



# Leicester Riders Foundation

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20





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# INTRODUCTION

The Leicester Riders Foundation deliver a variety of programmes from participation pathways via School Coaching, Elite pathway and community project and grant delivery, all to promote, engage and develop Basketball and further sport participation across Leicester and Leicestershire.

As a Foundation we endeavour to work with in our local community to not only increase participation, but to promote and deliver sustainable programmes that promote health and wellbeing, develop and inspire volunteers, leaders and coaches and encourage people of all ages and abilities to engage with us on a journey of growth and development as an integral part of the Riders family, by delivering inclusive Basketball provision across a variety of platforms.

*"Riders Family"* is a phrase often heard and seen across our sessions, Social media platforms and community delivery. This is not just a phrase .. this to us is our mantra. We believe passion is mandatory, and believe everyone who participates, supports or engages in a session, activity or event becomes a member of that family, and this is something we here at the Leicester Riders Foundation family feel extremely proud to be a part of. We wish to thank our extended family of staff, trustees, volunteers, Funders, Sponsors, Community Partners, Charities, Schools, Parents and Participants, as you have been the driving force of our continued success, for that we thank you.

This report showcases the work as a Foundation we have completed over

the 2019/20 season and celebrates the achievement of those who have participated with us. This report showcases the variety of provision we currently offer and intend to deliver moving forward to support and continue to be an integral part of our community in Leicester and Leicestershire.

## TRUSTEES

Simon Winfield, Kevin Routledge, David Glover, Steve Mugglestone, Cllr Adam Clarke, Shabir Ismail, Mark Ellis, Russell Levenston

On behalf of everyone at the Leicester Riders Foundation, thank you to all of our Board of Trustees for their ongoing commitment to the Foundation, we look forward to developing our Foundation within 2021 and look ahead to a new season while celebrating and learning from the last.

The work of the Foundation in 2019/20 was significantly impacted by the global Covid-19 pandemic. Schools closed in mid-March 2020, and the Morningside Arena was closed on 20th March 2020 for the remainder of the financial year. Much of the work of the Foundation was stopped, bar some work in the education and related sectors, and funded by Government, but even that work was significantly curtailed.



# Leicester Riders Foundation

## HEADLINES 2019/20

5 SATELLITE CLUBS

26 PRIMARY SCHOOLS ENGAGED

8 JUNIOR NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAMS

105 JUNIOR NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYERS



/RIDERSBF  
1105 LIKES



@RIDERSBF  
1704 FOLLOWERS



@RIDERSBF  
1246 FOLLOWERS

3

NEW JNBL TEAMS IN 2020

150

2020/21 JNBL PLAYERS

7

WEEKLY ARENA SESSIONS

9

FULL TIME STAFF

6

VOLUNTEER COACHES

7

NEWLY QUALIFIED REFEREES

5

NEWLY QUALIFIED TABLE OFFICIALS

## PROJECTS

2

NCS WAVES DELIVERED IN 2020

75

ATTENDEES TO OUR KNIFE CRIME PROJECT

10

ETS PARTICIPANTS

## 2019/20 CAMPS

90 ATTENDEES   
EASTER CAMP

12 ATTENDEES   
AUGUST GIRLS CAMP

38 ATTENDEES   
OCTOBER 2019 CAMP

63 PARTICIPANTS   
SUMMER 2019 CAMP

60 PARTICIPANTS   
JANUARY 2020 CAMP

52 PARTICIPANTS   
FEBRUARY 2020 CAMP

28 PARTICIPANTS   
OCTOBER 2020 CAMP



# LEICESTER RIDERS FOUNDATION LRF OBJECTIVES

The Leicester Riders

Foundation aims to work in our local community of Leicester and Leicestershire in a variety of ways using sport as our vehicle to achieve the following aims and objectives;

To promote and develop a sustainable community participation route within sport and recreation to improve people's health and wellbeing.

To provide education and training, guidance and support, including social and physical training.

To promote social inclusion, by preventing people becoming

socially excluded and using sport and recreation as a tool to support people to become reintegrated and connected to their local community or society.

To promote equality and diversity across all activities and provision in the LRF and to further or benefit people without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions.

We endeavour to meet our aims and objectives across a variety of work that we deliver in our Foundation, including participation pathways via our in school coaching

programmes, and community development sessions at our home the Morningside Arena. We also aim to develop and up-skill our community by training opportunities and education programmes. Our project and grant delivery work will focus on targeting equality and diversity and aim to reach more broadly into all Leicester's communities. This 2019/20 report showcases some of the work we have completed during this season to contribute to our LRF aims and outcomes.



# SCHOOLS BASKETBALL PROVISION

## SCHOOLS COACHING



The Leicester Riders Foundation offers a variety of developmental coaching packages to schools across Leicester and Leicestershire providing an engaging provision predominately across Key stage two and three, introducing, developing and inspiring a new generation of players across Leicester and Leicestershire to further promote community participation in Basketball, as well as a development elite pathway via our Foundation Academy. We provide schools with bespoke packages comprising of in school curriculum and after school coaching provision, to meet the requirements of each school, ensuring as a Foundation we are embedded and connected within our community on all levels, ensuring the youngest members of our community are

exposed to our values, of promoting physical and social health and wellbeing, and using sport and specifically Basketball as the vehicle to connect both physical and social wellbeing.

We pride ourselves on delivering in-depth quality coaching, aiming to provide a positive association and for young players to engage with our basketball community, and improving ball handling, dribbling, shooting, and fundamentals around teamwork, communication and raising aspirations.

A great example of our partnership work with schools is that of Hope Hamilton C of E Primary School, delivering after school coaching sessions and working closely with the teaching staff, the school supported over fifteen students to attend our JNL trial days, with eight students being successful securing positions in the JNL squads, successfully entering onto our development pathway .

Matthew Barwell, Teacher at Hope Hamilton, has been integral to ensuring pupils have been given exposure to the sport and continues to drive participation and development within his students in partnership with the Leicester Riders Foundation even during the current pandemic, working collaboratively to ensure as soon as we were able we could return to deliver our sessions back in school.

*"It has been fantastic to have the Leicester Riders Foundation coaches back in our schools. The children were so excited about after-school basketball returning and they have loved the Riders coaches and their sessions. As a school, we're really pleased to see how well the coaches have dealt with adhering to new Covid guidance and policies whilst still keeping the clubs engaging and enjoyable.*

*We can't wait to have more clubs run by the Riders Foundation later this academic year."*

*Hope Hamilton C of E Primary School, Matt Barwell*

*"The children were so excited about after-school basketball returning and they have loved the Riders coaches and their sessions"*

As a community Foundation we pride ourselves, not only on our coaching performance to lead to our elite pathway, but focusing on our aim 'Basketball for all' by developing sound relationships within our community. We have a successfully developed relationships across different schools in the county, including Quorn Hall School, who specialise in working with students with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP).

