

TORBAY TIGERS BASKETBALL CLUB MATCH REPORT

EXETER AND DISTRICT BASKETBALL LEAGUE : DIVISION 1 MEN versus TAUNTON REVOLUTION (H) Thursday, 11th February. 2010.

Torbay Tigers met Taunton Revolution in the Exeter and District Basketball League last week with the result reflecting the two team's respective league positions. Whilst there are no easy games in the league, Tigers, currently lying third, dispatched Taunton, who are only surviving the bottom spot by virtue of a better points' difference, 78-63.

The game was unusual in the respect that one of the floor officials failed to show up and Tigers' coach, Norman Waldron, had to rescue the game by volunteering his services as referee. The coaching duties were undertaken by club captain Barry Bayley. Taunton accepted the game as a league fixture despite the circumstances, understandably wanting to avoid a repeat journey down the M5.

Tigers responded superbly to the situation, storming into a 19:3 lead after just 5 minutes. They played some excellent fast break basketball – Taunton could not match the pace of the game.

It was never going to stay that easy. Taunton regained some composure and Mark Eggleton found his shooting form for the visitors. For their part Tigers were guilty of over-extending their defence and, after early patience, rushing things as players attempted to join in the points' bonanza.

Tigers also became predictable in their zone offence – passes were intercepted and Taunton themselves were gifted some fast break baskets.

The outcome was that Taunton held the deficit to a similar margin – Tigers led 26:13 after the first quarter, and 40:29 at half-time.

Changes in defence brought greater success for Tigers in the second half – they won the third quarter 20:13 to extend their lead to 60:42.

To their credit Taunton kept trying and actually won the last quarter 21:18, but the damage had been done by then, and Tigers were comfortable winners without any pressure in the closing minutes.

Rob Rudling was top scorer for Tigers with 26 points. Lloyd Blackler contributed 18 and Ross Little 13.

"I am grateful to Barry Bayley for such a fine coaching job. He has natural ability in this role even though he refuses to contemplate contributing in this way on a regular basis. The team responded well to his advice and I am sure they would want to thank him too".

Tigers will have a more demanding game on Thursday 18th February when they face Broadclyst Bandits at Churston Ferrers Grammar School, tip-off at 8.30pm. Whilst Tigers beat Bandits in the Cup, the Exeter based team hold a 2:0 advantage in the league.

Norman Waldron : Coach