



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 2018

Introduction

In a change from previous years, when we have provided a number of individual reports, this year the Executive Officers have elected to provide a consolidated report that illustrates the performance of York City Baths Club during 2018. The following individuals have contributed to the content of this report:

- Steve Creighton – Chairperson
- Alison Pickup – Honorary Secretary
- David Jordan – Honorary Treasurer
- Nicola Gibbons – SwimMark Co-ordinator
- Josh Spencer – Head Coach
- Mandy Aitken – Teaching Co-ordinator

This report provides information to support the Club's Annual General Meeting, which this year will be held on Wednesday 27th February 2019 at the Folk Hall, New Earswick.

In addition to detailing the performance of the Club during 2018 the report highlights the Executive Committee focus areas for 2019.

Membership Matters

Current membership stands at around 218 swimmers across our four weekly Teaching sessions, with a further 156 swimmers across our six competitive squads. These numbers compare with 235 in Teaching and 151 in Training a year ago. Our coaches and Teaching Coordinator continue to monitor attendance to ensure that as many children as possible get the opportunity to access our sessions, and that our sessions remain full.

We continue to receive regular enquiries for our Teaching sessions and have a waiting list for places. Any enquiries for squads are referred to our Head Coach to ensure that swimmers are offered a trial in the appropriate squad, subject to availability. Our Masters section has also received a regular stream of new enquiries through the year, and a few new members have joined up, with this section of the club administered by Carol Brown.

The annual YCBC Membership Fee for the period 1st March 2019 to the end of February 2020 will be set at the AGM, and payment for swimmers in our squads, and our Masters section, will be requested

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thereafter. (This fee is incorporated into the monthly swim fee for those in our Teaching section, and a separate payment is not required for swimmers in this section of the Club).

In 2018 the Club hosted two significant social events:

YCBC Annual Presentation Evening - Saturday 13th January 2018

The evening was a sell-out, and awards were presented to swimmers across our Teaching Section and Training Squads, recognising not only the results of the 2017 Club Championships, but also to acknowledge individual achievements throughout the year.

YCBC Almost Nearly End of Season Party - Saturday 9th June 2018

A social evening to celebrate the end of the season, well almost! This evening was very well attended and the surfboard simulator (an upgraded model) proved to be as popular and it had been the previous year.

Financial Performance

2018 was another solid year for the Club from a financial perspective. The draft accounts show a profit of £10,307. Once again the success of the Club's annual gala is, by far, the most significant factor in this position. The decision to move to a December timeslot proved to be a very good one, and as a consequence we have made a repeat booking for this timeslot in 2019.

It is worth highlighting that the combined profits over the last three years have now offset the significant losses of the previous two.

A detailed financial analysis of 2018 appears in the Honorary Treasurer's notes that accompany the draft accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018 (distributed separately).

Looking ahead to the financial outlook for 2019; On the income side, swimmer numbers appear solid and the Committee is confident of another repeat of the gala success. On the expenditure side, inflationary rises have been budgeted in our major costs (pool hire and service provider fees) and a higher training spend is anticipated to underpin the drive to attract new volunteers. Based on our financial performance in 2018 the Committee made a unanimous decision to hold swimming fees for 2019 at their 2018 level. Factoring this into our budget calculations we are currently forecasting a small loss over the year. However, we are confident this can be mitigated. Of course, given the need to ensure the Club remains sustainable and on a stable financial footing, it remains incumbent on the Committee to continually review this position throughout the coming months to ensure that we are able to balance the books at the end of the year.

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Thanks go out to all our parents who have purchased kit through ProSwimwear over the past two years. Your purchases yielded commission of just over £800 for the Club, some of which has been used to purchase two tablets for the coaching team to support technical stroke development.

SwimMark

Swim England is the English national governing body of swimming. SwimMark (formerly Swim 21) 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 and we successfully achieved the health check accreditation in March 2018.

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. It also offers Sport England recognition that we are providing a quality service for all members, through its Clubmark status.