*"I can honestly say the sessions provided by the Leicester Riders have been some of the most engaging sports sessions delivered at Quorn*

*Hall School. Our children who struggle to form positive relationships and also understand them have formed a fantastic relationship with Coach Louis.*

*Our students were very excited to be told Coach Louis would be returning and their relationship with him along with his engaging sessions make basketball on a Tuesday and Thursday something they all look forward to."*

*Cleveland Taylor, Quorn Hall school*

## IN SCHOOL COACHING

SCHOOL	ATTENDEES
QUORN HALL SCHOOL	47
EMMANUAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	43
RAVENHURT PRIMARY SCHOOL	77
OAKTHORPE PRIMARY	28
HEATHER PRIMARY	154
IMPERIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL	186
ASHFORDBY CAPTAINS CLOSE PRIMARY SCHOOL	130
SCALFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL	98
BURBAGE JUNIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL	136
COLEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL	33
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS PRIMARY SCHOOL	31

## AFTER SCHOOL COACHING

SCHOOL	ATTENDEES
FLECKNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL	42
IMPERIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL	76
MAYFLOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL	37
FRISBY PRIMARY SCHOOL	18
GLENHILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL	77
ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL	43
ASHFORDBY CAPTAINS CLOSE PRIMARY SCHOOL	19
ST JOSEPHS PRIMARY SCHOOL	12
SCALFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL	28
ST JOSEPHS PRIMARY SCHOOL	24
HOPE HAMILTON COF E PRIMARY SCHOOL	60

## LUNCH TIME CLUBS

SCHOOL	ATTENDEES
BARELY CROFT	138
HUMBERSTONE JUNIOR	8
IMPERIAL AVENUE INFANT SCHOOL	98
RATBY PRIMARY SCHOOL	20
QUORN HALL SCHOOL	20

## SCHOOLS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PROJECT DELIVERY

SCHOOL	ATTENDEES
TAYLOR ROAD	93
BEAUMONT	152

# COMMUNITY CAMPS

A regular activity we deliver within the Foundation is our Community Camps hosted at the Morningside Arena, during the school holiday periods. Our camps allow us to connect with players during all stages of their Basketball journey, either supporting players to take their first steps on court, or developing skills of players who are in our JNL squads. The 2019/20 season enabled us to deliver a variety of Community Coaching camps, including an All Girls Camp In August 2019 which hosted seventeen girls. This camp was a bespoke pilot, where we delivered key Basketball coaching and mentoring, alongside fitness sessions

providing alternative masterclasses such as Dance. The success of this camp therefore contributed to the start of our All Girls JNL Academy.

## TESTEMONIALS

*"I can't praise the Leicester Riders Foundation enough! My son trains each week with the Riders and so he decided to go to the camp in half term. He loved the day so much, the coaches obviously looked after him so well and communication throughout the booking process etc has been brilliant. Thank you!"*

*"My son age 9 years really*

*enjoyed basketball camp. Very good, played lots of different games and great prices. Coaches are really good with kids."*

*"Our daughter had a fantastic time at the February Half Term Camp - It was great value for money and great fun. We would highly recommend and will have no hesitation about booking again - Thank you."*

*"My son had a great time during the Easter holiday camp and is already looking forward to the summer one. Well done!"*





# HOOPS FOR HEALTH

The Hoops 4 Health programme is a national health programme delivered across the BBL. The purpose of our initiative is to connect with young people, to educate, support, and to encourage positive relationships around healthy active lifestyle choices, whilst recognising and understanding barriers that young people face.

As a Foundation we believe the impact of role models

has driven the success of this programme, we have had the support of our professional BBL team to deliver our programme in schools.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The roadshow commences with an introduction and a meet and greet with BBL players. We then deliver four twenty minute workshops

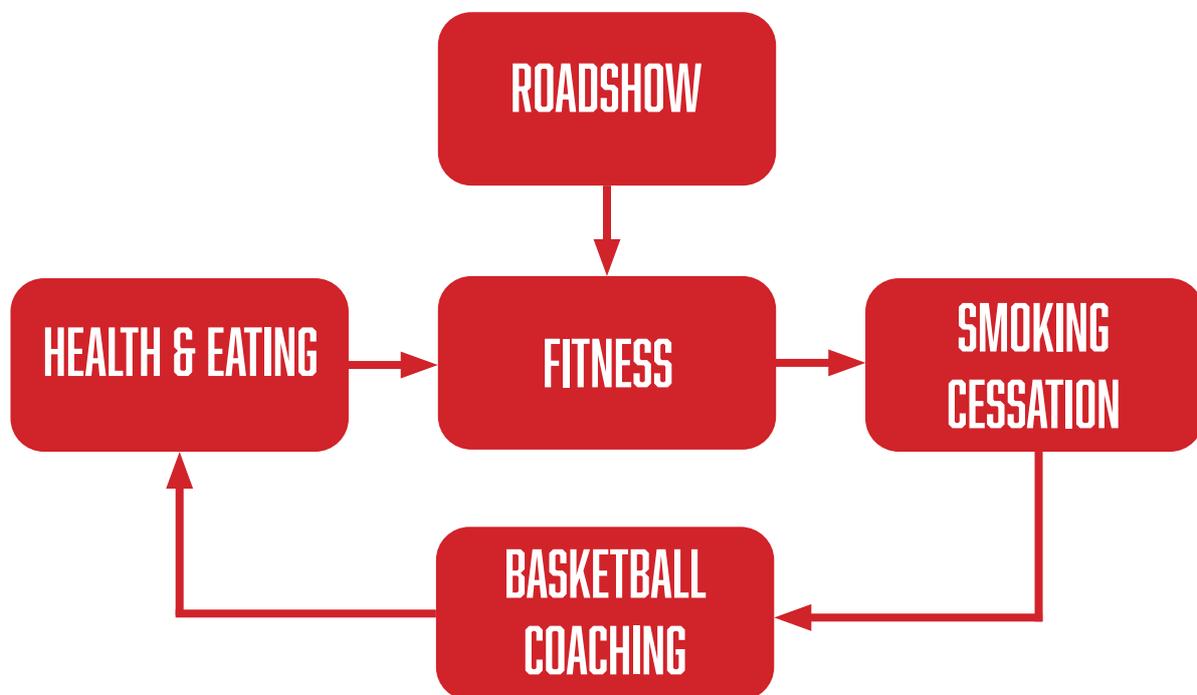
including coaching. We deliver 4 20 minute workshops including healthy eating, fitness, smoking cessation and basketball coaching.



