

Leeds City AC Chairperson's report – AGM 2021 -25th January 2021

Throughout a tough and disrupted year, I firstly wanted to thank our coaches who, at every opportunity, have been keen to resume guiding and coaching our athletes on club nights. They have worked with new EA and club guidelines, our new booking system, not to mention a whole load of hand sanitiser, incredibly professionally, so thank you.

Despite lockdown the committee has continued to meet regularly, albeit with a more focused approach than normal. Risk assessments and complying with government, council and England Athletics guidance was no mean feat and one that without the continued commitment of our volunteer committee would have been impossible.

Beyond just helping the club to keep running in some form there have been some notable progress on some key goals for the clubs continued development:

- A new code of conduct has been written and signed off that applies to all coaches, volunteers and athletes. This includes covering safeguarding and welfare procedures and a disciplinary and appeals process to everyone knows what to expect from the club, and its members.
- The committee have worked to redraft its constitution and have submitted its application to come a different type of organisation, a charity called a CIO. (further details can be found by contacting a member of the committee)
- New rollers were funded to help support the wheelchair athletes with their training.

Two committee members stepped down due to other commitments during this year, Carol Rayner our coach co-ordinator, and James Gannon our Treasurer. Both have given a huge amount of time and energy to the club over the last few years so thank you to them. We have been fortunate to replace these roles with Phillip Walker as coach co-ordinator and Mick Hill as Treasurer. So welcome to both.

Finally, our athletes, although inevitably not everyone has been able to resume training, many of have returned to train with the club even without an indoor facility or changing rooms! Their commitment is what keeps the club going, fingers crossed there will be some competitions in 2021 to reward that commitment to training.

I look forward with optimism to re-establishing regular training, our Leeds Lions and Young Athletes taster sessions and building up our club membership and presence on the competitive scene. It will take some time, and new ideas, but it is something I am keen to pursue.

Thank you

Celia De Maria