



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 2023

Introduction

This report illustrates the performance of York City Baths Club during 2023. The following individuals have contributed to the content of this report:

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

The report provides information to support the Club's Annual General Meeting, which this year will be held on Wednesday 28th February via Teams.

In addition to detailing the performance of the Club during 2023 the report highlights the Executive Committee focus areas for 2024.

Membership Matters

At the end of 2023 we had around 160 swimmers across our six competitive squads, and a further 34 members in our Masters section. Within our Teaching Section there were around 287 swimmers across all our groups. These numbers are again higher than a year ago, when we had 150 squad swimmers, 31 Masters swimmers, and 240 swimmers on our lessons (at the end of 2022).

We continue to attract new enquiries for all sections of the Club. In the Training section, in addition to swimmers completing our own lesson criteria, we have welcomed new members who have moved to the City, and others who have been recommended to us by their school swim team coach. In addition, we continue to offer swimmers from other clubs the opportunity to add additional sessions or long course training to their weekly schedule, on a Pathway basis.

In Masters, we continue to receive a regular flow of enquiries from those wishing to train with a group and with purpose. In response to feedback received, an additional early morning session was added to the timetable on a trial basis for those members looking to increase their training and compete, and we hope to also include coaching at some sessions for this group.

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In Teaching, a change of direction at The Mount Pool saw the introduction of restrictions on usage, and our Tuesday evening swimming lessons were re-located to St Peter's School Pool at the beginning of June. The move was very successful for YCBC, with the day/time and more attractive venue proving to be a popular choice for lessons. Our three other sessions are also mostly full, and when we have had availability, we have used our social media channels and other connections to attract new joiners.

The annual YCBC Membership Fee for the period 1st March 2024 to the end of February 2025 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*).

Financial Performance

2023 has been a challenging year, with the cost-of-living crisis biting and energy prices continuing to rise. Despite this, the club has continued to do well and has managed to absorb some large increases to pool hire costs, our biggest expense. Membership has also continued to grow despite the challenging economic circumstances.

Both teaching and training fees have been significantly higher than expected due to increasing numbers of swimmers, and the Masters section has also seen some growth over the year. Strong membership numbers have also contributed to a good income from the membership fees. Overall, the club has made a surplus of around £33k, which mainly comes from increased membership, and from the 2 galas run by the club.

We have successfully run 2 galas this year, as well as the club championships. The National Qualifier gala in March was the first time we had run a national qualifier event, and was around 70% full. The gala made a profit of just over £6,000 which is slightly less than expected. The gala in December was very successful and made a profit of around £14,000. The raffle and tombola stalls at both of these galas were hugely successful, with a total of around £1,500 being raised across both events. Thank you to Suzy Thom for organising both of these raffles, and to everyone who donated items towards them.

Further information regarding the financial performance of the Club during 2023 can be found in the Treasurer Statement and accompanying accounts.

Looking forwards to 2024 the current forecast is to break even over the year, although some of the forecasting remains cautious given there is still a level of economic uncertainty. We are monitoring the budget and will carefully consider our options if there are significant changes. However, we are starting the year in a strong position which will provide a buffer against any further adverse conditions.

Swim England

The Club has continued to review and implement arrangements in line with the requirements of Swim England, the national governing body. Given the increased demands here, such as the new policy on Team Manager and Supervision requirements for open meets/ gala's, we have been pleased to see great support from new volunteers within the club to help with this. This includes duties covering volunteer and official coordination and Swim England membership registrations.

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We have started work in a review of the club status and attended an event organised by York CVS: Legal Structures for Sports Clubs and Organisations by Club Matters. We reviewed the club position in relation to the HMRC's Trust Registration Service (TRS) in light of correspondence from Swim England about the requirements of the regulation, Sport England are continuing to discuss these matters and provide guidance to clubs.

A revised Wavepower 2024 has been issued and we continue to monitor and implement the changes as are required.