**School of Business and Economics**

*"Wow is the best way to describe the H4h roadshow. We were lucky enough to be involved in this amazing project The children were so enthusiastic about the whole thing, the players delivered really engaging workshops about relevant subjects to do with health and wellbeing. I really hope we can be involved in this next year"*

*Matt Clark PE Coordinator, blaby stokes primary*



## HOOPS FOR HEALTH PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	ATTENDEES
OAKTHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL	60
ST JOSEPHS PRIMARY SCHOOL	120
HEATHER PRIMARY SCHOOL	55
DANEMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL	132
HOPE HAMILTON PRIMARY SCHOOL	140
CAPTAIN CLOSE PRIMARY SCHOOL	84
BADGERBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL	140
RAVENHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL	124
BLABY STOKES PRIMARY SCHOOL	60

In March 2019 our H4H schools took part in our tournament at the Morningside Arena. We hosted our H4H tournament on our St Patricks Day Game. Schools then stayed and attend the BBL game and the winning team was presented with medals and a trophy on centre court at half time by Loughborough University sponsor Jim Saker.

### AIM LIKE ANYA

Anya Patel took part in our H4H programme whilst at Primary School and has since joined our Foundation Academy in the All girls JNL team. She has gone on to become Captain due to her great leadership and drive.

*"As a captain I have learnt leadership skills and how to work*

*together as a team ,it has impacted my education as it gives me a purpose outside of school."*

*Anya Patel, JNL All Girls Captain*



# COMMUNITY BASKETBALL

## ARENA SESSIONS

A key objective of our Foundation is to promote and increase community participation within Basketball and to improve physical and social wellbeing. We are working to ensure our foundation reaches to all parts of our local community and achieves our aim "Basketball For All"

We are fortunate to have our home, the Morningside Arena as a space to provide such community activity, and offer a range of weekly activity not only to promote our elite pathway but to provide a social outlet to contribute to social cohesion within Leicester.

Girls and Boys Development sessions have grown over the last year which contributed to us Providing extended sessions via Junior National League trials, and has enabled us as a Foundation to ensure development, via the elite pathway as a continuation from our community sessions.

Girls Development sessions have been very popular, having over 30 girls on a weekly basis.

Boys development sessions were also popular and numbers saw 30-40 participants regularly attending.

Our community sessions have become the beating heart of our foundation, as we are able to engage, unite and develop players at any stage they begin their Basketball journey.

## DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Our development days have been an opportunity for young players to take part in our 90 minute coaching clinic, focusing on three different skill areas, passing, shooting and dribbling.

Then having the opportunity to spectate a BBL game, In our home venue. This has been a great initiative so far with over 75 attendees from September 2019 across four development days within the season. Our aim is to increase this number and be able to offer this opportunity to a wider audience of aspiring players in 2021.

## WEEKLY COMMUNITY PROVISION / SEASON PARTICIPATION ATTENDEES

SESSION	ATTENDEES
BOYS DEVELOPMENT	446
GIRLS DEVELOPMENT	231
MINI BALLERS & PRIMARY DEVELOPMENT	299
JUNIOR OPEN COURT	16
30 PLUS	358
LATE HOOPS	332
WALKING BASKETBALL	123

# RIDERS SATELLITE CLUBS

## FEBRUARY 2019 - MARCH 2020

As the Leicester Riders Foundation we are currently providing a variety of satellite sessions in partnership with Basketball England. These sessions are delivered across Leicester and leicestershire in various areas of the city to allow us to reach out

to students by using their school site as a venue. The purpose of these sessions is to engage with our wider community, to provide a fun team session, create a route to further community development sessions and create a sustainable talent pathway to our elite Junior national league programme. Our session see over 100 participants a week across the whole provision.

## SATELLITE SESSION VENUES

VENUE	COACH	PARTICIPANT NUMBERS
JUDGEMEADOW	BBL PLAYER ANDY THOMSON	20-35
SOAR VALLEY	BBL PLAYERS	20-30
COUNTSTHORPE	LRF COACH DOM	12-15
NEW COLLEGE	LRF COACH LOUIS	10-12
GROBY BROOKVALE	LRF COACH ELLIS	10-15

## SHOOT FOR THE FUTURE

Samworth Brothers Sport opportunity fund provides funding for us to deliver our Shoot To The Future Sessions. These sessions are delivered on Friday evenings at two different locations .

The sessions are free open sessions and we see on average 50 participants attend per week.

This session has also been a strong platform to deliver our Carry A Ball Not A Blade programme in partnership with Leicestershire Police.

**NEW COLLEGE - 360 ATTENDEES** 

**BEAUMONT LEYS - 98 ATTENDEES** 



# SUNLIVE BASKETBALL CAMP

In 2018 we began an informal partnership with Sunlive Basketball Academy to support an overseas experience for Leicester Riders JNBL Academy players. As part of the informal partnership, academy members were given a small discount for booking on to the camp. Logistics and planning was supported by the club, paid for by the players attending.

Sunlive Basketball Camp is based in Sangalhos, Aveiro just south of Porto in Portugal. The camp is ran by former Charnwood College head coach Josh Merrington and boasts high level international coaching

staff. Players attend from Iceland, Spain, Portugal, Scotland, Qatar and many other places around the world. The camp has a great balance of basketball development and cultural education providing an unforgettable experience for players. In the first year we took just 12 players, this increased to 21 in year 2 and before the lockdown over 30 players signed up for the camp.

Many players have built strong friendships and have obtained life changing basketball experiences as a result of the camp. LRF Coaches have also developed their coaching ability and have

developed an international network of coaching resources.



Walking Basketball is a successful community session within the Foundation seeing 123 attendees within sessions over the 2019/20 season. The adapted version of the game has allowed players new and returning to once again feel the joy of the court, and begin a new pathway with us as a Foundation, enjoying the game but also having a social outlet. LRF supported a team to enter a Walking Basketball tournament, playing teams from all over the UK, since then the session have grown

with parents of JNL players deciding to take part, and truly widening our Riders family and increasing social cohesion within our community.

