



**Warwickshire Basketball League**

**Press Release**

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## **REBELS ALMOST SNATCH SHIELD PLACE**

**One of Warwickshire's newest sides RC Rebels almost produced one of the shocks of the season as they went out of the Basketball Inter-Divisional Shield at the hands of Premier Warriors.**

Rebels, based at President Kennedy School took on the formidable Warriors - nine times Division One Champions in eleven years, who were in trouble before the start. They were late arriving due to a scheduling error, and the referees were about to award the game 20-0 to Rebels. This would, however, have prevented them playing probably the biggest match in some of their players' careers, so the start was deferred until Warriors had five players present.

Eventually it got underway, but with a running clock instead of a stopping clock, and this meant that there was even less time for the visitors to claw back the massive 81 point handicap. So they powered into Rebels from the off, and 85-4 became 87-43, with Rebels solitary basket coming from Phil Sower. But then the home side found their way to the hoop and they turned at 97-51 at the half.

Aussie Scott Alford hit one more before Warriors began their second half assault which saw them still with a mountain to climb as the final period began at 103-77. Olivier and Fakunle were warming to the task as Warriors slammed home 27 without reply, and, with less than a minute left, Rebels were in trouble as they trailed by one at 103-104. Alford hit one more to give them the lead again, but the two hotshots from Warriors, who notched 37 apiece, saw the Champions home at 105-110, a massive 106-20 on the night.

Aylesford Hawks had no trouble in disposing of Tile Hill Trojans 3 as they had to overcome another big hurdle to take a 144-125 victory. Starting at 20-90, Hawks piled into Trojans who could not weather the storm and the lead at half time was just one at 101-100. The second half saw Hawks ease back, but they had done enough to put themselves into the draw for Round Two, as did Tamworth when they took on Trojans 2 at Hereward College. This game provided little trouble for Tigers, who came from 26-85 to go through 152-139.

Ernesford Eagles have dropped into the second tier, after spending most of their time in the first, and they received a 60 point start when they went to Trojans 1. The home side, who had 15 points of their own in the handicap competition, had to work hard to wipe out the deficit were faced by a tough Eagles side, who were without three of their starters. Trojans plugged away as Eagles tried to stay on top, but by half time, they had managed to get to 69-82 and the target was in sight.

However, Tony Bates and company had other ideas and they came out firing in the third period to stun Trojans as it ended at 81-96 – still a lot to do. But Trojans coach Ross Alexander, who fumed all the way through the final break, pressed from the off and Eagles crumbled. Trojans went past them with five minutes left and eased into the last minutes breathing sighs of relief. Scotty Owen led on 20 as five other Trojans players hit double figures, and Eagles had only Bates with any offensive credit as he grabbed 18 of his team's 44 on the night.

**END**

**RESULTS ....RESULTS.....RESULTS.....RESULTS..... RESULTS..... RESULTS.....**

**Inter-Divisional Shield**

Aylesford Hawks 144-125 Tile Hill Trojans 3 (20-90)  
Tile Hill Trojans 1 120-104 Ernesford Eagles (15-60)  
Tile Hill Trojans 2 139-152 Tamworth Tigers (85-26)  
Westwood Rhinos 103-90 Nuneaton Knights (60-40)  
RC Rebels 105-110 Premier Warriors (85-4)  
GAC 20-0 Northampton – defaulted.

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