



Chairman's Report March 2nd 2020

Looking back on the second year of our club, I'm delighted to report that our successes have surpassed expectations again.

Key achievements

- We have won the award as Regional club of the year out of 105 clubs in the area.
- We have secured a new 5-year contract for use of track and small sports hall facilities at Framwellgate school.
- Membership continues to grow with attendance habitually around 30 people per session and often over 40. This will drive more split sessions for the club and consequently enable greater specific focus on different disciplines (e.g. middle/long distance, sprints, throws etc.)
- Bid funding continues to help with recent support for new indoor athletics equipment and importantly a long jump pit.
- We are starting to feature more strongly in competition with a great turn out for U11 sports hall, a record number of Purple Hoodies won for athletes representing County Durham and some excellent individual performances in both school and club competitions.

Money

Financially, in spite of investments in equipment, additional lighting etc. we thankfully benefit from some surplus funds.

Coaching/Officials

Steve Foster and Michael Keogh have successfully completed coaching qualifications through EA. Kamila Kruk and Natasha Stephenson have undertaken Assistant Coach qualifications. This means that from a start position of 2 coaches and 3 assistants we now have 4 coaches, 4 assistant coaches and also a number of athletics leaders to support the club.

Gwen Gill and Lesley Foster have attended a Coaching Officials course to support Mark and the club. As our club develops, support from other parents currently outside of the committee will be welcome and needed, especially to assist during competitions.

The Committee

During the year Tracy Matherson Smith resigned from the committee and the club. Her position is covered by Mark Ellis aided by Louise McLellan. We wish Tracy the best.

I would like to thank current committee members for their hard work and drive in making the club a success. It is only with such commitment that our club is able to run as successfully as it does.

Gillian Kemp continues to perform an excellent job managing club finances and much more, Steve and Lesley Foster continue to support the club through coaching, managing membership and often supporting at weekend competitions and elsewhere. In addition to coaching support and welfare, Samantha Keogh has again done a fantastic job in securing funding support for Phoenix Flyers and is also responsible for organising a number of mental health and fund-raising events. Mark Ellis, has again given so much time and effort in collating club reports, managing web and social media, coaching, officiating and undertaking his other responsibilities as Club Secretary.

Other Support

- The school and site Manager Tony Wilcock especially, have been both helpful and very supportive of our club. We thank them.
- We also owe gratitude to our other sponsors including Durham Local Area Action Partnership and Local Councillors who are enabling us to secure equipment and a Long jump pit.

Family Ethos

One of the things which sets our club apart is its strong family ethos.

Parents participating in training are warmly welcomed, and we have also enjoyed social events with a family hog roast in the Summer, run/walk and talk charity run and our club Christmas party.

Principles

I end my report again by returning to our roots and reflecting on our Mission Statement which is:

- To deliver health & fitness opportunities for local communities in County Durham.

For members to:

- Enjoy athletics
- Get fit and stay fit
- And do so in a safe environment

- To bring Talent to life

May we continue to fly high and burn brightly.

Frank Stephenson
Chairman and Coach – Phoenix Flyers AC