In December 2019, LRF in partnership with Leicester Diabetics Centre and University of Leicester hosted an awareness day for Fighting Diabetes, hosted at the Morningside Arena. LRF partnered with groups of elderly Walking Football and Cricket groups. The aim was to promote health and

wellbeing with the power of sport and recreation. The day was a huge success seeing members from our community take part and be active in all three sports and be apart of wider conversations around Health and wellbeing.

# WALKING BASKETBALL



# NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE

NCS



The Leicester Riders Foundation became the first professional Basketball Club to join the National Citizen Service (NCS) network, as a Delivery Partner in partnership with Ingeus. (NCS) is the UK's largest youth development programme for young people in the UK aged 15-17 .

The programme is to engage and inspire young people to build confidence and improve social mobility to be a part of the wider society and build positive social cohesion by reconnecting with their local community.

## 390 VOLUNTEER HOURS DURING THE SUMMER WAVE

After months of limited activity during the pandemic, we were safely able to deliver our first Summer wave of NCS. Our team of thirteen participants, from a variety of schools across Leicester took part in a two week programme, engaging in workshops and masterclasses including mental health, wellbeing, careers , aspirations and first aid.

The team completed a week of Social Action at local school, Parklands Primary School in South Wigston.

**KEEP DOING GOOD**

The project saw the group of students volunteer over 30 hours each to help support and renovate the outdoor playground site for the Primary students. The NCS team developed a strong project, painting fences, trimming hedges, litter picking and supporting the school in making sure the garden area was a joyful space for the children to return to.

Our staff team have been truly inspired by the dedication and hard work from the NCS participants this year as they were so dedicated and motivated to support their Social Action Project even in the circumstances of how difficult 2020 has been for all.

## MOVING FORWARD

During October half term we saw our

second wave of the year, a group of Sixth Form students take part in our NCS Moving Forward programme, this group had the opportunity to take part in a day of team building activities at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Center, taking part in a variety of activities to support the development and team work needed for their Social Action Project(SAP).

We decided to work with local charity; Saffron Acres, to support them in their recovery of Covid 19. All of our participants volunteered 30 hours helping at the allotment site, gardening, apple pressing, and volunteering at the National Soup drive. The Soup Drive aims to tackle loneliness and isolation, Working with adults and service users with both physical and learning disabilities.

*"My daughter has thoroughly enjoyed all the activities- even sanding the handrails and your company. It was great to see her engaged again so thank you very much"*

*Parent - NCS Summer 2020*





*"We are extremely grateful for all the work that the Leicester Riders NCS group did for the project and volunteers. Our group of adults with learning disabilities loved having the group around and has been asking for them to come again!"*

*Laura Grey, Project Manager , Saffron Acres*





# UNITED LEICESTER

## LEICESTER RIDERS HOST UNITED LEICESTER LAUNCH

2019 witnessed the collaboration of Leicester City's four professional sports clubs, funded by the Premier League Charitable Fund to form United Leicester. With a shared vision and goal, recognising inactivity and health issues within our city amongst young children and families, the four clubs Leicester City, Leicester Tigers, Leicestershire Cricket and Leicester Riders aim to empower young people and families to create better lifestyle choices and habits, by encouraging and supporting healthy lifestyles and physical activity.

*"The United Leicester Project has had a great impact on the young generation at Taylor Road, increasing regular sporting participation through Basketball, Rugby and Football, alongside improving knowledge of healthy eating." Ryan Evans, LRF*

*"The project uses coaches from each club to inspire the next generation, as well as providing workshops for parents and guardians, to increase their awareness of the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle and the consequences of inactivity." Matt Bray, LCitC*



# EMPLOYMENT THROUGH SPORT

During February 2020 LRF launched the first project delivery of the Employment Through Sport programme. This programme is a grant funded project awarded by Futures and the Education & Skills Funding Agency, whose purpose is to support people currently not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) to gain future employment.

Leicester Riders Foundation have designed a unique programme that consists of eight weeks of delivery with classroom based workshops developing key skills and developing interview techniques, exploring the labour

market, developing key skills combined with practical on court experience to support routes to employment into the sport and recreation sector.

We currently have 10 participants enrolled onto the programme working towards their Level One in both Table Officiating and Activators Sports Leaders Award.

Our aim is to support our participants on the route back into employment, and generate a new pool of people interested in becoming Volunteers, Leaders and Coaches.



A joint partnership was established in March 2018, between Leicestershire Police and the Leicester Riders Foundation called Lives not Knives the project aims to develop a campaign to combat the ongoing issue of knife crime across Leicester and Leicestershire. Our project is tailored around early intervention supporting targeted young people aged 12-24 . Our initiative consists of both Basketball coaching and Educational workshops, where our LRF coaches have a targeted youth approach to provide a safe space for

discussions with young people both on and off the court, through engaging and beneficial games and drills.

We were then awarded a Police and Crime Commissioner grant in May 2019, to continue the work against knife crime.

The Leicester Riders Foundation is currently working on providing Basketball sessions, inspired by the 'Carry a Basketball Not a Blade' (CAB-NAB) project in London, to the local community and youth workers to educate on the dangers of carrying a knife.

Sergeant Glen Iceton, Knife Crime Coordinator for Leicestershire Police, said: *"It's fantastic news that our knife crime initiative #LivesNotKnives is being supported by the Leicester Riders.*

*We have worked with over a 100 young people both via a free open access session delivered on a Friday evening across three geographical areas of Leicester city, Beaumont Leys and Hamilton.*

*During January- March 2020 we delivered the CABNAB*

# CARRY A BALL NOT A BLADE

campaign in partnership with Beaumont Leys School. The sessions were delivered with Basketball as the vehicle of progress, encouraging conversation and learning within the sport participation setting.

Mandy Payne, Community Manager at the Leicester Riders Foundation, said: *"We are really keen to support the force's #LivesNotKnives campaign and hope to work closely with Leicestershire Police on implementing our new project"*

## APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

At the start of 2020 LRF teamed up with Coach Core and Leicester and Rutland Sport to recruit our first apprentice. The programme offers the opportunity to develop and learn first hand the runnings of our Foundation while getting first hand experience out coaching within our community while gaining a Level two in Community Activator Coaching.

In February 2020, we employed Kieran O'Nrien, who applied for our apprenticeship after previously accessing our Friday night Shoot to the Future sessions, supported by Leicestershire Police. Kieran is in the

beginning phase of his apprenticeship, and this has been a very different first year due to the pandemic, with limited practical experience. We hope moving forward that we will be able to develop our apprenticeship programme and be able to develop future coaches, volunteers and leaders in 2021.

Having an apprentice will allow us to provide further community sessions in school and to expand our community sessions.



