

MIKE MADDOX IN BASKETBALL

In 1968 Mike started playing basketball for Coventry Jesters and within one year was elected as Publicity Officer onto the Committee of The Coventry & District League who were members of the West Midlands Area.

When League Secretary, he formed the Caludon Basketball Club which later became the Tile Hill club, the largest basketball club within the Warwickshire league.

In the early seventies, Mike, as a member of the Committee, helped to create The Warwickshire Basketball Area and the Warwickshire Basketball League separating this from West Midlands, after they were granted independence.

He was then one of the Warwickshire members who formed the highly-acclaimed Granwood Team, who became Team Fiat, then The legendary Birmingham Bullets Basketball Club who went on to become National League Champions in 1981. He produced the match-day programme for the Club and commentated on the home games, working for local radio and National Television on many occasions. He also commentated at National events such as The Cup Finals at Wembley for several years.

He left the Club in 1984, having been Chairman for eight years to concentrate on his business and to play and referee locally, retaining his interest by accepting the role of Warwickshire Area President. It is now estimated that Mike has refereed over 600 games.

Mike retired from full-time work in 1997 and retired totally a year later. In 1999 he stood down from the role of President of Warwickshire Basketball and became Chairman after the two senior officers of the Area indicated they could not continue to stand for office.

He took full management control of the League and Refereeing allocation after Terry Donovan, then League Secretary and Vice Chairman left the Area, and continued to run this alone for a while, introducing The Inter-Divisional Shield to the competition calendar. He now computes and issues the fixtures for all the league Cup and Shield games and last season ran three divisions single handed. He also assists the Officiating Secretary with the recruitment of officials where needed

Mike organises and Chairs the monthly meetings of Warwickshire Basketball, distributes the Agendas and Minutes.

He liaises with teams, players, coaches and officials around Warwickshire and is always available to speak to anyone who has a query regarding basketball irrespective of the time or day.

He writes, collates and produces the Warwickshire Basketball Yearbook, a 24 or so page booklet containing all the information Club representatives need to

support their organisations, and on a weekly basis, The Bear Facts – a weekly email bulletin detailing fixtures, results and news from the basketball world is a task he has added to the list of tasks he undertakes, takes photographs whenever possible and includes these with the weekly Press Release he sends to The Coventry Telegraph where they feature the article along with the results and tables.

He has been responsible for the introduction of a website for Warwickshire Basketball, acclaimed as one of the most attractive in the sport. Information for this is up-dated regularly and is done from information distributed by Mike.

Still playing an active role in Tile Hill basketball Club, where he is an Honorary Life Member, Mike plays for the Club's veterans' team, referees at least once a week and carries out other duties within the club, such as collecting subscriptions, dealing with the management at the Sports facility, producing a Club newsletter and handling the Club website, responding to e mails and general paperwork.

It was Mike's idea to create a Warwickshire Basketball Hall of Fame and the Executive Committee of Warwickshire Basketball insisted that he should be one of the first to be inducted into it, and this took place at the recent Warwickshire Basketball AGM.

Threatening to retire at sixty, he cannot drag himself away from his love of basketball, and is now well past that – long may it continue.

It is due to the commitment of Mike that the Warwickshire Area has increased the number of competing teams and registered players over the last three years.