



Volunteering leads to “dream job” for coach Chris

Chris Parker thinks he is “the luckiest man in Wisbech” since landing his dream job. It all came about as a result of sports volunteering.

Chris has combined his great passion for sport, with his years of experience as a voluntary worker, in his new job as community basketball coach for Fenland District Council. And he is still volunteering as a basketball coach, at Wisbech Basketball club where his journey started.

How did he start?

Chris has always enjoyed playing basketball, as well as football, walking and other sports. He got involved in coaching when his son, who is now married, was at school and enjoying playing basketball. Chris became the school team coach, gained national coaching qualifications and, when the previous coach left mid-season, Chris was invited to be a volunteer coach at Wisbech Basketball Club.

“By then my son played at the club, and I was happy to help. That was years ago, and I am still involved, and still happy to help.” Chris combines volunteering with his full-time job; something he has always done. “If you love sport, and helping young people, you find the time;” he says. His wife and daughter do – they both volunteer at the club too.

What does he do?

Chris did not imagine that he would be able to get a job coaching basketball fulltime. In his new job Chris is helping to transform the sport in the Fenland area. It is an exciting time. Says Chris; “I deliver lessons in secondary schools and after school clubs. I am working with special needs schools and I’ve set up schemes for children with behavioural problems. I’m passionate about giving opportunities to all young people. I love sport – this is my dream job and I think I am the luckiest man in Wisbech!”

Results

Wisbech club is going from strength to strength with a new youth section, and it is no longer the home of the only team in the area. Basketball in the Fenland district is really



taking off – with outdoor sessions, new teams, new clubs, growth in girls' teams as well as boys, tournaments and a basketball camp this August, Sport Month.