# LRF JUNIOR NATIONAL LEAGUE ACADEMY

## HISTORY

The Leicester Riders Foundation Junior National Basketball League Academy was formed in 2014 with the aim to complete the elite performance pathway at the Leicester Riders Basketball Club. Starting with just an U13 Boys and U13 Girls team, the club has grown. We are now seeing players who joined us all those years ago climb through the performance pathway as players, coaches and officials.

*"The academy's existence is as a result of all the amazing basketball experiences being delivered by the Leicester Riders Foundation in the local community. Many of our players had their first basketball experience in school, at a community camp or at a Leicester Riders game. For me personally it's about taking that love for the game and using it as a vehicle for young people to achieve their full potential." - Tahir Hajat Head of JNBL Academy*

*"What a crazy year! We have created a girls academy in*

*such uncertain times. We are overwhelmed with how many girls have come forward and want to be involved in organised basketball. I am excited to see where some of these players journeys will take them and I am so proud to be a part of this." - Mandy Payne JNBL Academy Secretary*



# 110



# 40

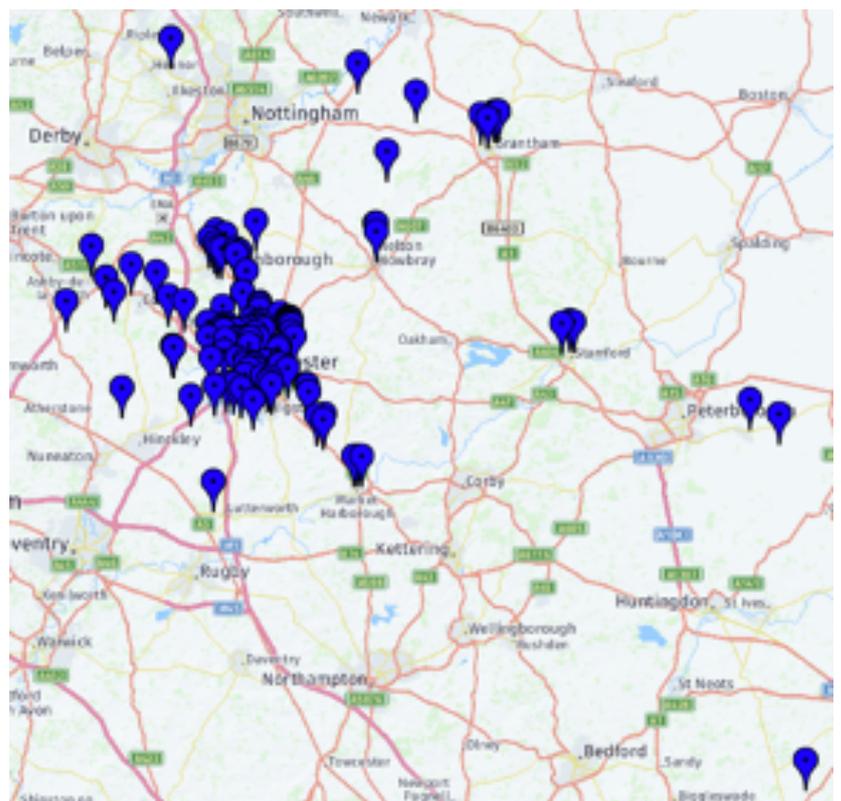


# 150 JNBL ACADEMY PLAYERS

*Club Philosophy "To provide elite level basketball training and competition for young people in the Leicestershire County and Leicester City, helping young people to realise their full potential."*

## LOCATION

Every year the reach of our academy increases across the Midlands and further afield. Although the beating heart of our club is based in the City Centre of Leicester at the Morningside Arena many parents value the quality of coaching and performance pathway, travelling from as far as Cambridge to be a part of the academy. The Academy also attracts attention from outside the county as a result of competing in under 14 and under 16s Premier competition.

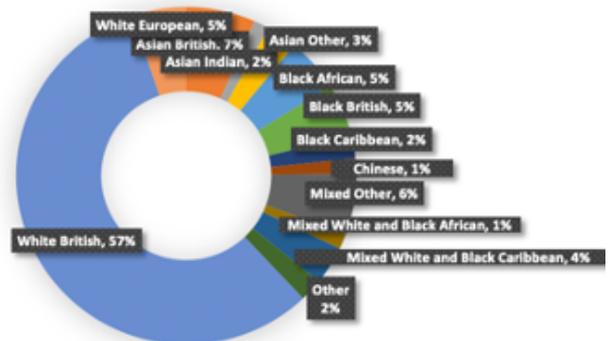


# LEICESTER JUNIOR NATIONAL LEAGUE ACADEMY



## DIVERSITY

Leicester boasts one of the most multicultural populations in Europe. Just over 43% of our JNBL Academy Players are from Ethnic Minority Backgrounds. With such diversity in the Academy, the opportunity to experience and learn about different cultures and religions is boosted with an overseas trip to Spain and Portugal.



**U12 LEICESTER RIDERS BOYS - U12 MIXED 3**

**U12 LEICESTER RIDERS GIRLS - U12 NORTH**

**U13 LEICESTER RIDERS BOYS - U13 YBL EAST**

**U14 LEICESTER RIDERS GIRLS - U14 NBL NORTH**

**U14 LEICESTER RIDERS BOYS II - U14 NBL MIDLANDS**

**U14 LEICESTER RIDERS BOYS - U14 NBL PREMIER U14**

**U15 LEICESTER RIDERS BOYS - U15 YBL PRIMIS**

**U16 LEICESTER RIDERS GIRLS - U16 NBL NORTH**

**U16 LEICESTER RIDERS BOYS II - U16 NBL MIDLANDS**

**U16 LEICESTER RIDERS BOYS - U16 NBL PREMIER**

**U18 LEICESTER RIDERS - U16 NBL MIDLANDS**



Every so often you as a junior sports club you find a diamond in the rough. Giovanni Emejuru, originally born in Italy, hails from Braunstone in Leicester. Giovanni started his basketball journey in the U14 Leicester Riders junior team, coached by the current assistant men's team head coach, Pablo Vasquez.

The Leicester Riders Foundation provided Giovanni's family with support to enable him to continue to enjoy playing. As he continued his development within the academy, Giovanni was selected for the U16 Premier team and flourished with the support of Coach Tahir Hajat.

