



YORK CITY BATHS CLUB

Incorporating

York City Swimming Club (Founded 1882)

York Baths Club (Founded 1937)

Amalgamated 1951



YCBC Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2022

Introduction

This report illustrates the performance of York City Baths Club during 2022. The following individuals have contributed to the content of this report:

- Dan Yates – Chairman
- Alison Pickup – Honorary Secretary
- Josh Spencer – Head Coach
- Chris Turner – Teaching Coordinator
- Emma Wills – on behalf of Masters
- Grant Peters – SwimMark Coordinator
- Dani Ungar – Gala Coordinator

The report provides information to support the Club's Annual General Meeting, which this year will be held on Monday 27th February via Teams.

In addition to detailing the performance of the Club during 2022 the report highlights the Executive Committee focus areas for 2023.

Membership Matters

At the end of 2022 we had around 150 swimmers across our six competitive squads, and a further 31 members in our Masters section. Within our Teaching Section there were around 240 swimmers across all our groups. These numbers are significantly more healthy than a year ago, when we had 136 squad swimmers, 22 Masters swimmers, and 210 swimmers on our lessons (at the end of 2021).

We continue to attract new enquiries for all sections of the Club. In the Training section, we have added swimmers who have completed lesson criteria elsewhere, those wishing to add swimming sessions to benefit their wider sporting interests, and swimmers who have moved to us from other clubs.

In Masters, we have received a regular flow of enquiries from those wishing to train with purpose and this has corresponded with an increasing focus on swimming to compete, with some 60% of members now registered as 'Club Compete'. The healthy increase in Masters numbers during 2022 has reflected well in an improvement in income, albeit not yet covering the pool hire fees. We have undertaken a survey of the Masters members to look at how they would like to see the section develop in the future and plan to release the feedback in due course.

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In Teaching, the 'Covid gap' which resulted in lower numbers due to shut-downs during the pandemic is now most evident towards the top of our groups, and we are not at capacity. However, we continue to receive enquiries from swimmers who have completed the standard offering of other swim schools (up to Stage 7) but wish to develop their technique further, and we are able to provide this and eventually offer them opportunity to continue into one of our squads. In addition, we continue to offer places to new swimmers across all our Teaching groups and are planning to advertise for further new members to fill gaps and build up our waiting list through targeted leafleting. As things stand, we have not suffered any significant cancellations due to the cost-of-living crisis, but this is something that we will monitor.

The annual YCBC Membership Fee for the period 1st March 2023 to the end of February 2024 will be set at the AGM, and payment for swimmers in our squads, and our Masters section, will be requested thereafter. (This fee is incorporated into the monthly swim fee for those in our Swimming Lessons, and a separate payment is not required for swimmers in this section of the Club.)

After a two-year hiatus, forced by the pandemic, we were once again able to hold social events. All parents and swimmers of the YCBC training squads were invited to a club day out at Temple Newsam in Leeds on Saturday 2nd July and, following on from our Club Championships in late November 2022, we were recently able to host our Annual Presentation evening at St Peter's School on Saturday 28th January 2023. In addition, several squads have once again been able to organise their own social events, from bowling to post-training breakfasts.

Financial Performance

2022 was a successful year for the club after the disruption of covid. Membership numbers have increased and we have been able to hold two successful galas which have all helped towards reaching a surplus of £17,258. This is particularly good news given the forecast at the start of the year was for a £22,000 loss. As a result, for 2023 we have been able to leave the monthly fees unchanged and have proposed no change to the annual membership fee.

This year has seen the introduction of GoCardless, a new direct debit payment system. This has proved to be very successful, with around 90% of swimmers now signed up. The system has made collecting payments easier and more reliable, and as a result there were no gala fees outstanding at the end of 2022. Feedback from parents has been very positive, so the introduction has been beneficial to everyone.

