



# **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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

### **Introduction**

This report illustrates the performance of York City Baths Club during 2019. The following individuals have contributed to the content of this report:

- Steve Creighton – Chairman
- Alison Pickup – Honorary Secretary
- David Jordan – Honorary Treasurer
- Nicola Gibbons – SwimMark Co-ordinator
- Josh Spencer – Head Coach
- Chris Turner – Teaching Co-ordinator

The report provides information to support the Club's Annual General Meeting, which this year will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at the Folk Hall, New Earswick.

In addition to detailing the performance of the Club during 2019 the report highlights the Executive Committee focus areas for 2020.

### **Membership Matters**

Membership at the end of 2019 stood at 235 swimmers across our four weekly Teaching sessions, with a further 157 swimmers across our six competitive squads. In comparison membership at the end of 2018 stood at 218 in Teaching and 156 in Training. 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 throughout the year, and a few new members have joined up, with this section of the club administered by Carol Brown.

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The annual YCBC Membership Fee for the period 1st March 2020 to the end of February 2021 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 Teaching section, and a separate payment is not required for swimmers in this section of the Club).

In 2019 the Club hosted two significant social events:

## **YCBC Annual Presentation Evening - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

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 2018 Club Championships, but also to acknowledge individual achievements throughout the year.

## **YCBC Family Day at Dalby Forest – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

An opportunity for swimmers and parents to socialise away from the pool environment and take part in some friendly games of rounders and football. The day was well attended and the weather was glorious. A huge thankyou goes to our Club Captains for organising this event.

## **Financial Performance**

2019 was another positive year for the Club from a financial perspective. The draft accounts show a profit of £3,613. Once again, the continued success of the Club's annual gala and fundraising activities were the major factors underpinning this position. A detailed financial analysis of 2019 appears in the Honorary Treasurer's Report (distributed separately).

Looking ahead to 2020, a cautious position on swimmer numbers has been taken, with budgets being set at levels similar to 2019. However, with increased costs to support teaching specifically (an expanded Teaching Coordinator role, pool hire and volunteer training), the Committee has decided to raise some teaching group fees with effect from 1st March 2020 (the first increase for more than two years). Fees for all other teaching groups and all training squads will remain 'as is' for now but will be reviewed over the coming months. The Committee is hopeful of another good return from its December open gala, while a second open gala in March provides an additional opportunity to bolster funds. On the expenditure side, pool costs are expected to rise more in 2020 than previous years, inflation-based rises have been budgeted for service providers and investment in training will continue to be a priority. Overall, as in 2019, the initial budget for 2020 illustrates a small loss over the full year. Naturally, the Committee will be working hard to mitigate this.

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## **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. We are currently in the process of this year's 'health check' after successfully achieving the full accreditation in March 2019. The Swim England National Panel will meet in March 2020 to determine our status.

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.

## **Training and Competence**

During 2019 we supported 8 new assistant teachers and 6 swimming teachers achieve their teaching qualifications via our volunteering scheme. A significant number of this new intake also went on to complete their NRASTC certificate.

We also had two of our coaches complete their assistant coaching qualification. In addition to this we were both delighted and proud to see our Head Coach achieve his Senior Swim Coach qualification – a fantastic achievement.

## **Swimming Matters**

### **Teaching:**

2019 was another 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 a sponsorship event with Meningitis Now, 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. The swimmers also raised the most amount of money from a Club in the country, £617.70, which is an amazing achievement. 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.

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The Teaching section had a change of coordinator from Mandy Aitken to Chris Turner half-way through the Year. Mandy put in a lot of effort getting swimmer numbers to level they are now and Chris is tasked with building on this.

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 children who show an interest in competitive swimming with the additional components required, such as dives and turns. We have also had an increased social media presence thanks to Caroline Garratt and this has generated a good number of referrals.

The next few months will see a number of our volunteer teachers finish college and head off to university and beyond. Whilst 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 a few volunteers currently booked onto their Level 1 and one more looking to do their Level 2. However, we still need additional Level 1 and Level 2 teachers and we also now need to focus on backfilling the Poolside/Young Helpers by September.

## **Training:**

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

Every training squad has continued to train at least one long course session per week at Yearsley which is important in preparing swimmers to compete at all meets. All of the squads now have at least one structured land training sessions per week.

The last 12 months has seen stability in the coaching positions at the Club. All of the lead coaches remain the same with the addition of Alex Neale who is leading Club Squad on a Thursday evening and assisting on Development, County and Regional during other sessions.

The Club produced a number of excellent performances in 2019 at County, Regional and National Level (see below). For the first time in seven years the club qualified both Male and Female teams into the British Summer Nationals which highlights the strength and depth of the current group of swimmers.

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- **National**

- 4 British Championship Qualifiers (April 2019)
- 12 Individual National Qualifiers (British and English combined)
- 4 Teams British National Qualifiers
- 6 British National Qualifiers
  - 7 Finals
    - 2 Medals – 2 Bronze
- 10 English National Qualifiers
  - 8 Finals
    - 4 Medals - 2 Silver, 2 Bronze
- 4 Winter National Qualifiers
  - 1 Final

- **Regional**

SENER Youth/Senior & Age Group (May 2019)

- 32 Qualifiers
- 21 Finals
- 8 Medals (1 Gold, 3 Silver, 4 Bronze)

SENER Winter Championships (November 2019)

- 14 Finals
- 5 Medals (2 Silver, 3 Bronze)

- **County**

Yorkshire Championships (February 2019)

- 121 Finals
- 31 Medals (14 Gold, 7 Silver, 10 Bronze)

Yorkshire Winter Championships (September & October 2019)

- 29 Medals (6 Gold, 13 Silver, 10 Bronze)

The Club's annual open gala (YCBC Winter Swim Extravaganza 2019) once again proved to be very popular and the event was fully subscribed. All YCBC squads were in full attendance at the meet.