**“IT HAD A GREAT IMPACT ON MY EDUCATION, COACHES ALWAYS SAID THAT IN BEING A STUDENT ATHLETE, BEING A STUDENT COMES FIRST.”**

**GIOVANNI EMEJURU**

**CASE  
STUDY**

**GIOVANNI EMEJURU  
BRAUNSTONE, LEICESTER**





One of the biggest lesson's Giovanni learnt was that, although he enjoyed playing basketball, it was important to apply skills he developed on the court to the classroom. *"It had a great impact on my education, Coaches always said that in being a student athlete, being a student comes first."* Giovanni went on to achieve fantastic results in his GCSE and earn himself a place at the Leicester Riders Charnwood College Academy.

Now in his 2nd year, Giovanni has made his BBL Debut, competed with the Barking Abbey Adidas Europe Next Generation tournament, names as in the Hoopsfix All-Star Classic U18 roster and has been offered the opportunity for a scholarship in the USA.

Giovanni encourages others to join the JNBL LRF Academy, *"I would say come and get involved! It's a great environment and place for you to become a better person and develop your love for the sport even more."*

# BEGINS



Louie is a direct example of hard work. From a loving family in Ashby, Leicestershire, Louie's first experience with the Riders was at a Community Camp after being exposed to basketball through his school and the Ashby Aztecs basketball club. Coaches identified his incredible coachability trait and offered him the opportunity to trial with JNBL Academy. Louie's first season in the U16 East Midlands gave him the vital opportunity to transition in to the U16 premier team in the following season.

**“AS A JUNIOR RIDER I WAS ALWAYS TAUGHT TO RESPECT COACHES AND TO BE GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT I HAVE ON AND OFF THE COURT.”**

**LOUIE JORDAN  
ASHBY, LEICESTERSHIRE**

**LOUIE JORDAN  
CASE  
STUDY**





The student mentality encouraged by coaches was also well received by Louie. Louie also attained fantastic results in his GCSE's and also earned a place at the Leicester Riders Charnwood College Academy.

Louie is now in his 2nd year at Charnwood and has been previously included in the GB U16 training squad.



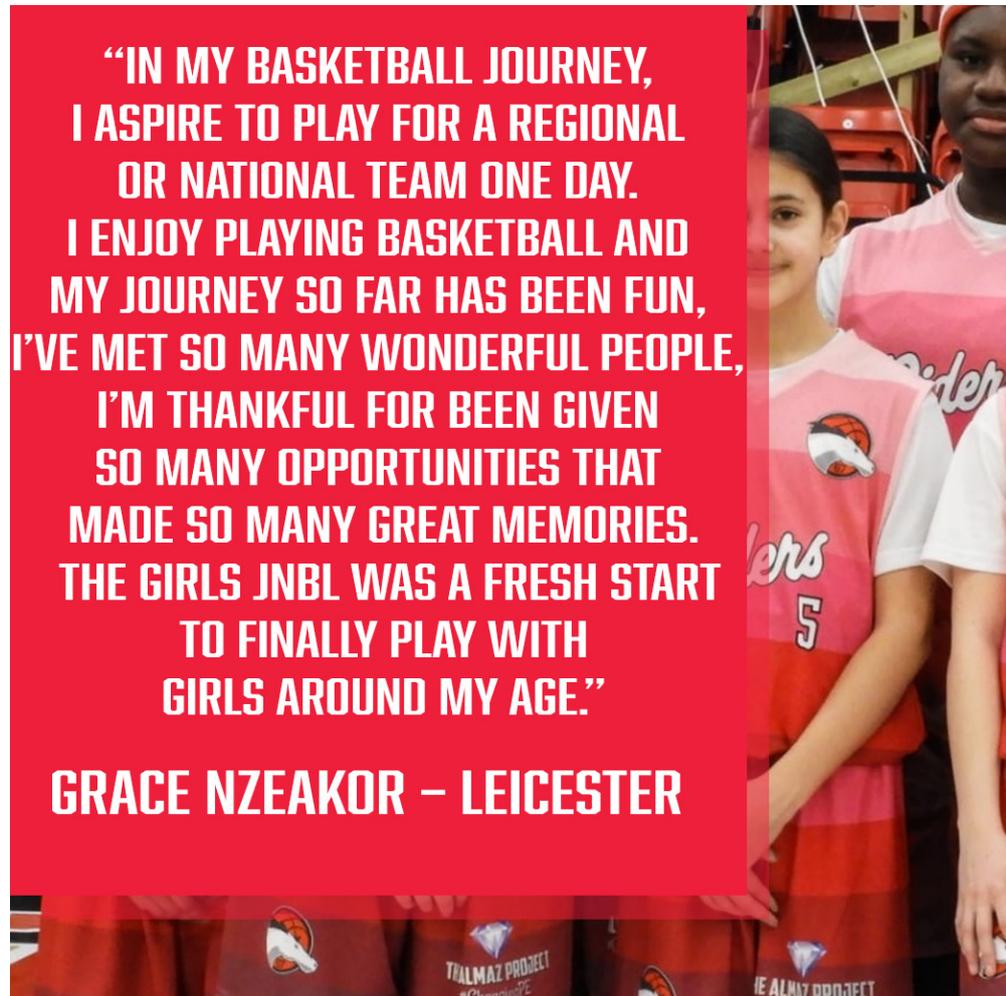


When the LRF JNBL Academy began its journey in 2014 the club entered and U13 Boys and Girls team. Since that season the academy struggled to facilitate a girls squad. Recently a partnership was formed with Coach Matt Barwell from Hope Hamilton Community Primary School, which saw a huge influx of girls wanting to play competitive basketball. In two years the club now has 3 teams at U12, U14 and U16 national league level.

GRACE NZEAKOR  
**CASE  
STUDY**

**“IN MY BASKETBALL JOURNEY,  
I ASPIRE TO PLAY FOR A REGIONAL  
OR NATIONAL TEAM ONE DAY.  
I ENJOY PLAYING BASKETBALL AND  
MY JOURNEY SO FAR HAS BEEN FUN,  
I’VE MET SO MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE,  
I’M THANKFUL FOR BEEN GIVEN  
SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES THAT  
MADE SO MANY GREAT MEMORIES.  
THE GIRLS JNBL WAS A FRESH START  
TO FINALLY PLAY WITH  
GIRLS AROUND MY AGE.”**

**GRACE NZEAKOR – LEICESTER**





Grace is an up and coming player within the academy and competed in both U12 Boys and Girls competition last season. Mature, confident and highly academic, Grace catches the bus for over 30 minutes each way to get to practice. She is learning two different languages, sings in a choir and she is passionate about anything she invests in.

