



YORK CITY BATHS CLUB

Incorporating

York City Swimming Club (Founded 1882)

York Baths Club (Founded 1937)

Amalgamated 1951



YCBC Chairman's Report for the year ending 31st December 2015

2015 has, in many respects, been a year of consolidation for York City Baths Club. The Executive Committee, service providers and volunteers have worked incredibly hard to identify and find ways to address some of the more challenging issues faced by the Club and in doing so provide a sustainable foundation on which the Club can operate and develop. Much has been achieved but there are many challenges still to be faced.

At the beginning of 2015 the threat of Yearsley pool closing was very real and the impact of this for the Club would have been catastrophic. Thankfully, through the tremendous work undertaken by the Yearsley Pool Action Group (supported by our own focus group) and a change in the make-up of the Council, this threat did not materialise. As a result we continue to benefit from the capacity and 'long course' training environment that Yearsley provides.

In an attempt to provide greater unity and consistency across the teaching and training sections your Executive Committee have engaged a number of additional service providers during the course of 2015. Heather Robson joined as the Lead Coach for County Squad (replacing Neil Hogdson), Josh Spencer joined as our Head Coach and Lead Coach for National Squad (replacing Mark Sheldrick) and Shelley Postchild joined as Teaching Co-ordinator. In addition to this Anna Nicholson took over the role of Lead Coach for Regional Squad (replacing Carl Cockcroft). In January 2016 Jennifer Hodgson re-established her long association with YCBC by joining us as Lead Coach for Development Squad (replacing Pat Baxter). The result is that every training squad is now led by a qualified coach who is contracted to the Club to provide coaching services aligned to an agreed structure, and the Training Section has an 'agent' through who consistency and improved communications can be established.

Your Executive Committee views the appointment of a Teaching Co-ordinator to oversee the delivery of our teaching offering as a significant statement of intent. Teaching is the life blood of our Club. Without the Teaching Section the Club would be unable to offer such a comprehensive training programme and it is vital that we recognise this and invest appropriately in teaching activities. Creating a Teaching Co-ordinator role is the first step to implementing a programme of continuous improvement.

Whilst the above changes have increased the financial pressures on the Club, your Executive Committee believe them to have been an essential part of delivering the infrastructure necessary to secure the much needed stability that all organisations (sporting or otherwise) require in order to develop and grow.

An ongoing challenge faced throughout 2015 has been the requirement to secure the services of sufficient volunteers to ensure that all swim sessions and events (teaching, training, gala's, social

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functions etc.) can be delivered safely. Our army of volunteers are amazing but we are always in need of more. During 2015 the Club faced particular pressures in order to ensure compliance with pool operating procedures. This required costly external support and an administrative obligation that your Executive Committee is unable to continue to meet. Alternative solutions to this situation are actively being sought, including continued efforts to upskill our volunteer workforce.

Of course it can be seen from the Treasurers report that one of the biggest challenges the Club faces is a financial one. Whilst it was pleasing to end the year well within the agreed expenditure budget (despite unexpected additional cost streams materialising) the significant negative variance in revenue is cause for concern, particularly as the expenditure budget that was set for 2015 is believed to be a realistic reflection of the costs associated with running the Club. The underspend witnessed in 2015 was largely associated with the additional service providers joining in the second half of the year (when they were budgeted for the full year) and we will not see a repeat of this benefit in 2016. Regrettably it is inevitable that fees in April 16 will need to increase. All sections of the Club (Teaching, Training and Masters) need to be prepared to play their part in helping to ensure the Club remains financially viable.

From a swimming perspective there have been many notable achievements throughout 2015 with tremendous representation and some incredibly strong performances at County, Regional and National level across all competitive sections (Age Group, Youth, Senior and Masters). In addition to the successes enjoyed in the pool and at numerous open water events our National Squad swimmers enjoyed and benefitted from a warm weather training camp held in Calella, Northern Spain. On behalf of the Executive Committee I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and service providers who planned, organised and supported this camp.

Looking forward to 2016 there are a number of initiatives that your Executive Committee are currently focused on. These include the creation of a new squad (Junior Club Squad) and the development of a new teaching framework. It is also our intention to increase the fundraising opportunity afforded by our annual gala by moving the venue from Ennerdale Leisure Centre in Hull to John Charles Centre for Sport in Leeds. To further support the fundraising effort we are also currently exploring opportunities to hold a Summer Fundraising Ball or similar event.

In relation to fundraising activities your Executive Committee would greatly appreciate suggestions and offers of support from the wider membership community. Fundraising needs to have an increased focus during 2016 and beyond, it would help significantly if someone was willing to take on the vacant Executive Committee role of Fundraising Co-ordinator.

As stated in my opening paragraph, I firmly believe that much has been achieved in 2015 and that the Club is well placed to enjoy a successful 2016. I would like to thank all my fellow Committee members for

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their commitment and professionalism throughout a challenging year. Inevitably, there will be more challenges and difficult decisions to make in 2016. However, just as in 2015 I am confident that your Executive Committee will not shirk from this responsibility and will continue to act in the best interests of the Club as a whole, taking care to make decisions that do not favour or unreasonably disadvantage any particular squad or section of the Club.

Finally, I'm sure the entire membership will wish to join me in expressing our sincere gratitude to two long standing servants of the Club who have chosen to stand down from their official Executive Committee duties at this year's AGM. Tony Evans (President) and Lucy Stotten (Vice Chair) have both served the Club in numerous capacities over many years. The knowledge and support they have provided will be missed.



Steve Creighton
Chairman

for and on behalf of YCBC Executive Committee

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