There have been a number of standout individual achievements from the YCBC swimmers which have been listed below:

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- Jason Robson and Mollie Garratt were selected onto the England Programmes National Event Camp (Phase 2) in December 2019.
- Aidan Fothergill, Jason Robson and Mollie Garratt were part of the Yorkshire Team at the Inter-Counties Championships. Heather Robson was selected as the Team Manager and Josh Spencer was selected as the Head Coach for Yorkshire.

The next few months will be a busy yet exciting time in the swimming season with a number of significant competitions upcoming in the calendar. The British Championships in London will be taking place in April and this will act as the Olympic Trials for Team GB. There will also be a number of National Qualifier Meets and the Regional Championships taking place between March and May. Exciting times lie ahead in June when we will be taking a big team of 48 swimmers to compete abroad at a meet in Switzerland. This will provide a fantastic experience for those attending, competing in a new environment and spending an extended period of time as part of a team.

## **Masters**

Masters swimmers also enjoyed a very successful 2019. A summary of their key achievements is shown below:

### **British Masters (LC) Championships June 2019**

Emma Wills 40/44 100, 200, 400 & 800 Freestyle & 200m Backstroke - Gold

In three of these events Emma also set new British Records: 800m Free 9:29.92 GBR, 400m Free 4:40.42 GBR and 200m Free 2:13.64 GBR

### **Swim England Masters National Championships - 25 - 27 October 2019, PF**

- Emma Wills 40-44 Yrs - 800m Freestyle & 200m Back – Gold
- Emma Wills 40-44 Yrs - 1500m Freestyle - Silver
- Leonardo Lari 40-44 Yrs - 100m & 200m Breaststroke - Bronze
- Tristan Hymers 40-44 Yrs - 200m Freestyle - Bronze

## **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 all those who have supported our fundraising efforts during 2019.

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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. Our gala at the JCCS in Leeds in December was our most successful and well attended to date with over 2,800 entries received. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> occasion that we have held our gala at Leeds at the meet now appears to be a well established event on the gala calendar for many Clubs in Yorkshire and beyond.

One of our objectives for 2020 was to host two gala's and I'm delighted that we will be doing just that with our Spring Extravaganza in March and our Winter Extravaganza in November. Our Spring gala has already received well over 2,000 entries and is set to be another successful event and fundraising opportunity.

2019 also brought an unexpected fundraising opportunity. After 10 years of being on the waiting list we were granted the opportunity by York Races to fundraise at the racecourse on the first day of the Ebor meet in August. A huge thankyou must be extended to Caroline Ryder for organising all aspects of our collection efforts in the run up to and during this event. Thanks also go to all those swimmers and parents who braved some pretty horrible weather to support the collection on the day. Over £2,300 was collected on the day and we have already submitted an application seeking an opportunity to be allowed to collect again in the future – let's hope we don't have to wait another 10 years!

## **Facilities**

It is pleasing to see that Friends of New Earswick Swimming Pool are making what appears to be a success of running New Earswick pool as a community owned pool. Having monitored this situation for some time we have now released the Wednesday evening session at the Mount pool, which we were holding as a contingency in the event that New Earswick was forced to close and we needed to find an alternative venue for our Friday evening teaching session.

Having lost our pool time at York Sport it is frustrating to witness their tie-up with Tadcaster Swimming Club and the rebranding of this Club to Tadcaster York Swim Squad. It doesn't feel right that a facility part funded by York residents should prioritise/favour Clubs outside of York as opposed to those that operate within the City. As a committee we are currently considering raising this issue with both York Council (in respect to use of the facility) and the Yorkshire Swimming Association (in respect to the rebranding of Tadcaster Swimming Club and the reference to York).

As highlighted in last year's report GLL now operates both Yearsley and Energise. They will also operate the new York Leisure Centre when it finally opens in Spring 2020. Although some familiar faces have moved on and/or taken up different roles we continue to enjoy very good relationships with the staff and management at GLL. In October 2019 we applied for and subsequently obtained pool time at the new Leisure Centre and a number of our squads will have the benefit of swimming at this brand new facility once it opens (current anticipated date is late March 2020). This will help us reduce our reliance on less optimum facilities and should address both critical resource and reliability issues.

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As ever 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. Maintaining the excellent relationships we currently enjoy with all our pool providers is fundamental to the sustainability of our Club.

## **Focus for 2020**

As in 2019 the primary focus for the Executive Committee during 2020, other than maintaining membership numbers and ensuring a solid financial performance, is to increase the number of volunteers that are currently supporting the Club.

Whilst we have had some success during 2019 the Club still 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 to 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.

### **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.

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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):**

Yet again it looks like the Executive Committee will operate with a number of vacant positions during 2020. This places additional demands on serving Committee members and dilutes the support they can provide to the Club in their nominated roles. 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 new blood. This situation cannot be sustained beyond the short term and a viable succession plan is needed.

This is your Club, your kids love being part of it, please support it and help to ensure it continues to provide opportunities for future generations.

Our thanks and gratitude go to all who do support the Club.

Regards,

Steve Creighton  
Chairman

For and on behalf of YCBC Executive Committee

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