



Teaching Coordinator's Report for the Year Ending 31st December 2016

I would like to start my report by acknowledging the commitment and dedication of all the Teachers, Poolside Helpers and Young Helpers who support Teaching Section week in and out in a voluntary capacity. Their expertise and commitment ensures that YCBC Teaching Section has an excellent reputation which has been borne out by the increased number of enquiries received from prospective new swimmers, who state in their initial correspondence with myself that they have been recommended via word of mouth.

I would also like to thank YCBC Executive Committee, for their continued efforts to fund training for volunteers within Teaching Section. Despite the ebb and flow of volunteers, at the end of December 2016, the Teaching Section was in the enviable position of having two Level 2 teachers in attendance on a Sunday, three on a Tuesday, four on a Thursday and two on a Friday, without taking into account my Level 2 qualification in a supervisory or teaching capacity. Poolside Helpers (The majority of whom have progressed through the YCBC structure of teaching into training and still actively compete for the Club at a high level) have been enthusiastic about taking their Level 1 qualifications ensuring that every single class at each swimming session has had excellent support.

However, this is not a time to be complacent. It has been by proactively encouraging volunteers that we are in this happy position, and this will need to continue in the future, as several of our current teachers will be moving onto new adventures at university whilst others family, health and work commitments will impact on their availability over the next 12 months.

During 2016, amongst those we said a fond farewell to were Carol Brown and Lucy Stotten who had volunteered their services selflessly at YCBC for decades. Carol taught my eldest daughter who is now 30yrs old who and both ladies my youngest daughter. Their skills and knowledge not only helped my children, but have meant many swimmers have gone onto achieve their full potential and will be sorely missed – Thank you!

Over the last 12 months, I have continued to ensure that all the teaching sessions run smoothly in line with each different swimming pool's operating policies. At times a challenging task – particularly during the several unforeseen extended periods of pool closures due to floods and maintenance issue when we have needed to locate to different sites, but again I would like to thank everyone at these times for their support and patience.

Throughout 2016 our sessions have been well attended, indeed there is an approximate 6 months waiting list to attend the Tuesday session at the Mount, as the entire session has run to capacity throughout the last year. Thursday and Sunday sessions have continued to run at near to capacity, with only the Friday session at New Earswick pool being the most challenging to fill, partly due to the time of the session and its locality.

Our waiting list has and will continue to ensure a steady influx of new swimmers across all skill levels from absolute beginners to those aspiring to move into competitive swimming. It is managed by myself with places offered in chronological order of when the enquiries are received, dependant on space and availability at each session and the potential swimmers availability. We also have 14 swimmers not yet aged 4yrs awaiting to join YCBC when their birthday and space permits.

A priority during 2016 has been to balance and adapt the teaching group criteria so that it followed the ASA Teaching Framework more closely, whilst still focussing on the technique that is synonymous with YCBC Teaching Section. This process was undertaken in collaboration with the entire coaching and qualified teaching team and integrated gradually towards the end of 2016 with the launch date of 1st January 2017.

During the June 2016. The whole of Teaching Section took part in the 'Big Swim' – an opportunity to gain an ASA Distance Award whilst raising sponsorship money for YCBC and a local charity. It was extremely well received, and I would be open to doing a charity fundraiser with Teaching Section on an annual basis. Suggestions welcome!

Speed Awards have been scrutinised and from October 2016 adapted to represent swimmers skills in Teaching Section in line with the award scheme run by the ASA. Under the new format certificates and badges can be achieved over a 25m distance and there has been a buzz of enthusiasm from swimmers and teachers alike as more swimmers are showing their competitive spirit and attaining these awards. They will continue to run every 3 months.

For me Club Championships were my personal highlight of the year. I felt so proud of the 18 Red Hat swimmers who competed! Their team spirit as a unit and willingness to listen and learn was commendable – even if they did have to put up with my healthy carrot stick snacks and dance warm up routines on poolside. I wish every success to those who have subsequently moved into training squads and look forward to seeing their names headlining press reports in the future.

Presentation evening was a privilege to attend, and I was delighted to be able to present awards to those swimmers who had attained achievements in Teaching Section during 2016.

It only remains for me to thank everyone: Parents/carers; swimmers; teachers; volunteers; coaches; Josh Spencer, Head Coach; YCBC Executive Committee and last but not means least Alison Pickup, YCBC Honorary Secretary for the support I have received over the last 12 months. I am therefore looking forward to working closely with you all in the future to meet the challenges involved that ensure YCBC Teaching Section continues to grow from strength to strength.

Shelley Postchild
Teaching Coordinator