

HUTTON MOOR

LEISURE CENTRE

PROMISING ATHLETE PROGRAMME MEMBERSHIP BIO

AARON PHIPPS

38

Sport

Wheelchair Rugby

Most notable achievement

On 23 May 2016 Phipps became the first disabled British person to scale Mount Kilimanjaro, Gold Medal Olympics

Goals and future aspirations

Help boost team engagement, resilience and engagement in sport.



Working in Partnership with your Local Authority

LeisureCentre.com



PROMISING ATHLETE PROGRAMME

AARON PHIPPS

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Meet Aaron. Aaron is a Paralympic champion after the Team GB Wheelchair Rugby squad won gold at Tokyo 2020.

Aaron's story is inspirational to many. In January 1999, Aaron contracted Meningitis C and Meningococcal Sepsis. As a result of the illness, Aaron was in a controlled coma for two weeks. After spending nearly three months in hospital, it was required that his legs and most of his fingers be amputated. In total Aaron spent a year in hospital receiving treatment and recovering.

Undeterred to continue his love of sport, Aaron took up wheelchair racing in which he completed the London marathon twice, raising money for charity in the process. Aaron ranked as high as the 4th UK Male in both the London Marathon and the Adidas Silverstone Half Marathon.

This was before Aaron took up wheelchair rugby in 2009. He progressed rapidly and made his GB debut that year at the European Championships in Denmark. Aaron then went on to compete at the home Olympics at London 2012.

Away from rugby, in 2016 Aaron became the first disabled British person to scale Mount Kilimanjaro. During large parts of the ascent, Aaron was forced to climb on his hands and knees; his wheelchair wasn't capable of traversing the difficult terrain and he refused to be assisted.

Aaron joined the Promising Athletes Programme after staying in a hotel near Hutton Moor Leisure Centre. Intrigued by the centre, Aaron went in to see what the facilities had to offer and he was thoroughly impressed. He built a rapport with the staff at the centre and agreed to become an ambassador for the company, the rest is history.

Aaron travels the UK extensively with his busy schedule. As part of becoming an ambassador for Parkwood and Legacy Leisure, Aaron has access to all of the company's 84 leisure sites. When Aaron visits the sites, he trains in the gym working on his strength and cardiovascular fitness to prepare for the wheelchair rugby season.