

SPORT

Coast's basketball history remembered in new book

Andy Moore

andy.moore@nationalworld.com
@AndyMFyldeSport

The proud tradition of Fylde coast basketball comes bouncing back to life in a new book.

'What Time is it? Game Time – A History of Basketball on the Fylde Coast' has been two years in the making and was a real labour of love for author David Shaw.

The book tells the story of the sport from 1970 to the present day, with profiles of more than 40 players and coaches, including mention of the Fleetwood Nets team.

David could call on his own memories as a player in the 1990s with Team Allitt, but also undertook extensive research, gathering material and conducting interviews.

He explained: "The book covers the characters, the teams, the leagues, the competitions, the highs and the lows.

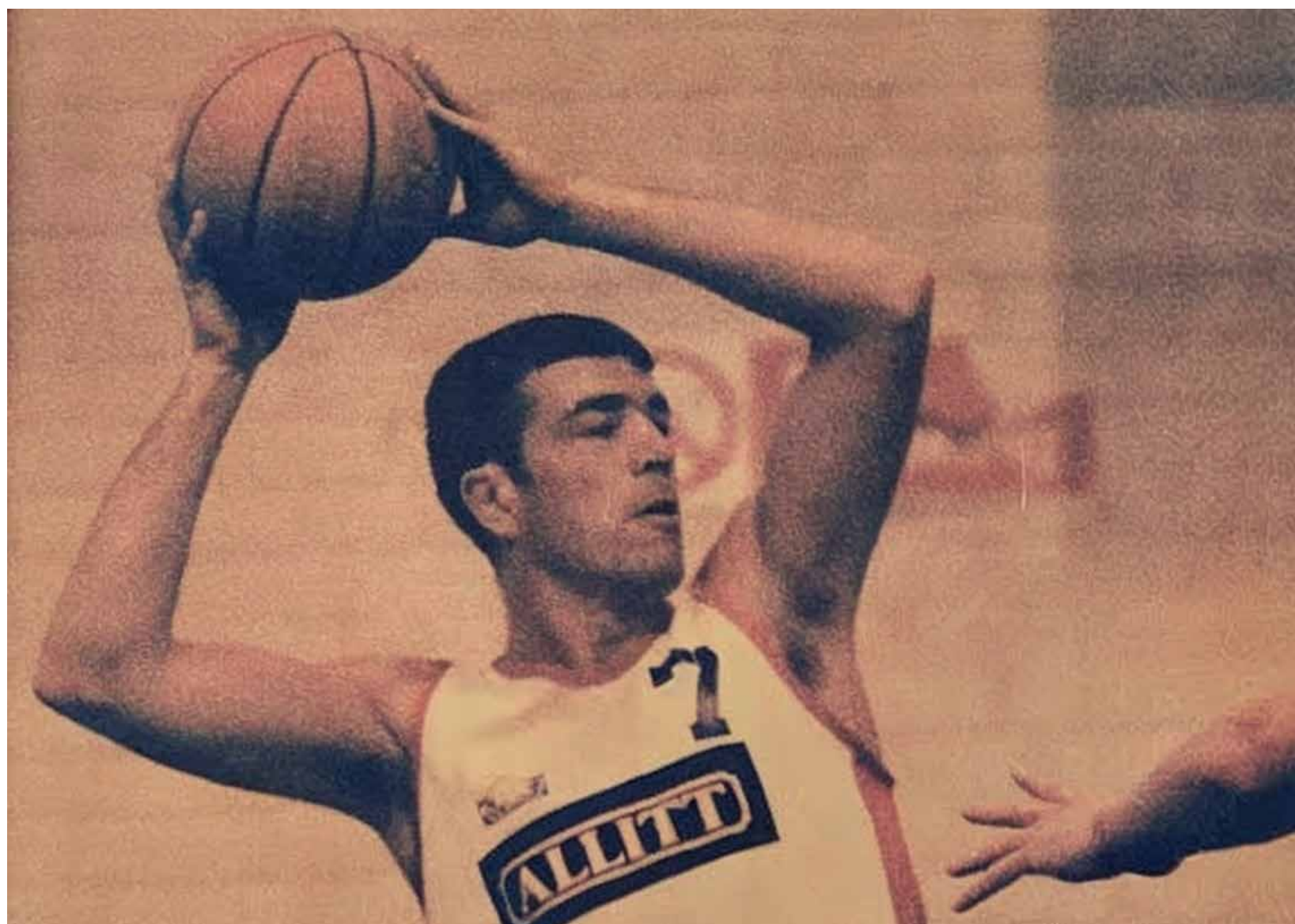
"There are some off-court stories, observations, stats and lots of photos – and you get to know a little more about the author too.

"The subject matter is niche but I hope the book will appeal to anyone with an interest in Blackpool history and sport."

Interviewees include Lorraine Rawson, the former England player and national under-15s coach, now in her 80s.

Also featured is Will Shaw, the author's son, offering insight into a player's journey from local competitions to national league level.

Indeed, this is a real family



The book's author David Shaw pictured in his playing days

project as the book's cover is designed by David's stepson Connor Prue.

David, who is Yorkshire-born but has lived in Blackpool for 50 years, added: "I was surprised by the fantas-

tic response I got. People were happy to speak with me and I've got some good stories.

"People don't realise that quite a few Blackpool teams enjoyed success over the years, like the Blackpool Tel-

efusion Pacemakers. They played in the National League at the old Warbreck School, where I was a pupil and was introduced to the game."

A social event for the Blackpool basketball com-

munity – past and present – is planned for Bradley's Sports Bar at Mill Farm on April 6, coinciding with the book's launch.

Signed copies, priced £17.50, will be available from

the author via shaw169@sky.com

"It's pure self-publishing and isn't a money-making exercise," adds David. "I just hope I've done the sport justice."

Thrilling rally makes up for lost time

There was drama in the lanes around Garstang when the Legend Fires North West Stages Rally hosted the opening round of the 2024 British Rally Championship.

Following Friday evening's ceremonial start on Garstang's High Street, where thousands of spectators soaked up the pre-rally atmosphere, Saturday saw competitors embark on the closed-road special stages

to the east of the town in an event run in partnership with ND Civils and Kelmore.

Unfortunately, accidents and other issues led to the cancellation of the morning stages, though thankfully all involved escaped unscathed.

The afternoon's five stages all took place and the VW Polo GTi R5 of Chris Ingram and Alex Kihurani was declared the winner. They finished almost half a minute clear of

William Creighton and Liam Regan's Ford Fiesta Rally2.

Neil Roskell, from Pree-sall, co-driven by Welshman Dai Roberts, finished fifth in his Fiesta Rally2, while Hambleton's Simon Bowen and Bispham's Craig Simkiss brought their Ford Fiesta S2000T home in 13th place.

Over Wyre drivers had warmed up for the event at the Malcolm Wilson Rally in the forests of the Lake District

National Park.

This was the opening round of the 2024 BTRDA Rally series and was won by reigning champion Elliot Payne and Patrick Walsh in a Ford Fiesta Rally2.

Pilling's Nathan Wearden and Harry Walshaw brought the Head Dyke Garage Ford Fiesta ST home third in Class B11 (2000cc), though Roskell and Roberts suffered propshaft failure. **PHIL JAMES**



Ingram and Kihurani in the VW Polo GTi R5 Photo: www.pro-rally.co.uk