

## Basketball Team Still On Course After Tough Drawn Game At Sankey

This turned out to be one of those nightmare fixtures that you just have to get through and push on with your campaign. Rearranged three times during the previous weeks this match finally took place just after the holiday. Exam and interview commitments, travel problems and player disorganisation reduced us to a minimum number of five players and we were away from home against one of the stronger teams in the league.

Playing in conditions which fell well below what we are used to in our own Ball Hall, the five players we had available all had to play the full match without a rest but rose to the challenge magnificently against a taller if less skilful team. This game was all about guts and determination as opposed to tactics. In offence Rocky ran in layups with both hands and Tom Bate was once again difficult for the opposition to deal with. Both could only really be halted by defenders fouling them.

Captained this week by the experienced Josh Turner, the team started well and during the first half we matched Sankey point for point. They found it very hard to penetrate our zone and were reduced to speculative long range shots. We were faced with a full court press by Sankey but this was

easily overcome by our players' superior ball-handling skills and movement. However, we turned the ball over far too often and gifted them half of their points.

Early in the second half we opened up a seven point lead but could not maintain it. Josh Woodward stole the ball regularly off players a foot taller and launched attack after attack. In defence nothing got past Michael Lyon whose work rate was awesome and when the

Sankey players did get shots off, many of them missed and Ash Latham took all the rebounds under the basket reminiscent of the fearsome Paul Grady from the 1981 league winning team.

At the final whistle it was 34-34 and we decided to call it a draw rather than play overtime. Initially disappointed not to come away with yet another victory, we eventually came to see this as a point gained and with two matches left we have everything to play for. Congratulations to the "Magnificent Five" for keeping us in contention.

**Mr H Chambers**

