

Perth Parrots Floorball Club

2020 Annual Review



REVIEW FOREWARD



Frazer Robertson

Perth Parrots Floorball Club
Club President

"I am delighted to present this concise review which is a first for the Perth Parrots. Having formed in August 2019, what is clear and well demonstrated within this document is that the Perth Parrots have helped fill an identified gap in provision in the Perth & Kinross area. While Floorball remains the clubs core sport, our small and dedicated committee has worked tirelessly to coordinate and drive additional events which has generated a greater sense of community and facilitated a pathway back into sport. The club has developed a range of key partnerships with other organisations to include LEAP Sports Scotland, Live Active Sport and Perthshire Pride, through which it has built a strong foundation for the future. The Perth Parrots have made a significant impact it terms of LGBTI visibility in a sporting context locally and regularly featured in the local press as well as imbedding a strong social media presence. The help and support we have received from those across Perthshire have been amazing and I am incredibly proud of all our club have achieved I am extremely optimistic about the future of the Perth Parrots."



Hugh Torrance

LEAP Sports Scotland
Executive Director

"The Perth Parrots are one of Scotland's newest LGBTI specific sports clubs, and this review shows what an incredibly busy first year they've had. The club have worked hard to build their presence locally in Perth, and to make their mark within the sport of floorball in Scotland. Improving opportunities to participate, progress and achieve in sport is an important part of the vision for A More Active Scotland, and this targeted and community-led opportunity presented by the Perth Parrots is a valuable contribution to getting LGBTI people active and engaged in sport. It has been a privilege for LEAP Sports to support the club so far and we look forward to seeing the next chapter in the development of the Perth Parrots."



Hazel Donaldson

Live Active Sport
Sports Development Officer

Reading about the Perth Parrots first year in operation makes me so delighted to think about the journey they have been on so far. After first meeting Frazer, it was clear from his enthusiasm and commitment that we would soon have the first LGBTI sports club in Perth. Throughout this year the Live Active Sport Development Team have been in regular communication with Perth Parrots, Assisting wherever we could to help develop this young but greatly needed club. Perth Parrots very quickly achieved the Bronze level of Live Active's club accreditation scheme (PACES) and have already showed progress towards Silver. The Perth Parrots have a great presence of social media, and have featured in the local press. This has really helped to raise the profile of both the club and why LGBTI sport clubs are key for inclusivity and sport development in general; something we strongly believe in as a Sports Development Team. Purple Friday was a great example of this, featuring a floorball match at Bell's sports Centre for Live Active and PKAVS staff, and Perth Parrot members. It gave us an opportunity to share the Perth Parrots spirit with the wider Live Active team, collectively showing our support for LGBTI equality and showcase the great sport of floorball!"

THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS



PERTH PARROTS FLOORBALL CLUB

One year since its formation and the Perth Parrots have a number of successful achievements to celebrate. What follows is a review of the proceeding year highlighting some of the many events held and lives changed.



A small band of enthusiastic community volunteers have helped shape the club allowing it to glow and flourish in the last twelve months. It is thanks to their enthusiasm, drive and dogged determination that the club has quickly built a strong positive reputation.

CLUB VISION

To offer a safe and welcoming space for the LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex) community and allies, providing access to the sport of floorball and its associated mental and physical health benefits.

CLUB OBJECTIVES

- 1 To provide a pathway for the LGBTI community to access floorball and help grow the sport in Scotland.
- 2 To offer additional social activity opportunities as part of a wider club and community focused programme.
- 3 To increase LGBTI visibility, challenge discrimination and champion inclusion in floorball and beyond.

WHAT IS FLOORBALL?



Floorball is a growing sport, fast paced and energetic which mirrors the sport of Ice Hockey replacing the ice for a gym hall and skates for court shoes. Similar to Uni-Hoc, Floorball is instead played with a small plastic perforated ball and sees five field players and a goalie form a team.

EQUALITY IS OUR GOAL



Floorball requires only basic equipment to get started and all that is required is a floorball, sticks which often have a curved blade and a set of goals. The goalie who covers the mouth of the goal while on their knees, will often wear additional protective kit to include helmet, padded clothing, knee pads and gloves. Hand and eye coordination are an essential element for those wishing to master the sport. Matches normally consist of three thirds consisting of 20 minutes. Up to 20 individuals help form a floorball team and they can be substituted on and off the rink without limit.

Relatively new to the Scotland, Floorball is now played in more than 80 countries and has taken a significant foothold in Northern and Eastern Europe.

