

(Small Heath)

Panthers Basketball Club

"Run n Gun"



BCA PATHFINDERS (1979)

*Re-named **SMALL HEATH PANTHERS** in 1980*



West Midlands League Champions 1979/80

Rose Bowl Cup Champions 1979/80

(Back Row): (7) Ricky Tait, (10) Michael (Loguey) Logue (Deceased), (8) Martin (Fari) Sargent, Kieth Green (Manager/Coach), (13) Patrick Morrison, (12) Trevor (Percy) Duffus, (11) Julian (JT) Tait.

(Front Row): (9) Tony (Sinners) St Juste (Player/Coach), (5) Snowdon (Danny) Reid, (4) Norman Samuda-Smith, (6) Chris (Daddy) Mortlock.

Small Heath Panthers Basketball Club was formed in January 1978 to conquer the boredom of unemployment after they left school in 1975 and 1976 respectively. The club gave its members a sense of purpose. The original founder members (above), attended some of the best sporting schools in Birmingham that excelled in Athletics, Basketball and Football. Their motto "Run 'n' Gun" simply explained their "Fast Break" transition style of play of which they believed offence was the best form of defence.

They were runners-up in their first tournament together, the 1978 West Midland Summer League Championship, were accepted as registered members of the West Midlands Basketball League later that year and became one of the most feared and respected basketball clubs in the region. Many visiting clubs experienced their enthusiastic partisan supporters; the Small Heath Panther players gave them the nickname: "The Dog Pound" and their home court was lovingly called: "The House of Pain." In the 22 years as a club, they won 9 League titles, 2 Summer League Championships, and won the Babe Clay Rose-Bowl Cup twice.

*Small Heath Panthers had a well-respected tradition of nurturing and producing a conveyor belt of young players who lived in that little enclave of South-East Birmingham. Their junior team won the Birmingham Lord Mayors Basketball Tournament in 1983, and were Junior League Runners-Up in 1984 and 1985. The next generation of young Panthers eventually became Junior League Champions in 1997 and 1998. They also boasted nurturing and producing two of their most celebrated players Patrick Morrison and Julian Tait (who are in the back row of the 1979 team line up: Numbers **11** and **13**); they went on to play Professional Basketball with the **West Bromwich Wildcats** of the English National Basketball League.*

In 1989, Small Heath Panthers secured a four year sponsorship deal with Konica during a period when the club was at the peak of its popularity and the players were at the pinnacle of their game.

SMALL HEATH PANTHERS



Summer League Champions 1990

(Back row) (9) Bobsie McIntosh (8) Martin (Fari) Sargent (4) Norman Samuda Smith (12) Frank Bean (6) Dougie McIntosh

(Front Row) (7) Stephen McIntosh (11) Nigel Ramsey (10) Derrick Kellerman