We have successfully run 2 galas this year, as well as the club championships. The one-day gala in April made a profit of around £6,000 and the weekend gala in December made a profit of around £11,500

Further information regarding the financial performance of the Club during 2022 can be found in the Treasurer Statement and accompanying accounts.

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Looking forwards to 2023, The current forecast is for a loss of around £4,600 over the year. We are monitoring the budget and will need to carefully consider our options once we have more certainty over our costs. However, we are starting the year in a strong position which will help us get through the challenging times.

SwimMark

Swim England is the English national governing body of swimming. SwimMark is Swim England's quality mark for the development of effective, ethical, and sustainable swimming Clubs. There is an annual reaccreditation process to achieve SwimMark essential Club status. We successfully achieved full accreditation in March 2021 as well as the less onerous biennial 'health check' in March 2022.

We are currently working on achieving full accreditation again this year. The Swim England regional panel will take place in mid-April 2023 in preparation for the National panel at the beginning of May 2023. Securing SwimMark accreditation enhances Club management, strengthens structures, and unites Clubs. It offers Clubs a philosophy and programme to help ensure the best environment for swimmers. We have successfully achieved SwimMark accreditation for several consecutive years now and remain committed to doing so.

Training & Competence

The number of officials affiliated with the club has grown nicely in the last year. Karin Fothergill, whose affiliation is shared with Team Jorvik, started her Referee training this year. We have added a second J2 to our ranks, and a third member started training to become a J2. We started the year with 5 qualified J1s, and an additional 8 have qualified during the year. These numbers are now very healthy, but we need to attract more trainees, as some of our trained officials are already on their way out as their children are leaving the club.

It was recognised during 2022 that we needed to increase our teaching capacity and to do this we have found new volunteers and continued to fund training courses. 8 Swim England Level 1 Teaching Assistant courses were completed (3 planned) and 3 Level 2 Teaching Swimming (up to 5 planned).

We continue to support the important lifesaving training NRASTC courses so that we can operate our teaching sessions at the relevant pools. In 2022, 4 were completed with up to another 4 planned.

Swimming Matters

Teaching:

The 2022-2023 year has gone super quick in the teaching section, which has seen swimmers progressing very well, teacher and helper numbers being very healthy and good swimmer numbers at the sessions.

We have had a number of race nights and our distance swim throughout the year which was well attended. Our race nights in our top four hat groups allowed swimmers to try to achieve time targets set

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by Swim England, and there were very many of these achieved! They have been very positive nights with lots of energy and involvement from the swimmers and also the parents!

Swimmers in our Light Green hats groups and above participated in some basic lifesaving and water safety skill sessions during Drowning Prevention Week in mid-June during their lessons including swimming in their pyjamas over their swimming costumes to give a sense of realism to the sessions.

It has been nice to have a normal year on the back of the previous 2 which were very challenging, with teacher training courses being much more available, an increase in enquiries and an excellent positive atmosphere all around.

As always our thanks to our to our volunteer teachers and helpers for their hard work and dedication they show at every session.

Training:

The last twelve months has been a successful year for the training squads at York City Baths Club. It represented the return of a full competition calendar including national level competitions since the Covid-19 pandemic started. This has provided our swimmers with a busy year of competitive opportunities and given them a focus to work towards their goals.

I am very pleased that we have been able to officially join SADSA (Scarborough and District Swimming Association) in the last year. This process started almost four years ago in 2019 when the club submitted the application to join, however due to the Covid-19 restrictions we were only able to first compete in March 2022 in the Ridings League competitions. The Ridings League events have been met with fantastic feedback from parents, swimmers and coaches and we are looking to build upon this and offer more opportunities for team / relay-based events to help develop our swimmers further.

The number of swimmers in training has slightly increased within the last twelve months and there has been an encouraging number of enquiries about competitive swimming recently, which has translated into new members. I am hopeful that we will be able to fill the remaining capacity of the squads by the end of 2023.