We are currently going through the 2019 SwimMark audit process and we are very confident that we will retain our SwimMark accreditation. The Swim England National Panel will meet in March to decide upon our status.

Swimming Matters

Teaching:

2018 was a busy year in the Teaching Section. We held four well attended Race Nights giving the children a chance to experience a gala-type setting in a relaxed and encouraging atmosphere. In March we offered an opportunity for swimmers to earn distance badges. The children enjoyed this with most of them surprising themselves with how far they could swim. This opportunity was repeated in October as part of the Big Swim, and it was great to see the progression, both in our organisation of the event, which is quite challenging, and in the distances the swimmers were able to achieve. In each of these events, every swimmer from Purples up through Reds earned and had the opportunity to purchase a distance badge for anything from 5m to 2000m.

Teaching numbers have remained strong overall. Over the course of the year, we have worked through much of the waiting list backlog, and have been able to keep most of the groups at optimum level. There are occasional dips in the Orange/Light Green groups, but we pick up again in Dark Greens. This is thanks to an increase in referrals from other lesson providers who often don't have the ability to support

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children who show an interest in competitive swimming with the additional components required, such as diving and turns.

The next few months will see a number of our volunteer teachers finish college and head off to university and beyond. While it will be sad to see this lovely bunch of young people and their experience leave us, we are pleased to say that we have an excellent group of long term Poolside/Young Helpers reaching the age that they can attend their Level 1 training course. This, along with mentoring from our current teachers will help them to be ready to take the reins from our leavers. We have four volunteers currently booked onto their Level 1 and one more looking to do her Level 2. However, we still urgently need additional Level 1 and Level 2 teachers and we also now need to focus on backfilling the Poolside/Young Helpers.

Training:

The last twelve months has once again been a very successful year with many highlights for the Club from individuals and team performances.

The number of swimmers within the training squads has remained largely the same within the last twelve months and we have been at, or near to, full capacity.

All squads now have at least one long course session per week at Yearsley which is important in the swimmer's development and we now have pre-pool routines and land training sessions for most of the squads.

Last year our Head Coach spoke about his desire for swimmers to compete on a more regular basis. The coaching team have worked hard to promote the importance of regular competition and it's been pleasing to see a stronger representation at competitions, particularly from September to December. This is something we would like to see continuing and all squad members have been requested to attend at least four competitions each year.

All training squads now have a service provider fulfilling the Lead Coach role and we've seen an increase in support at the training sessions from assistant coaches and volunteers. This obviously helps to improve the quality of coaching and delivery within the squads.

There has been some change to the coaching personnel within the last 12 months. Dave Carrington has taken the position of Junior Club Squad Coach after Mark Beck stepped down in July 2018. We would like to thank Mark for his commitment to the club and welcome Dave to his new role.

Our swimmers produced some fantastic performances in 2018 at County, Regional and National Level (see below). Particularly encouraging were the performances in the finals at the Summer National events in which the swimmers combined for a 90% conversion rate (finals faster than heats) and won 8 medals.

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National

- 7 British Championship/Edinburgh International Qualifiers (2 Junior Finals)
- 10 National Qualifiers (British and English combined)
- 4 British National Qualifiers (9 Finals and 4 Medals – 1 Gold, 2 Silver, 1 Bronze)
- 8 English National Qualifiers (10 Finals, 4 Medals – 1 Gold, 3 Silver)
- 1 Open Water National Qualifier
- 6 Winter National Qualifiers (3 Junior Medals – 1 Gold, 2 Silver)

Regional

ASANER Youth/Senior & Age Group (May 2018)

- 32 Qualifiers
- 21 Finals
- 1 Medal (1 Bronze)

ASANER Winter Championships (November 2018)

- 35 Qualifiers
- Youth = 6 Medals (1 Gold, 4 Silver, 1 Bronze) and 12 Finals
- Age Group = 2 Medals (1 Silver, 1 Bronze)

County

Yorkshire Championships (February 2018)

- 105 Finals
- 40 Medals (12 Gold, 17 Silver, 11 Bronze)

Yorkshire Winter Championships (September & October 2018)

- 21 Medals (10 Gold, 3 Silver, 8 Bronze)

The annual YCBC meet (York Winter Swim Extravaganza 2018) was moved from September to December and proved to be very popular as the event was fully subscribed. Over 100 YCBC swimmers were in attendance alongside 22 visiting clubs. The support from the YCBC volunteers was key to the success of the event and this brought excellent feedback from visiting clubs who have confirmed their attendance again for 2019.