The Perth Parrots are affiliated with the UK governing body, UK Floorball Federation and the Scottish Floorball League which hosts league matches from Bells Sports Centre, Perth. The Scottish League allows those aged 14 and above to compete in the league and your place in the team is based on merit and ability not gender.

WHY IS AN LGBTI INCLUSIVE CLUB REQUIRED?

The Outsport research (2019) shown below shows us that LGBTI people in Scotland are still less likely to be engaged with sport, and more likely to be excluded. Progress which has been made in LGBTI equality in other areas of civic life has been slower to occur in sport. At elite sport level, the numbers of athletes who are comfortable talking about their LGBTI identities is still a small minority and yet we know that having such LGBTI role models in sport is one of the key drivers of change for our community.

We know consistently through the work of partners such as Live Active Sport and LEAP Sports, that sport is much more than becoming an elite athlete – it's important for our health and wellbeing, for our personal development, and for sense of community and belonging.

The Out for Sport report (2012) also shown below, showed us that if there were more explicitly LGBTI inclusive clubs then more people would take part and engage with sport, and this has highlighted the importance of grassroots clubs like Perth Parrots as important entry points for LGBTI people on their sports pathway.



79%

of respondents think there is a problem with homophobia in sport

90%

consider homophobia and particularly transphobia to be a problem in sport

66%

of respondents think there is a problem with transphobia in sport

20%

of LGBTI people refrain from participating in their sport of choice especially high for trans people (54%)

62%

of LGBT respondents have witnessed or experienced homophobia or transphobia in sport

16%

of LGBT people have had at least one negative experience due to their sexual orientation or gender identity

73%

of LGBT respondents think homophobia and transphobia are barriers to people taking part in

82%

of those with negative experiences were subjected to verbal insults or taunts

5%

of respondents think enough is being done to tackle homophobia and transphobia in

44%

of those with negative experiences were subjected to verbal threats

57%

of LGBT respondents would be more likely to participate in sport if it was more LGBT friendly

20%

of those with negative experiences were subjected to physical violence



THE PERTH PARROTS FIRST SUCCESSFUL TASTER SESSION WAS HOSTED IN JUNE 2019

FESTIVAL FORTNIGHT

LGBTI COMMUNITY SPORTS IN ACTION

Festival Fortnight is an annual festival run by LEAP Sports Scotland (Scotland's LGBTI sports charity), and the 2019 edition saw the initiative host more than 90 LGBTI focused sports themed events across Scotland.

The Perth Parrots worked in partnership with Festival Fortnight to host a taster session as its first ever event. The Sports Development team at LIVE Active Leisure were able to help the club to identify the North Inch Community Campus as a suitable venue at no charge to be able to host the event. The Parrots also secured funding for refreshments from the Festival Fortnight small grants scheme.

An important part of the event was having representatives of the UK Floorball Federation, Scottish

Floorball League and Fife Thunder supporting it directly and they were on hand to put those attending through their paces with floorball drills and a few friendly matches.

Festival Fortnight enables LGBTI sports groups to work in partnership with a well-established and recognised LGBTI community brand which has a truly national feel. With a high majority of Festival events spread across the central belt, LEAP Sports welcomed the addition made by the newly formed Perth Parrots committee. Overall the event was a huge success and only possible thanks to the financial support from LEAP Sports Scotland, venue facilitation from LIVE Active Sport and equipment loan from Fife Thunder.



LGBT HISTORY MONTH 2020



The Perth Parrots organised a Ten Pin Bowling Community Tournament to help mark LGBT History Month 2020. Working in partnership with LEAP Sports Scotland the club hosted the event at Noah's Ark in Perth on Sunday 23rd February and saw three teams (Perthshire Pride, Perth Petanque Club and Perth Parrots) of six participate. A small profit of £67.60 was made which was donated to the annual Youth Community Cup which sees young LGBTI people travel from across Scotland to compete. Looking forward it is hoped that the tournament will become an annual feature in Perth and allow the Parrots to establish further links with other clubs and groups locally.



PERTH PETANQUE CLUB TOURNAMENT



The Perth Parrots are committed to offering additional social activities wider than its core sport of Floorball. The club understands that by offering community events which are social or do not require a high level of fitness then it can provide a new engagement pathway into floorball.

While waiting for the club regular training sessions to start the Perth Parrots worked collaboratively with Perth Petanque and Perthshire Pride to organise a community Petanque tournament which saw more than 30 participants attend. Medals were awarded and a social evening enjoyed after the main event.

