



Cheshire Phoenix Wheelchair Basketball Club Newsletter

March 2015

Welcome to the first edition of our Club Newsletter - as some of you may know we are a new Wheelchair Basketball Club based in Chester. We were formed in March 2014 as a partnership between Celtic Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Club and Cheshire Phoenix Community Interest Club. It has been a long time since there was a Wheelchair Basketball Club in Chester and we are all very excited for the future.



Update from our Chairperson and Head Coach—Anna Jackson :

Wow, I can't believe it is nearly a year since we started Phoenix WBC! We have come such a long way in 12 months and I am so proud of every member of our Club and Committee for helping to turn an idea into reality.

Back in 2014 I had a conversation with Andrew Donaldson from Cheshire Phoenix about bringing Wheelchair Basketball back to Chester under the Phoenix banner. Little did I know that 12 months on we would be growing so fast and getting so much support for the club.

Unlike many other clubs we do not yet have a team in the National League, however as we look forward and spread the word about our fantastic club, we can hopefully recruit more players with disabilities to enter a Development league team for the 2015/2016 season.



'AJ tries his luck in Vegas'

Following on from his success in the Inaugural Invictus Games in 2014, Phoenix Wheelchair Basketball Club player AJ Pingram was selected as part of a 20-athlete GB Military team that flew out to the USA for the US Air Force Warrior Games Trials that took place between the 27th February and 6th March at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

Competing against the GB squad in Las Vegas were teams of serving and retired Military personnel from the USA and Australia. For AJ it was a multi sport event, showing his talents across Wheelchair Basketball, Sitting Volleyball, Rifle and Pistol Shooting, Archery, Seated Discus and Shotput. Not satisfied in returning with just one medal, he claimed a Gold in Seated Discus, two Silvers in Shot Putt and Wheelchair Basketball and a Bronze in Archery.

Phoenix WBC Head Coach Anna Jackson said: "We are all incredibly proud of AJ, he truly shows that with determination and hard work you can achieve more than you would ever have dreamed of. He has not let his disability get in the way and is a real inspiration to others showing that anything is possible if you just put your mind to it!"



Phoenix WBC take on Chester University teams



Our players recently competed in a four-game series against students from Chester University. Great games were played against the Tennis, Women's Rugby, Women's Basketball and the Quidditch Teams. This was a welcome opportunity for the UoC students to have a go at the sport and also of huge benefit for our Phoenix WBC players to get some friendly games under their wing. We are looking forward to organising a tournament now with all the teams so they can compete against each other.



Blacon High School Satellite Club.

Our Coaches have been working hard on a number of sessions at Blacon High School for their Yr 7 and Yr 8 Pupils over the last 12 months. The latest course has just come to an end and it has been great to see so many young people playing and loving the sport. We start back at the end of May and are looking forward to getting more schools playing.



Women's League 2014/2015

Phoenix Wheelchair Basketball Club Head Coach Anna Jackson, and players Caroline Ballard-East and Jenny Wilson joined up with other female players from the North to represent the 'Bells Angels of the North' 1st and 2nd teams for the 2014/2015 British Wheelchair Basketball Women's League.

This season the tournament featured teams from around the UK and was held over three weekends in Nottingham where 12 teams fought it out in two divisions.

Anna and Caroline in the undefeated Angels' 1st team, coached by Tina Gordon, reached the 2nd Division final against Leeds Spiders Black Widows and ran out eventual winners after a tough game 36-26.



Phoenix WBC and Manchester Mavericks player Jenny Wilson was one of the starring players in the Angels 2nd Team, coached by Jackson and Ballard-East.

Made up of a number of new and less experienced players, playing together for the first time at the Tournament; they exceeded everyone's expectations.

To make life tougher for the new team, they were in the same division as the firsts, but although faced with a number of challenging fixtures, improved with each game, finishing the tournament on a real high by beating Stoke Spitfires by a single point to claim 7th place.



On top of winning the 2nd Division Title, Anna was chosen as part of the 12-strong West squad for the first ever Women's All-Star Game. Players were selected by fellow players and coaches to take part in this prestigious event organised by British Wheelchair Basketball. Teams were made up from players across both divisions and included a number of current GB Senior and Junior players, retired GB players together with some of the top club players in the country. It proved to be an exciting game with both teams scoring some great baskets and pulling off some brilliant moves. Despite a valiant fightback from Team East, the West kept their lead and became the UK's first ever All-Star Champions with a hard-fought 57-42 victory.

Phoenix take on the Bulls



After lots of hard work in training over the last few months Phoenix WBC took on Bolton Bulls in a friendly game on March 22nd. This was chance to give some of our new players the opportunity to experience a proper match complete with qualified Table Officials and Referees for the first time.

Bolton are currently in the 3rd Division and played their main team for most of the game - eventually winning 38-18. Considering many of our players have not experienced league matches against players of this calibre before, the team performed well and showed that with more hard work they will be ready to compete in the League next season.

Club information

Cheshire Phoenix Wheelchair Basketball Club is a new Club formed in March 2014 as a partnership with Celtic Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Club and Cheshire Phoenix Community Interest Club. Led by a dedicated team of volunteers and coaches, including GB Paralympian Anna Jackson, Phoenix WBC will be running sessions in a number of local schools and sports centres.

Wheelchair Basketball can be played by people with and without disabilities and Phoenix WBC welcomes players of all ages and abilities so come and have a go!

The club has sports wheelchairs you can use - you just need to be fit enough to get yourself up and down the court.

Wheelchair Basketball is the biggest Paralympic team sport in the world and perhaps the most inclusive, allowing able-bodied and those with a disability, male and female, junior and adult, to all play on the same court, in the same team at the same time.

So if you have a lower limb impairment ranging from an acquired injury that prevents you playing running sport, through to being a permanent wheelchair user and everything in-between, then Wheelchair Basketball is for the sport for you!

WE NEED YOUR HELP:

We are bagpacking at ASDA Chester on the following dates and need as many people to help us out so that we can raise money for Sports Wheelchairs and spares/repairs to our current chairs.

April 18th/19th & July 11th/12th

If you can spare us a couple of hours just let us know.

Supporters and Sponsors:

Massive thanks to the following organisations / individuals for their support for our club:

Level Marketing - Website design and hosting - www.levelmarketing.co.uk

Qubic Print - Leaflet printing - www.qubicprint.co.uk

Mustard Print - Leaflet Design - mustardprintltd.co.uk

Latoya Gayle - Poster Design

Jane Lewis - Vest sponsorship - www.janelewis.co.uk

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Andy Van Man—transport of Wheelchairs and Equipment

The Bike Guy - wheel repairs and servicing - www.thebikeguy.co.uk

Chester School Sports Partnership and Active Cheshire - www.activecheshire.org

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