Over 60 players tried out for the U12, U14 & U16 Girls teams this season. Being only one of two junior girls basketball clubs in Leicester, Grace sees the importance of inspiring others and has shown an interest in coaching other junior players that may follow in her footsteps in years to come.

# COACHING PROFILES

## KEENAN THOMAS

Age: 22  
From: Leicester  
Coaching Level 2  
Team: U12 Riders Boys

## RYAN EVANS

Age: 22  
From: Melton  
Coaching Level 2  
Team: U12 Riders Girls

## PIETRO TOMAJER

Age: 45  
From: Milan, Italy  
Coaching Level 2  
Team: U13 Riders Boys

## ZANE GOODWIN

Age: 21  
From: Leicester  
Coaching Level 2  
Team: U14 Riders Boys II

## DOMINIC McDONOUGH

Age: 26  
From: Stroud  
Coaching Level 2  
Team: U14 Riders Boys

## MATT BARWELL

Age: 30  
From: Leicester  
Coaching Level 2  
Team: U14 Riders Girls

## BEN LOFT

Age: 34  
From: Tavistock, Cornwall  
Coaching Level 2  
Team: U15 Riders Boys

## LOUIS CHAMBERLAIN

Age: 22  
From: Leicester  
Coaching Level 2  
Team: U18/U16 Riders Boys II

## TAHIR HAJAT

Age: 29  
From: Leicester  
Coaching Level 3  
Team: U18/U16 Riders Boys II

## MANDY PAYNE

Age: 56  
From: Lincoln  
Coaching Level 3  
Team: U18/U16 Riders Boys II

# 2019/20 SEASON REVIEW



**COACH:** Ryan Evans  
U12 Mixed Regional Pool 3

**Record:** 2W / 7L  
**League:** 6<sup>th</sup>/7  
**Retention:** 70%



**COACH:** Dom McDonough  
U12 Mixed Regional Pool 3

**Record:** 7W / 3L  
**League:** 3<sup>rd</sup>/7  
**Retention:** 90%



**COACH:** Matt Barwell

**Record:** 6W / 4L  
**League:** N/A  
**Retention:** 80%



**COACH:** Nick Moodey  
U14 Midlands Conference

**Record:** 7W / 9L  
**League:** 6<sup>th</sup>/10  
**Retention:** 90%



**COACH:** Louis Chamberlain  
U14 Premier North

**Record:** 1W / 13L  
**League:** 9<sup>th</sup>/9  
**Retention:** 83%



**COACH: Matt Barwell**  
**N/A**

**Record: 4W / 2L**  
**League: N/A**  
**Retention: 100%**



**COACH: Ben Loft**  
**U15 YBL East**

**Record: 7W / 4L**  
**League: 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Retention: 100%**



**COACH: CJ Bishop**  
**U16 Midlands Conference**

**Record: 6W / 13L**  
**League: 8<sup>th</sup>/11**  
**Retention: 84%**



**COACH: Tahir Hajat**  
**U16 Premier Central**

**Record: 6W / 13L**  
**League: 8<sup>th</sup>/12**  
**Retention: 77%**



**COACH: Steve Farrington**  
**U18 Premier North**

**Record: 1W / 13L**  
**League: 9<sup>th</sup>/9**  
**Retention: 15%**

# MANDY PAYNE ANNOUNCED AS ALL GIRLS AMBASSADOR

Mandy Payne is a community manager for the LRF and has been announced as an official ambassador for Basketball England's All Girls campaign to increase opportunities for women and girls to get involved in basketball – be that via playing, coaching, officiating or volunteering.

One of eighty Ambassadors, Mandy has been recruited by the national governing body to be part of the ground-breaking programme, designed to increase female participation in the sport and tackle under-representation by young women.

Recognised both nationally and locally as an influential advocate of the sport, Mandy will be responsible for engaging with women and girls in Leicester to provide opportunities to get involved with basketball.

Basketball has always been a huge part of Mandy's day-to-day schedule. However, at an early age, Mandy tragically lost her husband and was left needing to rebuild her life.

*"We were both married to the sport," says Mandy. "This experience proved to be a massive hurdle in my life at the time. Nonetheless,*

*the strong connections I established within basketball helped me to continue living his legacy. Speaking on All Girls, Mandy highlights: "I have found a new passion in promoting women's and girls' basketball, their enthusiasm has inspired me to inspire them and open pathways to enjoy this sport at all levels."*

The ambassador programme aims to support Basketball England's overall vision of nurturing the female game, creating a lifelong affinity with the sport, whilst shining a spotlight on the role models (both male and female) who are helping to drive the sport forward.

*"We know there's a lack of awareness of basketball among women and young girls. Our All Girls Ambassadors will be shouting from the rafters in their area, positioning the game in a way that speaks directly to them. We hope this ground-breaking programme will not only highlight the great work of the basketball community but showcase the numerous ways that all women and girls can be part of this amazing sport." Said Stuart Kellett, CEO of England Basketball.*



# LRF LAUNCH GIRLS JNBL ACADEMY



In October 2019 we were able to launch our Girls JNL Academy, due to continued success of our Girls community development sessions, which we were seeing on average 80 girls a week attend sessions. With continued support from community champions such as Matt Barwell, now Girls JNL coach, we were able to run trials and form both U12 and U14 girls squads .

*"Since helping to set up the new Riders girls programme a little over a year ago, I have been immensely proud of the incredible growth that we have achieved. Through our Girls Development sessions and All Girls primary school tournaments, we have already introduced hundreds of new girls from across the city and county to the sport of basketball.*

*We also achieved great success in our first competitive games with over 20 girls representing the Riders in a number of friendly games. This September, after our first ever girls-only trials, we are excited to have selected over 40 girls to compete in our first ever season in the National League at three different age groups.*

*I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to*

*help set up what is arguably the fastest-growing girls programme in the country and very excited for what the future holds for our programme."*

Matt Barwell Leicester Riders Girls JNBL Academy Coach

September 2020 saw us able to deliver Open trials to look at forming 3 teams to play JNBL at U12, U14 and U16. The girls didn't disappoint and showed up in great numbers so we are able to field 3 teams at JNBL for this season and an U13 team to play in YBL across the Midlands too.