Perthshire Pride

One of the biggest annual LGBTI calendar events in Perth is the now well-established Perthshire Pride. The 2019 event saw an impressive 7500 participants attend and the parade was led by Sir Ian McKellen.

The Perth Parrots supported this significant community event and fully embraced the experience in preparation to ensure the clubs first Pride event and the opportunities presented were maximised to its fullest.

Working collaboratively with LEAP Sports Scotland and Perthshire Pride the club negotiated a prime pitch among the many community stalls and erected the prominent LEAP Sports gazebo, offering information, advice and support regarding the Perth Parrots and other LGBTI inclusive clubs and initiatives across Scotland.

More than 30 members and supporters met on the South Inch on the morning of Pride, and proudly wore a branded t-shirt, grabbed a branded placard and marched



along the route while distributing 250 rainbow flags to the many children and young people who were lining the route along the river Tay. Social media was used to its fullest and the club noted a considerable uplift in public engagement with Facebook, Twitter & Instagram accounts.

A strong and lasting bond has developed with the Perthshire Pride team and the two organisations regularly support events coordinated and hosted by the other. Sadly the 2020 Perthshire Pride event was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Parrots plan to make 2021 bigger and better and are in dialogue with Perthshire Pride to host a sports zone.

PURPLE FRIDAY PARTNERSHIP EVENT

Each year as part of the LGBT History Month initiative, LGBT Youth Scotland (charitable organisation working with LGBT young people aged 13-26 years) encourages organisations to bring the month to a close by hosting an event to raise awareness of issues effecting the LGBT community.

Following active discussions between LIVE Active Leisure and Perth Parrots, both organisations came together to host a Floorball taster session at Bells Sports Centre in Perth in order to help mark the calendar event.

Around 30 participants from across the LIVE Active Leisure family supported the activity by donning purple sports wear and throwing themselves into the session itself. Those attending were taught some basic skills before trying out some competitive matches.

Logan McConachie, Senior Sports Development Officer at LIVE Active Leisure, said; *"We're supporting LGBT History Month and Purple Friday to show our venues are welcoming and inclusive"*.

The event was used to its fullest to enable the visibility of the positive and well-intentioned event to be maximised



internally within LIVE Active Leisure via various staff communications streams but also the local press (Perthshire Advertiser and Perth Courier) and social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram). The Purple Friday partnership event helped form part of a much wider range of activities across Perth & Kinross and helped to promote LIVE Active Leisure venues as a safe and welcoming space for the LGBTI community. A short video which helped showcase the event can be viewed by visiting the Perth Parrots Facebook page.

VITAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT 2019-2020



LEAP Sports Scotland provided a small pocket of vital funding just as the club was in the process of establishing itself. The funding was used to purchase much needed promotional items to include pop-up banners, canvas banners, business cards and posters. These have been put to good use and have greatly assisted the club in gaining a visible presence within local venues and when attending events such as Perthshire Pride and the HISA Student Freshers Fayre.



Perth & Kinross Council launched its 'Community Investment Fund' (CIF) in Autumn 2019 and the Parrots were awarded £2079.82 which has allowed the club to purchase a range of key items relevant to weekly training sessions to include a fully stocked first aid kit, goalie armour and goals, additional balls, cones etc. This small but significant element of funding has provided a solid foundation, allowing the club a range of vital equipment to ensure a safe and welcoming environment.



Perth & Kinross Sports Council awarded a small grant of £400 to the Parrots for the purchase of new Floorball sticks. Financial status should not be a barrier to sport and this small pocket of funding means that the club can offer new members a 'pool stick' each week catering for those either right or left handed and of varying heights. This allows those new to the sport a chance to experiment with differing sticks before purchasing their own.



Following the considerable restrictions imposed following the COVID-19 epidemic, the Parrots were forced to cease weekly training sessions with immediate effect and limited warning to members. The Parrots were successful in being awarded £408.70 which will be used to help subsidise court hire as restrictions are eased and also assist the club in implementing additional hygiene and training with social distances measures. Given the fledgling status of the club this small sum is vital in ensuring the financial sustainability of the club.



JOINING THE PARROTS

The Parrots have worked hard to document the variety of events and activities it has hosted over the preceding twelve months. Further information in this regards can be found on one of our social media channels. If you have been inspired to join the Parrots and our weekly training sessions then please reach out to us on social media and we can arrange to welcome you into the fold.



@PerthParrots