SwimMark

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 were delighted to successfully achieve full accreditation again in May 2023, lasting until May 2025. A lot of effort was put in by our volunteer SwimMark Coordinator and a number of other's to meet the requirements of all 15 elements including Planning, Policies, Membership Arrangements, Pathway etc

We are currently working on the mid-year Healthcheck which is an update and less onerous: due for completion in April 2024. Maintaining 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 largest change in requirements during 2023 came from the updated Swim England policy for poolside supervision during open meets/ gala's with an increased requirement for Team Manager's. In order to meet this need the Club sought volunteers and 10 individuals were booked onto the required training and safeguarding course.

The number of officials affiliated with the club has grown again in the last year. Karin Fothergill, whose affiliation is shared with Team Jorvik, is now a J2S/ Referee which is a great support for our local meets or time trials. We have increased our J2's to four following successful training with 2 further trainees. We have ended the year with 21 qualified J1s, up from 13 last year and another 4 in training. This is fantastic for the club and goes a long way to making our open meets successful. We will continue to expand and encourage parents of our younger swimmers to get involved.

The importance of developing new coaches became apparent in 2023, the recent COVID pandemic had affected the number's of people starting out on their swimming coaching journey. The Club identified 2 individuals who we would support through the Swim England Assistant Coach (Level 1) training in return for completing volunteer coaching with a new agreement being put in place to support this.

We continued to recognise the need to increase our teaching capacity and to do this we have found new volunteers and continued to fund training courses. With Swim England Level 1 Teaching Assistant courses being completed our numbers will increase to 17 alongside our Level 2 Teaching Swimming

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numbers increasing to 18. Our Teaching Coordinators continue to do a great job of identifying and booking courses to allow our lessons to have the required teaching and poolside support.

We continue to support the important lifesaving training NRASTC courses so that we can operate our teaching sessions at the relevant pools. In 2023 via new courses and renewals we increased those qualified to 14, with only 2 renewals in 2024.

Swimming Matters

Teaching:

As with 2022, 2023 went by so quickly! We want to thank all the volunteers for their amazing assistance with the teaching section in 2023 and forward into 2024. Without them we wouldn't be here and we hope parents will agree we have a fantastic bunch of teachers and helpers who get the best out of the swimmers every session but also ensure they have a great time whilst doing so!

The teaching section has grown again in the last year, helped in part by the move from The Mount School to St Peter's on a Tuesday. The teaching section is looking very healthy and hopefully this will be maintained throughout 2024 and beyond. With this growth there has been some challenges which we have met, but we thank parents for their patience and support during this time.

We have had a number of race nights which has resulted in some fantastic times and achievements, and on the back of these and the hard work the swimmers have put in throughout the year has resulted in well deserved promotions to the training squads. These achievements were recognised in our annual awards in January and will be done so again in 2025.

We are consistently putting through volunteers for their qualifications in swimming teaching as many of our volunteers move on due to going to university and into full time work. We are always happy to take on new volunteers and would welcome support from Parents if any fancy having a go! We have had a number of parents come forward to help over the last year and it has been fantastic to also see them progress as well as their swimmers!

We look forward to another successful year and thank you all again for your support going forward

Training:

The last twelve months have been very successful for the club with plenty of highlights from our swimmers in both individual and team performances.

There has been an increase in the number of qualifiers at county and regional levels and a significant improvement in the number of swimmers achieving finals and medals at all levels. The club were also successful as a team, winning all four Ridings League fixtures to earn the Ridings League South title and went on to win the Playoff Final in Bridlington in December.

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Following a successful year in the Ridings League, the club decided to withdraw from the league. We understand the enjoyment and value that the swimmers gain from competing as a team and we are in active discussions to create some team-based events with other clubs in the county.

The squad numbers in our entry training squads (Development and Junior Club) have consistently been at full capacity over the last year. We have had a significant demand of enquiries to join YCBC and currently have a waiting list on these squads. The other training squads are nearing full capacity and with upcoming promotions in the spring and summer, we expect to be full across the training squads.

