



## Secretary's Report March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020

The second year of the club has seen us grow which has created its own challenges, but I'm delighted with the progress that we've made and there's still a lot to do as we continue to develop the club. The achievements so far have included :-

- **Athlete Performance** – We have to start with a huge positive in that we now have our first medallists from the North East Indoor Championships. The two medals came very close together, with Luke Foster getting the first honours by a matter of minutes with Silver in the U15 Long Jump, swiftly followed by Matthew Gill in the U17 High Jump gaining a Bronze medal. Luke has also competed at a Northern level over the winter period and its also worth mentioning that we also have seven athletes who gained the purple hoodie from representing Durham at the Intercounties Cross Country Championships. Those 7 athletes are Dominic Kemp, Luke Foster, Will Logan, Huw Gowdy, Niamh Kemp, Amber McAuley-Zechner and Tom Sadanadom.
- **Volunteer Recruitment & Development** – our Game Changers project came to an end in late 2019 and the funding has helped us to have new Coaching Assistants in Kamila Kruk and Natasha Stephenson, Athletics Leaders in Matthew Gill, Katie Gill, Thomas Johnson, Katie Moody, Owen Wadge & Max Barker. We also have new officials gaining their experiences with Gwen Gill on track and Lesley Foster in field. Sam Keogh has also secured funding for her to develop from a CA to a Coach and is currently working towards her Coach qualification. As the club grows, we need to continue to plan to develop for the future by encouraging parents or young athletes onto the coaching pathway and to develop those already on the pathway.
- **Young Sparks** – the group has had a few ups and downs during the year, but is now running fortnightly and seems to have a relatively stable attendance. Hopefully we can build on the membership and get the sessions back to running weekly when we have coaches available.
- **North East Youth Development League** – the club had a successful first season in the NEYDL in a composite team with Jarrow & Hebburn AC. We will be working together again for the 2020 NEYDL season and hopefully we can iron out some of the issues we had last year on team planning on the day, with Andrea (from J&H) and I already having a few discussions. Our task for 2020 is to encourage the Year 6 and above athletes to be competing and to prepare them well for competition.
- **Competitions** – The club has been well represented at a range of competitions from Sportshall to NEYDL, North East Harrier League, North East Championships, North East Grand Prix and numerous open meetings. We need to encourage our young athletes to compete to increase their confidence in competition and to help them to progress as athletes.
- **Partnership Working & Fundraising** – Our partnership with Framwellgate School continues to grow and this has helped us with our biggest success to date in being

able to secure funding for a Jumps pit, which will be installed from week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> April. The pit has been funded jointly from Durham Local Area Action Partnership, Local Councillors, Framwellgate School and the Club. We're also working with County Durham Sport and this has helped to secure funding for Sam's coach course and also for some of our Athletics Leaders. CDS can also supply support when writing fundraising bids and who to approach. We continue into our second year of CDAN membership and there is financial support from them for coach development, which we have already got a partial claim pending for Sam's coach course. We'll also be heading into our 2<sup>nd</sup> year as members of the Durham Boys & Girls Club and hopefully we can have more success in getting a team together for their 2020 event. Lastly, we continue to work with England Athletics and build on the work we started with Nick Settle with Anna Coulson, the new Club Support Manager.

- **Meetings** – I've represented the club at the NEYDL AGM and am now attending the quarterly meetings with the County Durham Athletics Network. I've also established a good working rapport with Anna Coulson, the new Club Support Manager for England Athletics in the region.

There has been a lot done so far, but we still have a lot of work to do and any additional help from volunteers is welcome with the coaching for our athletes or on the administration of the club. We have plans on what equipment we need and where to identify fundraising and I'm hugely excited for what we can achieve in the coming year both on and off the track.

May we continue to fly high and burn brightly.

Mark Ellis  
Secretary and Coach – Phoenix Flyers AC