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As well as 2018 being a great year for the Club in general we also had some notable individual achievements;

- Ella Stabler and Mollie Garratt were selected onto the England Programmes National Development Camps (Phase 1) between September and December 2018 and Josh Spencer was selected to be the Head Coach on these camps.
- Jason Robson was selected onto the England Programmes National Event Camp (Phase 2) in December 2018.
- Jason Robson was also part of the Yorkshire Team which won the 2018 Inter-Counties Championships. Heather Robson was selected as the Team Manager and Josh Spencer was selected as the Head Coach for Yorkshire.
- Ella Fisher was selected onto the Sporting Excellence Award for swimming in the summer of 2018.

Masters

The Masters swimmers were strongly represented at County, Regional and National competitions in 2018. Emma Wills also competed at the European Masters Championships in Slovenia winning 4 medals for Great Britain. Please see a summary of their achievements below:

LEN European Masters Championships (August 2018)

- 2 Gold and 2 Silver Medal

ASA National Short Course Masters Championships (October 2018)

- 3 Gold Medals

Overall the Club is in a very strong position at present. We have a passionate and cohesive coaching unit who are keen to continue to learn, develop and improve. We are also building a talented roster of athletes with more strength and depth than in the recent years. This year the Club is aiming to have both male and female team representation at the British Summer Nationals which would be the first time in seven years.

The coming months are an exciting time in the swimming season with a busy schedule including British Nationals/Championships, National Qualifiers Meet and the Regional Championships taking place. There are several competitive opportunities coming up for all YCBC swimmers to attend with at least one competition per month available for each squad until the end of the season.

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We would like to further increase the level of support on poolside at the training sessions from willing volunteers. We are keen to support individuals in their development and are able to fund coaching/teaching courses in return for some level of volunteer commitment.

Fundraising

Our Fundraising Team have tirelessly provided their support to the Club by selling tickets, organising raffles, and providing refreshments at all of our events. The Committee would like to extend thanks to Claire, Jo and their assistants, for their organisation and effort, and for raising further funds for the Club.

Our annual gala is our largest fundraising event in the calendar year and it remains vitally important that we continue to be in a position to host a sizeable and successful gala. Ideally we would like to host more than one gala per year and we are currently looking at opportunities to do that from 2020. To achieve this we are going to need additional volunteers to get involved.

As touched on within the teaching update, 2018 saw us run another Big Swim event (we last did this in 2016 when our chosen charity was York Young Carers). This time our chosen charity was Candlelighters and it was fantastic to see so many of our swimmers participating in this sponsored swim. Together we raised just under £3,000 and donated £1,500 to Candlelighters. A representative of Candlelighters attended our annual presentation evening in January and was delighted to receive our donation. A special thank you goes to Claire Thomas-Durrant for her support in organising the Big Swim and to our coaches and teachers for facilitating it.

Facilities

The concern and uncertainty around the future of the pool at New Earswick appears to have eased a little with a community group (Friends of New Earswick Swimming Pool) being granted permission to operate the pool going forward. This group will undoubtedly face many challenges but will hopefully be able to achieve their objective of keeping New Earswick pool open for the benefit of the local community and Clubs like ours.

In late 2018 we were notified by York Sport that due to timetable changes they were unable to continue to offer us our regular Thursday evening slot (Junior Club Squad session). As a Committee we attempted to get York Sport to reconsider this decision but regrettably we were unsuccessful. Junior Club Squad now swim with several of our other squads at Yearsley on a Thursday evening and whilst it makes the car parking situation a little challenging it is great to see so many of our squads training together at the same venue.

