



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 2016

In my report last year I described 2015 as a year of consolidation for York City Baths Club. In contrast 2016 has been a year of progressive development.

The decisions taken by the Executive Committee in 2015, designed to provide greater unity and consistency across the teaching and training sections, have achieved the desired results during 2016. The number of swimmers swimming with YCBC (in both training and teaching) have increased steadily throughout 2016 and at year end are significantly higher than they were at the end of 2015. The introduction of the new Junior Club Squad has helped play a role in this, but notwithstanding this the number of swimmers in each of the original squads is higher than it has been for some time. Our teaching hat groups are largely full and there is a very healthy waiting list.

There is an undeniable feeling of stability around the Club and a 'buzz' that I have not previously witnessed. Whilst your Executive Committee may have helped facilitate this it is our incredible service providers and volunteers that must take the lion's share of the credit. The commitment of all who support the training and teaching activities of the Club is something to be recognised and applauded but it would be remiss of me not to highlight the significant contribution and positive impact that our Head Coach and our Teaching Co-ordinator have made throughout 2016. Much has been achieved in 2016 under the guidance and leadership of both Josh and Shelley.

I stated in my report last year that only once we achieved stability could we look to develop and grow. I also recognised the increased financial pressures that achieving this stability would likely place on the Club.

Having committed to the objective of improving stability it was important that as an Executive Committee we took steps in 2016 to improve the financial 'performance' of the Club. The 2015 accounts did not make for good reading. Having accepted that the stability required to grow and develop would add additional cost (before it offered the opportunity to generate additional income) there was clearly a requirement to take proactive action to minimise the deficit between Income and Expenditure. Our year end accounts for 2016 are still in the process of being prepared for submission to our independent auditor but the indications are that during 2016 we have made significant progress towards closing the gap that we saw in 2015. Clearly the relatively significant increase in fees in April 2016 has made a large contribution to this but several other initiatives implemented by the Executive Committee have also played a large part. These include:

Website www.yorkcitybathsclub.org.uk

President
Mr J Suddes

Chairman
Mr S Creighton

Honorary Secretary
Mrs A Pickup

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- The rationalisation of pool-time, facilitating a reduction in pool hire costs
- Relocating our annual gala from Ennerdale Leisure Centre in Hull to the John Charles Centre for Sport in Leeds, facilitating the opportunity to generate significant additional revenue
- A conscious effort and focus on fundraising, generating additional revenue that we have not benefitted from in recent years (over £4,500 in 2016, including the Halloween Ball and our share of the money raised from the Big Swim event)

In respect to fundraising a huge thank you must go to our 'fundraising ladies' for the energy and enthusiasm they have brought to this hugely important and previously largely neglected role.

Whilst I am still expecting our year-end accounts to show Expenditure higher than Income it will not be to the extent seen in 2015. With a full 12 months of benefit from the changes introduced partway through 2016, combined with the benefit of the recent growth we have seen, we are well placed to reverse this position during 2017.

As Chairman I'm both delighted and proud that the Executive Committee has delivered on our 2016 commitments:

- The introduction of a new squad – Junior Club Squad
- The development and introduction of a new teaching framework
- An improved focus on fundraising
- An improvement in our Income v Expenditure deficit
- Increasing our volunteer workforce
- Maintaining our Swim21 accreditation

Highs for me along the way have included the social event at Dalby Forest (organised by our Club Captain, Lucy Nicholson), our gala at JCCS in September, our Halloween Ball in October and our Club Championships in November. Although an event held in 2017, and therefore strictly speaking not for this report, I was particularly thrilled at the tremendous support our Presentation Evening in January received and how well received the change in venue and format appears to have been (based on the feedback received).

From a swimming perspective there have been many notable achievements throughout 2016 with tremendous representation and some incredibly strong performances at County, Regional and National level across all competitive sections (Age Group, Youth, Senior and Masters). For more information please refer to the Head Coach Report.

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Looking forward to 2017 the focus on fundraising, improving our overall financial 'performance' and maintaining a sustainable volunteer workforce will remain. Our annual gala will once again be held at JCCS and we hope to replicate the success of the Halloween Ball by either repeating last year's event or holding a Summer Ball. As a Committee it will also be important for us to consider succession planning and to encourage others to take an active role in the governance of the Club.

As I did last year I would like to thank all my fellow Committee members for their commitment and professionalism throughout 2016. Each member works incredibly hard, giving their time freely, to support and help develop the Club for the benefit of all.

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 teaching/coaching roles in 2016. Lucy Stotten and Carol Brown have taught hundreds of children to swim over many years of service to the Club. The Club has been exceptionally fortunate to have benefitted from their significant contribution over so many years. We thank them and wish them all the very best.

May I also take this opportunity to thank two Committee members who have chosen not to stand for re-election to the Committee in 2017. Debi Young has been our Treasurer for the last three years and Jon Kirkman has served as a General Member. Both have made a significant contribution to the Club during their time on the Committee and I'm grateful for the considerable support they have provided.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Creighton".

Steve Creighton
Chairman

for and on behalf of YCBC Executive Committee

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