*"What an amazing year to see how far we have developed a Girls Academy in such uncertain times but still to have generated an interest and overwhelmed with how girls have come forward and want to be a part of something organised and to put Leicester Riders Female back on the map. I am so excited to see where some of these girls' journeys will take them and I am so proud to be a small part of this."* Coach Mandy P Girls Academy Coach





*"To my daughter, basketball is everything."*

*"She joined the Riders Academy in 2019 and basketball has been a huge part of our lives ever since. When she's not training with her team, she's practicing at home or watching games on TV - any games!."*

*"Her enthusiasm and commitment has definitely rubbed off on me as a parent and I've become a big fan of the game, mainly as a spectator but also as a participant in the Club's walking basketball sessions (great fun but much harder work than it sounds!)."*

**T. STEPHENSON**

*"She is enjoying riders and showed how disciplined she is by taking notes all the way through Coach Matt's November Zoom session. She wrote 4 pages which considering she is dyslexic, that's brilliant."*

*"As parents we are very happy that Tink is happy but we don't want her to stagnate or regress."*

*"The girls in both teams at Riders have been very welcoming and she doesn't feel like an outsider. The coaches have treated her so well and in fairness she has felt needed which helped restore her love of basketball."*

**JOA**



JNBL GIRLS ACADEMY

**TESTEMONIALS**



*"Since being selected for the Leicester riders girl team last year my daughters confidence has soared. Being visually impaired we were never sure whether she would be able to play however with the dedication from all coaches especially Coach Ryan and Coach Matt and her sheer abundance of determination she amazes us every time she practices and plays. Gaining the nickname "pocket rocket" I am sure the experiences she gains with the riders will last a lifetime and give her the belief anything is possible and to always reach for the stars!"*

**J. STEWART**

*"Tyarna s enjoying basketball having caught the bug at a school session delivered by Coach T through the Building a Stronger Britain project. It has had a positive effect on her mental health and she is much more motivated and keen to progress at a high standard. She was excited to have been selected at trials and she enjoys training with her new found friends at Riders JNBL Academy."*

**D. HOUGH**

# UPCOMING FOR THE FOUNDATION

In the upcoming 2020/21 season the Leicester Riders Foundation have lots of exciting projects and grant delivery programmes to begin, to further engage our local community, including Children in Need the #iWill campaign, and our Black Lives Matter project.



LRF have been awarded a piece of work from Children in Need, to provide an accessible sport provision for young people with disabilities within Leicester and Leicestershire, Our aim is to create a sustainable sports club for young people based at our home, The Morningside Arena. LRF have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare our sessions, while the pandemic has paused our face to face delivery, we have provided a variety of skill based videos on our social media platforms and have worked with Ash Omar from Enable Inclusive Support, and have developed a series of online skills based virtual videos for service users.



We have been working in partnership with Mencap, to deliver the Round the World Challenge, engaging physical activity for young people with disabilities. We are due to be starting a partnership across two campuses in both North Warwickshire and Hinckley College and South Leicestershire College. Providing two hours a week of Basketball coaching, teamwork and communication sessions over a 10 week period. Delivery was paused due to the current Covid restrictions, we are due to begin delivery in January 2021. We will be working with 25 students at each campus.

*"We are really looking forward to starting the project with the Leicester Riders Foundation, and the students are really excited to get going, and try a new sport. It has been great planning the sessions with the foundation to ensure we can increase physical activity but also meet the requirements of our curriculum through their delivery" - Rhien Shephard, Foundation Studies Lecturer NWHC*

*Mencap's Round the World Challenge Central (RTWC) Project Manager, Jon Stonebridge says 'It has been great to work with the Leicester Riders Foundation this year. The foundation is a RTWC partner and together we have looked at ways to improve physical activity levels within the learning disabled community. Sport can be such a motivational tool not only for fitness but to increase confidence, communication, and opportunities for social interaction. The Riders staff have been involved with the Learning Disability in Sport Awareness training, which has helped with their engagement of participants with a learning disability in what has been a very tough year. We look forward to building on the partnership as we move into 2021.*

# OUR TEAM

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our current LRF staff team, for their continued hard work within our local community to making the 2019/20 season a success.



**KAYLEIGH BUDD**

GENERAL MANAGER  
LEICESTER RIDERS FOUNDATION

DBS NUMBER: 1646521262



**LAURA SHEPHARD**

NCS PROGRAMME MANAGER  
LEICESTER RIDERS FOUNDATION



**MANDY PAYNE**

COMMUNITY MANAGER  
LEICESTER RIDERS FOUNDATION

DBS NUMBER: 1569138278



**KIRAN WILTSHIRE**

COMMUNITY MANAGER  
LEICESTER RIDERS FOUNDATION

DBS NUMBER: 1587920551



**TAHIR HAJAT**

JNBL MANAGER  
LEICESTER RIDERS FOUNDATION

DBS NUMBER: 1535933109



**DOM MCDONOUGH**

COMMUNITY COACH  
LEICESTER RIDERS FOUNDATION

DBS NUMBER: 161172400



**LOUIS CHAMBERLAIN**

COMMUNITY COACH  
LEICESTER RIDERS FOUNDATION

DBS NUMBER: 1535074157



**RYAN EVANS**

COMMUNITY COACH  
LEICESTER RIDERS FOUNDATION

DBS NUMBER: 1569138278



**PAK CHINGOMBE**

COMMUNITY COACH  
LEICESTER RIDERS FOUNDATION

DBS NUMBER: 1604331524







## BBL - LEICESTER RIDERS

NBL 01  
LOUGHBOROUGH RIDERS

NBL 02  
CHARNWOOD COLLEGE RIDERS

BUCS 2, 3 & 4

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

IMS LEAGUES

MY LIFESTYLE SESSIONS

U19 EABL & U18  
CHARNWOOD COLLEGE RIDERS

U18 LEICESTER RIDERS  
U16 LEICESTER RIDERS  
U14 LEICESTER RIDERS  
U12 LEICESTER RIDERS

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME  
OVER 100 SCHOOLS & 20,000 YOUNG PEOPLE

PROJECT  
HUB

SATELLITE  
CLUBS

DEVELOPMENT  
DAYS

SCHOOLS  
PROGRAMME

ACADEMIES



## WBBL - LEICESTER RIDERS

WNBL 01  
LOUGHBOROUGH RIDERS

U18  
CHARNWOOD COLLEGE RIDERS

BUCS 2 & 3

IMS LEAGUES

MY LIFESTYLE SESSIONS

U19 WEABL  
CHARNWOOD COLLEGE RIDERS

U16 LEICESTER RIDERS  
U14 LEICESTER RIDERS  
U12 LEICESTER RIDERS

# Riders

### PLAYER PATHWAY



A huge thank you to our highly valued partners for all their contributions during 2020.  
We look forward to continuing our collaborative work in the future.

# PARTNERS



# CONTACT US



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