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GLL now operates Yearsley and Energise (and will also operate the new York Leisure Centre when it opens in Summer 2019). We continue to enjoy good relationships with the GLL management team and have made formal enquiries regarding the availability of pool time at the new Leisure Centre pool.

An ongoing challenge is ensuring that our sessions continue to run in line with the requirements of each pool venue, from specific access times and other safeguarding measures, to parking, shoes, bags and general tidiness. The Committee would like to thank everyone for their help with this and for respecting the facilities we use so that we can continue to access them.

Focus for 2019

The primary focus for the Executive Committee during 2019, other than maintaining membership numbers and ensuring a solid financial performance, is to increase the number of volunteers that are currently supporting the Club.

The Club urgently needs additional support in the following key areas:

Teaching

The teaching of our swimming lessons at YCBC is provided solely on a voluntarily basis by our qualified teachers, assisted by poolside helpers, and we are in constant need of new volunteers as people move on - if you are a Level 1 or Level 2 swimming teacher or lifeguard, or are interested in training to gain these qualifications (age 16 years and over) or are interested in being a poolside helper (age 14 years and over), we'd love to hear from you. These are great qualifications to have, which young people can take with them as they move on in their education. In particular, our older swimmers make excellent teachers as they can pass on their knowledge of current stroke technique, and first hand understanding of how to put the strokes together, to the swimmers in our lessons.

The YCBC Volunteering Scheme helps provide Level 1 Assistant Teacher, Level 2 Swimming Teacher, Level 1 & 2 Coach and Lifeguard qualifications. The Scheme provides funding for qualifications in return for voluntary hours supporting the club. This is a fantastic way to assist the club whilst achieving your own personal development. During 2018 we invested in 7 new Level 1 Assistant Teachers and 4 Level 2 Teachers. A significant number of those went on to complete their NCAST certificate (National Rescue Award for Swimming Teachers and Coaches). This is a pool rescue qualification used for supporting structured teaching and coaching sessions. We hope to be able to continue to build on this during 2019 but are reliant on volunteers coming forward.

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Officials

The ability to run our gala in Leeds (which provides much needed financial support to the Club), the Club Championships, Time Trials and Race Nights is dependent on having parents who are willing to act as officials. Our existing team does a fantastic job and in recent years we have received many compliments from visiting Clubs attending our gala regarding how well organised, friendly and professional we are. However, we are starting to get a little stretched, we are overly reliant on too few key individuals and we need to increase the size of the team.

We need parents to be willing to consider undertaking a range of roles. Some of these roles require a qualification (gained via formal training followed by a period of experience) but many just require you to be a willing volunteer prepared to give something new a go. We'd love to hear from you; indeed we need to hear from you!

General Governance (day-to-day support)

Once again it looks like the Executive Committee will operate with a number of vacant positions during 2019. This places unrealistic demands on serving Committee members and means we are unable to support the Club as much as we would like to. Furthermore, many of the current serving Committee members either have children coming to the end of their time with YCBC or have served for a considerable time and are understandably looking to hand over the reins to a new generation.

It is recognised that the Executive Committee need to be better at articulating the type of support that the Club requires and the nature of the day-to-day tasks that need to be completed. We have started a specific workstream to address this and will be communicating further details very soon.

As highlighted last year, every organisation needs a regular influx of fresh ideas and energy in order to continually improve and develop. Our Club relies on a Committee and needs the support of parents in order to operate – in short, our Club needs you!

We have received a number of expressions of interest from parents who would like to support the running of the Club but do not want to serve as a Committee member. We are grateful for this interest and will definitely be following up with you once we've completed the piece of work referenced above.

Our thanks and gratitude go to all who support the Club. Our swimmers love their swimming and with the continued support of parents they will continue to love swimming with York City Baths Club.

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Regards,

Steve Creighton
Chairman

For and on behalf of YCBC Executive Committee

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