Twelve months ago, our coaching provision was stretched but we are pleased to report that we have been able to increase and strengthen our coaching team. Stuart Kitney is providing a service as the lead role of County Squad coach. Anna Nicholson has kindly agreed to continue to provide coaching services for County Squad one session per week and provide support as a cover coach. We now have several other coaches available to support the team where needed either as service providers or volunteers.

The pool time has been streamlined slightly in recent months with the loss of St Peter's on a Tuesday night for the training squads. The current training schedule has been effectively utilised by the swimmers and most of the training sessions are very well attended. We have been most impressed with the commitment levels demonstrated by both swimmers and parents as the number of swimmers regularly attending morning sessions continues to grow. We are now frequently seeing 30+ swimmers at our weekday morning sessions.

2023 was the first year that YCBC decided to host a national qualifying meet. We received very positive feedback from the clubs who attended the meet, and we are looking forward to running this again in March 2024. The 2023 Winter Extravaganza was once again popular, and the entries were full in two days of opening.

The training squads are currently in a strong place and we are looking forward to seeing what our swimmers can achieve this year. We have started 2024 with an incredible Yorkshire Championship performance, bringing back the most medals since the Head Coach started providing coaching services in 2015. We would like to thank him and the coaching team for their hard work and commitment over the last year and highlight the important role that our volunteer teachers have played in developing the swimmers early skills before they join the training squads.

Performance Highlights March 2023 – February 2024

National

British Champs (April 2023)

4 British Championship Qualifiers

Summer Nationals (July-August 2023)

8 Individual Summer National Qualifiers (British and English combined)

2 British National Qualifiers

7 English National Qualifiers

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

8 English National Finals

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Swim England Winter Championships (December 2023)

3 Winter National Qualifiers

1 Final

Regional

SENER Youth/Senior and Age Group (Long Course April-May 2023)

7 Medals (1 Gold, 3 Silver, 3 Bronze)

34 Finals

SENER Winter Championships (Short Course November 2023)

12 Medals (4 Silver, 8 Bronze)

14 Finals

County - Yorkshire Championships (February 2024)

43 Individual Medals (16 Gold, 17 Silver, 10 Bronze)

4 Team Medals (2 Silver, 2 Bronze)

83 Individual Finals

19 Team Finals

SADSA Championships 2023

Ridings League South Champions

Playoff Champions

Masters:

The first competition of 2023 that the masters section competed in was the North West Masters held at Blackpool in February, this meet was just attended by Emma Wills. She competed in two events achieving two gold medals, her swim in the 1500m produced two British Records in the 40-44 age group, she gained the 1500 British Record and also broke her own 800 record on the split.

In March there were two competitions that were attended by YCBC, the first Billingham Masters which was attended by Steve Brewer who came away with three medals, one silver and two bronzes. The second competition, the Masters section were invited to participate in an inter-club gala held at Maltby. The section managed to get a team of 11 swimmers to participate, against five other clubs. Of 47 races in total, the club had swimmers in 36 of them, the team managed to win 8 of them. Overall the team came 5th.

In May six masters swimmers competed at the Yorkshire Masters Championships (long course). The swimmers came away with an impressive 14 medals and plenty of PB's. There were eight gold medals (Kirri Hansford and Emma Wills), one silver (Tristan Hymers) and 5 bronze (Kirri and Imogen Holbrook). In June the British Masters Championships (long course) were held at Ponds Forge, seven swimmers competed coming away with eight medals. There were four golds (Emma Wills and Leonardo Lari), three silvers (Leonardo and Tristan Hymers) and one bronze (Emma).

In August Emma Wills made the long journey to Fukuoka, Japan to compete at the World Masters Championships. This was held in the same venue as the elites who had competed prior to the masters

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competition. Emma competed in three events and came away with medals in all three. She gained two gold medals in the 800 free and 400 IM and one silver in 200 back.

