Aladdin pantomime would be a good start.

Will Sankey interviewed the actors and the rest of the club came up with the questions and filmed the interview. The full interview will be available on Pressgang's website, which will be coming soon!