
Perth Parrots – Our Clubs Origins



Hello! My name is Frazer, and I am the club founder and current Club President of Perth Parrots Floorball Club. Our Club Vision is “To offer a safe and welcoming space for the LGBTIQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer) community and allies, providing access to the sport of floorball and its associated mental and physical health benefits.”

Our club formed in June 2019, less than a year after the first Perthshire Pride, and looking back, it’s clear that circumstances would significantly improve for the LGBTIQ+ community in Perth in the late half of the twenty-teens.



Frazer Robertson
at clubs kit launch in 2021.

Having moved to Perth in January 2019, I was new to the area and keen to continue my sporting interests and make new connections. I initially reached out to [Glennearn Badminton Club](#) and was immediately made to feel welcome and included. In the first few weeks of attending the club, I was able to address the usual awkward heterosexual bias (which we can all be guilty of) and unashamedly acknowledge my reason for moving to Perth was to live with my male partner.

Despite finding a great bunch of people and making many new friends, subconsciously there was still something missing. Having volunteered with [LEAP Sports Scotland](#) and helped form the committee which helped grow and steer [Glasgow FrontRunners](#), I was acutely aware of the massive benefits associated with LGBTIQ+ inclusive groups.

Perth City, which has a more rural community and older demographic was slow to embrace the LGBTIQ+ community when compared to other cities like, London, Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Claire Mackenzie and the team at Perthshire Pride has taken some bold and brave first steps in organising and hosting their first ever Pride event in Perth City. Having done my homework, I was really disappointed that there was little in the way of opportunities for the LGBTIQ+ community to come together, and no LGBTIQ+ safe spaces in a sporting context.

Determined to address this vacuum in LGBTIQ+ inclusive sporting provision, I set about scoping for a new sports offering. I reviewed what sporting clubs and activities already existed in Perth and opted to select a sport which would not compete with anything already existing. I opted for Floorball as it was clear that it was an inclusive sport with mixed gendered teams playing in the [Scottish Floorball League](#).

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I reached out to a number of individuals who deserve a shout out.

I initially sought to link with my friend Hugh Torrance, Executive Director at LEAP Sports Scotland who was a fabulous sounding block and had been unwavering in his support since. Hugh encouraged me to think outside of the box and not simply follow the status quo, hence the choice of Floorball which came from left field.

Claire Mackenzie and Don Von Rohland from Perthshire Pride, who had already taken those first steps to host a Pride event in 2018. We met for a coffee and invigorated by caffeine, began exploring the building blocks of what became Perth Parrots.

Sports Development Officer, Logan McConachie with LIVE Active Sport was hugely supportive in the embryonic days of the clubs formation and was able to help with a small but crucial element of funding which helped let us up and on our feet. Additionally he pointed us in the direction of the [PACES scheme](#) which allowed a specific focus on club governance and coordination.

David McPhee, Corporate Equalities Team Leader with Perthshire Council, immediately understood our purpose and the need for our offering. He was pivotal in linking us with other influential organisations and individuals who helped our club in the early days.

Lastly and crucially, I reached out to Bob Paterson, Club President at Fife Floorball Club. He invited myself, Claire and Don from Perthshire Pride down to Thursday training. I knew little about the sport, had never tried it, and used a borrowed stick, but on the car ride home I was buzzing about our first try and keen to get us up and running. Bob kindly offered us some floorball equipment and we set about planning for our first floorball event.



Bob, Frazer, Claire & Don being put through their paces at Fife Floorball Club.

Keen to use an LGBTIQ+ annual calendar event to help amplify our first taster session, I opted to use LEAP Sports Scotland's, [Festival Fortnight](#) annual national sports festival which was a great fit.

On Sunday 23rd June 2019, we took our first steps on the rink at the North Inch Community Campus. Bob was there to support the event and began the sessions with some warm up drills. Thereafter we played some informal games and that's where everyone came alive. Fifteen participants helped show that there was interest locally;

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spurred on, a committee was formed in the coming weeks and we formally constituted Perth Parrots Floorball Club on Wednesday 26th June 2019.



Perth Parrots first floorball taster session as part of the Festival Fortnight.

In the months following we found a home at the Glenearn Community Campus in Perth and numbers in our small flock fluctuated week to week, seeing me having to personally subsidise weekly venue hire, determined to see our club vision realise its potential. Just as things began to look up for our club with member numbers increasing and the club beginning to break even, something occurred which no one was braced for; in February 2020 we started to hear murmurings of what would become the COVID-19 pandemic. In late March, we entered a national lock-down and all sporting activity ceased.

Concerned that the lock-down could end any momentum we had made, our club worked tirelessly to engage our members throughout the lock down and when restrictions eased, we opted to host activities such as a Pride Picnic, Socially Distanced Softball and a hike up Ben Vrackie in Pitlochry to name a few. This meant that we were in a good place when the club was able to return to training in the May of 2021. Our committee was innovative and opted to move outdoors and played floorball on the 4G surface at the North Inch Campus. Proudly we were the first Scottish team to recommence weekly training which is an indication as to how important the club had become to its members.

Since returning to training our club has grown considerably in terms of size and scope and I am incredibly proud of the contribution we make as a collective. Thanks to the support of our members we have been able to add further elements such as the Parrots Social and Parrots Fitness initiatives allowing us to engage more of our community. Entering the Scottish League in September 2022 and forming an LGBTIQ+ TEAM Scotland Floorball Squad in July 2023 are two further achievements for which we should all be extremely proud. I look forward with optimism, excited to see what the future holds for our club. I encourage everyone to #JoinThePandemonium.