Both the coaching staff and the Executive Committee have been proactive in reviewing the squad timetables to ensure that our pool time has been used both efficiently and sustainably. We continue to be able to offer each of our squads long course and short course sessions which is important to the development of the swimmers.

We have seen several changes to our coaching team over the last year. We have said goodbye to Allie Campbell who has been our Development Squad coach for a number of years and would like to wish her good luck.

Caroline Garratt has taken on the lead coach of the Development Squad alongside her current role as Co-Lead on the County Squad. Lucy Jordan has joined the coaching team and has been leading on sessions with Development and County Squad and assisting with our Regional Squad.

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The YCBC hosted meets have continued to be very popular with two fully subscribed competitions in April 2022 and December 2022. The club has now taken on the challenge of hosting its first Level 1 National Qualifying meet next month and will continue to run the winter competition as a Level 3 meet.

There is a strong momentum moving forwards in the club and it is my ambition to see the number of swimmers achieving national qualifying times, regional finals and county medals increasing from last year to this year. This will be done through the commitment and hard work of our coaching team, our fantastic group of swimmers and the continued support from all of the parents and the dedicated volunteers who are integral to the club.

The club has produced a number of excellent performances across all levels which I have summarised below:

National

4 British Championship Qualifiers (April 2022)

8 Individual Summer National Qualifiers (British and English combined)

3 British National Qualifiers

5 Finals

1 Medal – Silver

6 English National Qualifiers

4 Finals

2 Winter National Qualifiers

1 Final

Regional

SENER Youth/Senior & Age Group (Long Course May 2022)

5 Medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze)

19 Finals

SENER Youth/Senior & Age Group (Short Course November 2022)

7 Medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 4 Bronze)

15 Finals

County

Yorkshire Championships (February 2023)

23 Individual Medals (5 Gold, 9 Silver, 9 Bronze)

3 Team Medals (2 Silver, 1 Bronze)

73 Individual Finals

9 Team Finals

Masters:

2022 saw the first full year of competitions for Masters swimmers post pandemic. The Masters section continued to be well represented in competitions in the UK and two swimmers even travelled to Rome to compete in the European Masters Aquatic Championships which followed the elite competition.

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The first competition, for our Masters section, of 2022 was North West Masters held in Blackpool. We had four swimmers competing, Laura Chidgey, Emma Wills, Kirri Hansford and Tristan Hymers. All swimmers came away with medals, 7 Golds and 2 silvers.

In March there were two Masters competitions that were attended by two masters swimmers. The first was Swim Wales Masters Long Course Championships held in Swansea, Emma Wills represented YCBC here and came away with 5 Gold medals. The second competition was Billingham Masters where Steven Brewer competed gaining 2 Golds and 2 Silvers.

In June the Yorkshire Masters Championships (Long Course) was held at Ponds Forge. The club was well represented with 10 swimmers competing in both individual events and team events. The club came away with an impressive 26 medals, 10 Gold, 10 Silver and 6 Bronze. There was also a British Record from Emma Wills in 400 free, breaking her own previous British Record time.

In August two swimmers made the trip to Rome to compete in European Masters Championships, Emma Wills and Leonadro Lari. Both swimmers had a successful competition. Emma came away with Gold medals in all 3 events that she entered 200 back, 400 free and 800 free. Leonardo had two top ten finishes in 100 breast and 200 breast and a top 20 finish in 200 IM, all his swims were PBs.

In October the largest Masters competition in the UK was held, Swim England Masters National Championships (short course) at Ponds Forge. The club had its largest representation for quite a few years. There were 11 swimmers competing in both individual and team events. The club came away with 9 medals, 3 Golds (Emma Wills), 2 silvers (Tristan Hymers, Womens 160+ 4x50 medley team with Emma, Ellie Berryman-Athey, Rachel Whitwell, Laura Chidgey) and 4 Bronzes (Leonardo Lari, Laura). There is also an award for top club and the Clubs final position was 43rd out of 265 clubs that earned points.