In October the Swim England Masters National Championships (25m) were held at Ponds Forge. Seven masters swimmers competed and four came away with medals, these were two golds (Emma Wills), one silver (Tristan Hymers) and two bronze (Imogen Holbrook and Leonardo Lari).

The final two competitions that YCBC masters attended were held in November, the first was South Yorkshire Masters held at Ponds Forge, three swimmers competed and all won gold medals in each event they entered. Jo Farrow and Laura Chidgey won two golds each and Tristan Hymers won three golds. The final competition of the year for the masters section was the first AP Masters Grand Prix held in Derby. Three swimmers competed with all three coming away with medals. There were five golds (Emma Wills and Laura Chidgey), two silvers (Jo farrow) and one bronze (Emma).

The Club has completed a survey and engagement process with Master's swimmers during 2023. The outcomes were compiled, shared and initial actions taken with a trial of an additional swimming session each week and an individual to undertake Level 1 Assistant Coach Swim England training.

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 £20,000 and we are thankful to those parents who raised additional funds through organising raffles and tombola's at the events. We ran our first Level 1 National Qualifier (Long Course) in March and despite a clash with a gala in Sheffield on the same weekend we received positive feedback from visiting clubs and several swimmers posted qualifying times for the national meets in the summer. We decided to again hold a Level 1 in 2024 and it is on course to be at capacity with clubs from across England, Wales and Scotland submitting entries.

Our traditional December Winter Extravaganza gala was very successful with clubs coming back again year on year from across the North-East. We continue to reflect and make minor adjustments, but we have a very experienced team of volunteers and it continues to be a highlight for the club. Both galas could not have run without the help of all the officials and volunteers, for which we are very grateful to them.

In May 2023, YCBC held our bi-annual Big Swim with our nominated charity this time being the Friends of New Earswick Swimming Pool due to a significant need to replace boilers to keep the pool operational. The swimmers completed significant distances throughout our teaching and training sections and managed to raise a total of £3,400! This is a fantastic amount to raise in difficult times, so a big thank-you to all our swimmers, parents and guardians.

We arranged to split this between the Club and the Friends of New Earswick Swimming Pool which we use every week for Squad Training and Swimming Lessons, and some £1,700 was paid across in support of their Boiler Fundraising Appeal. We received a thank-you message which is shared below:

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"Thank you so much to the Committee, Volunteers and Swimmers from YCBC for raising this fantastic amount.

We've added your name to the poster on the pool and on our website acknowledging your donation, and you were included in our thank you video that we posted on Facebook"

The new boilers have now been installed, and the Friends of New Earswick Swimming Pool pass on their thanks to everyone involved in helping them meet their initial target enabling this to happen.

In addition, a further £215 was raised through Easyfundraising, which generates free fundraising from over 4,700 retailers every time members shop online and activate the available donations as well as £100 from ProSwimwear commission.

Focus for 2024

The Club has successfully built on the base position from the previous year and started to excel in all areas in 2023, we are on track to continue in our ambition to enhance our provision of a centre for high performance swimming.

The focus set out last year for the two years 2023 and 2024 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

As well as the increase in membership during 2023 the club has seen a great increase in volunteers and service providers willing to commit their time to making YCBC an ongoing success. The numbers of people registered with Swim England supporting the running of the club was 93 on the recent Swim England register towards the end of 2023 with more to add.

I would like to conclude by thanking my fellow executive officers and committee members for all their support over the last 12 months. We have overcome our challenges, increased the membership, increased volunteers, teachers and coaches, seem more and more swimmers learn to swim and performed to very high standards in competitions throughout the year.

There is more to do including finding a new Gala Coordinator, Andrew is fulfilling the role fantastically but needs someone to shadow for the future- so please come forward or encourage someone you know!

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Many Thanks,

Dan Yates
Chairman

For and on behalf of YCBC Executive Committee

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