

## Victory Against Birchwood in First Match

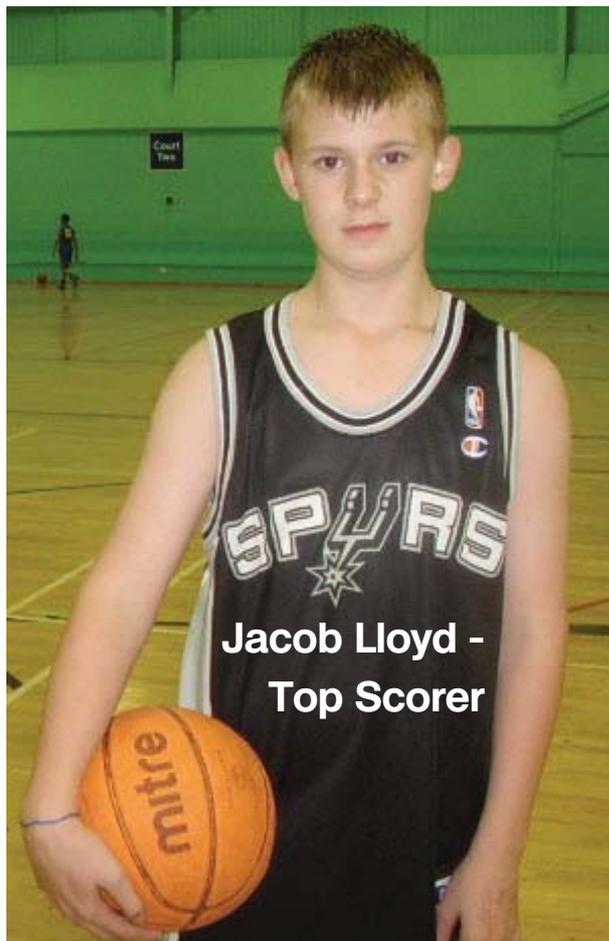
It is 18 weeks since our new squad of year 8 and 9 players trained together for the first time in July and in the first league match of the basketball season we deservedly beat Birchwood High School by 32-26 in the Ball Hall.

Despite injuries and unavailability we were nevertheless able to put out a full team of 10 players in this traditionally tight fixture. Six of the team are regular Ball Hall league players and their experience was vital in the early stages of the game.

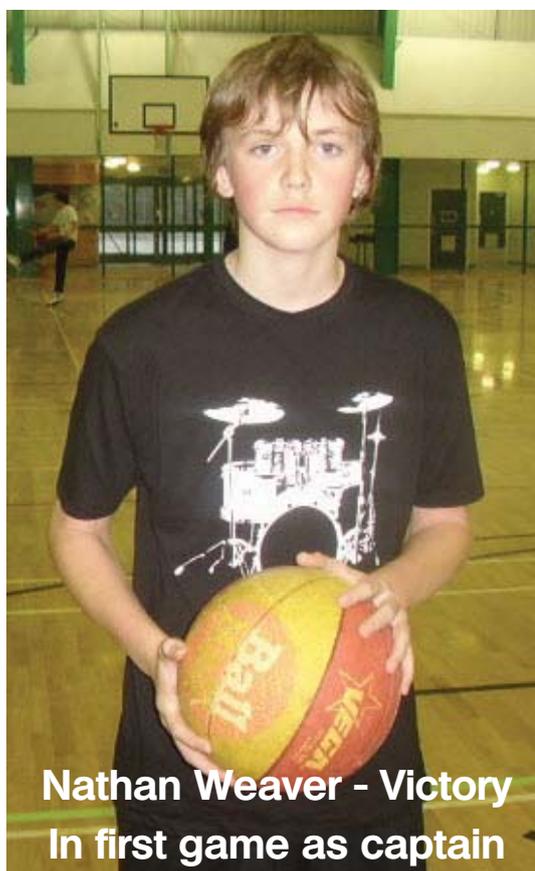
Team captain Nathan Weaver and vice

captain Renz Kae Agpoon have looked very strong in defence at recent Friday training sessions. They stole the ball and rebounded powerfully at both ends of the court, each scoring four points. Josh Carmichael also made regular defensive rebounds and controlled the ball well in offence. After the first five minutes Boteler took the lead thanks to a series of baskets by Jacob Lloyd. Jacob and Cameron Burrows are both playing up a year but looked equal to the task at all times.

The strength and speed of the Boteler players began to give us the upper hand early in the second half. Kieran Jones and Suman Rahman-Ali played tough basketball in defence and with regular practice will go on to become



**Jacob Lloyd -  
Top Scorer**



**Nathan Weaver - Victory  
In first game as captain**

significant players in this team. The introduction of the mercurial Sean Wells-Reardon really stretched Birchwood's defence and he scored three baskets in quick succession.

Birchwood could not match Boteler for physical ability and had no answer to our fast break offence. Cameron scored a superb hook shot from underneath the basket in the dying minutes to put the game beyond Birchwood. He then made way for Dylan Waters to come on and see out the victory, which in the end was quite comfortable.



Renz Kae Agpoon - Superb defence

The welcome return of Jack White to the team gave them added confidence and self-belief. Jack controlled large parts of the game from point guard and committed more than one defender each time he drove to the basket, creating space for the others and scoring six points.

This is an excellent start to the season but we have a lot to work on. Passes went astray unnecessarily, easy layups were missed and we turned over the ball too often. These are common errors but we must deal with them to stay at the top, which is our aim. Effort and competitiveness were not in question. We really wanted this win.

The support of numerous spectators created an excellent atmosphere and it was good to have courtside support from parents, whose regular commitment to basketball outside school has enabled a number of these players to make real progress at an early age.

**Mr H Chambers**