In November the final two competitions for the Clubs Masters section were held, on the same day. One of the competitions was the annual Swim England Masters Inter-Counties competition. The North competition was held in Huddersfield and three of our swimmers were chosen to represent Yorkshire in both individual and team events, Ellie Berryman-Athey, Rachel Whitwell and Tristan Hymers, these swimmers helped Yorkshire gain 4th place out of the 33 counties. The second competition was South Yorkshire Open Masters held at Ponds Forge. Two swimmers competed, Jo Farrow and Laura Chidgey. Both swimmers gained gold medals in all events they entered coming away with 7 Gold medals in total.

Fundraising & Publicity

The Club has again seen amazing support from parents, families and members in helping raise vital funds.

We ran two galas in the past year which in total contributed around £17,000 and we are thankful to those parents who raised additional funds through organising raffles and tombola's at the events. The one-day short course gala in April catered to the less experienced swimmers and was very successful with all visiting clubs very happy about the way the gala ran. Our traditional December gala had some difficulties due to John Charles pool double booking our weekend. We managed, however, to run a successful gala

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in the end using three of the four sessions. While it was unfortunate that we could not run the last session, nevertheless we did have a good gala. Both galas could not have run without the help of all the officials and volunteers, for which we are grateful to them.

During 2022 we were able to report on the success of our Big Swim (held in October 2021) and pass on our contributions to our two nominated charities. A total of £5,558.60 was raised by swimmers in both our teaching and training sections, the largest amount we have raised for this event over the years. This was split equally between the club, St Leonards Hospice and YorkMind. YorkMind said "That's such lovely news. Thank you for raising these vital funds for us. That's so good to hear you smashed your previous fundraising record too! Thank you so much again, and please do thank all the swimmers from us", and St Leonards Hospice commented "Wow!! What a way to start the day and the week. Thank you so much. This is fantastic, what a great achievement. You must all be so pleased!".

We benefitted from other successful fundraising efforts during 2022, firstly, through the Tesco Community Grants where we were delighted to receive a donation of £1,000 thanks to everyone putting the blue tokens in the box at our local store's. Thank-you to the YCBC Welfare Officer for putting us forward successfully! This funding supports our swimming teacher training to enable us to continue to provide high quality teaching to the young people of York.

The second came through the Co-op Community Fund where contributions were generated by people shopping in the Co-op and choosing us as their cause. We received £1,327 to support our stated aim to provide more access to pools and teaching for children to help them learn to swim- another fantastic achievement!

In addition, a further £250 was raised through Easyfundraising, which generates free fundraising from over 4,700 retailers every time members shop online and activate the available donations.

Focus for 2023

The Club has had a really positive year in 2022 setting a base for future years to be able to continue to support our ambition to enhance our provision of a centre for high performance swimming.

The focus over the next two years is set out in the following strategic objectives, delivery of which will allow the Club to develop further and enhance our performance:

1. Continue and strengthen our investment to enhance our high performance swimming environment
2. Conduct a thorough review of the current and available facilities to support our high performance swimming environment
3. Review our governance model to encourage more volunteers to help the club in support of our high performance swimming environment
4. Maintain our teaching section in the face of increasing competition

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I would like to conclude by thanking my fellow executive officers and committee members for all their support over the last 12 months, my first as Chairman. We have been able to add new volunteers to support with SwimMark Coordination, Pool Hire and the Website administration and need to continue to encourage parents and members to get involved with the running of the Club.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank-you to Alison Pickup who is stepping down as Honorary Secretary and Dani Ungar who is stepping down as Gala Coordinator. Both have been instrumental for the club over a number of years and have fulfilled the roles dutifully and with great commitment. Pleasingly they are both going to continue to be involved so we don't lose all their knowledge and experience!

Many Thanks,

Daniel Yates Digitally signed by Daniel
Yates
Date: 2023.02.26 10:38:42 Z

Dan Yates
Chairman

For and on behalf of YCBC Executive Committee

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