



YORK CITY BATHS CLUB

Incorporating
York City Swimming Club (Founded 1882)
York Baths Club (Founded 1937)
Amalgamated 1951



YCBC Honorary Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending 31st December 2020

The Bottom Line

The draft accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020 show a very small loss of £51. This is a remarkable result given the disruption faced by the Club (and the wider swimming community) because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This position would have been significantly worse if the Club had not: been able to run a Spring open gala two weeks before the 1st national lockdown; secured a grant from the Sport England Community Emergency Fund; ran a successful Crowdfunder event; and benefitted from the fantastic generosity of parents donating excess fee payments to the Club.

As noted in my report last year, the Club's basic running costs (pool hire/lifeguards, service providers and workforce, including honorary membership) are only just covered by basic income (swimming fees and membership fees). Post the 1st national lockdown, from when swimming activities resumed in August through to the end of 2020, the Club operated at a monthly loss, i.e. income from training and [limited] teaching was exceeded by pool hire and service provider costs. Once swimming resumes, this situation is likely to continue for a period. Therefore, the major financial challenge facing the Committee for 2021 will be simply to get through to the end of the year and post as small a loss as possible. As always, careful management and prudent financial control will be key going forward.

On a positive note, the success of the Crowdfunder campaign masterminded by Head Coach, Josh Spencer, and Caroline Garratt, will hopefully provide a springboard for further fundraising efforts. Similarly, the success of the Spring open gala confirmed the Committee's belief that running two open galas a year would be beneficial for the Club. (Unfortunately, the opportunity to run a Winter gala in 2020 was lost to the pandemic.)

Finally, looking beyond 2021, I will simply repeat a paragraph from last year's report:

Basic running costs increase year on year, and it is difficult to see how these could be reduced without a significant change to Club activities. Basic income is limited by swimmer numbers and teaching fees must be competitive with other providers. Part of the Club's 'pulling power' is the flow through to training. No training squad covers its costs; they are, in effect, subsidised by teaching. The Executive Committee might have to prepare itself to make some difficult decisions in this respect in the future.

Overall Income and Expenditure

Overall income and expenditure bear no relationship to recent years due to four months of lost swimming April to July and restrictions that were in place from August to December, which had a significant impact on teaching in particular.

Website www.yorkcitybathsclub.org.uk

President
Mr J Suddes

Chairman
Mr S Creighton
ycbc.chairman@gmail.com

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Swimming Fees

Swimming fees from teaching and training remained the dominant elements of the Club's income streams. Stripping out "in/out" income and expenditure: teaching fees accounted for 19% of income; training fees accounted for 43% of income; £26,054 and £58,916 respectively. For comparison, this income in 2019 was £85,055 and £102,788, which means overall that swimming fees fell by 55%.

Teaching numbers dropped slightly at the beginning of the year (a repeating trend – partly due to Red Hat movements to training squads) but picked up through February and March. At the end of March there were 241 swimmers in teaching (the monthly high for 2019 was 242). Post the 1st national lockdown, limited pool availability meant that teaching sessions were not able to resume until October, with Covid-19 procedures and social distancing requirements allowing only Light Green, Dark Green, Blue and Red Hats to be accommodated. In December, there were 82 active swimmers in these groups (in March there were 139 in these groups and 102 in White, Purple, Yellow and Orange Hats).

Training numbers rose slightly in January because of movements from Red Hats to Development, with a small number of swimmers leaving the Club in February and March (which is not unusual as this is the time of year Swim England and Club memberships have to be renewed). At the end of March there were 163 swimmers in training (the monthly high for 2019 was 161). Since the 1st national lockdown, the vast majority of squad swimmers have remained with the Club. There was some natural fallout, other swimmers to choose to leave the Club and some parents opted to, or had to, defer their swimmer's return to the water. In December there were 144 active swimmers across the training squads. (At the time of writing, only one of these swimmers has not renewed their Swim England membership for 2021.) It should also be noted that a moratorium on new training squad members and movements meant places freed up by leavers were not filled, as would be usual.

Swimming is still suspended but will hopefully resume mid-April. However, until pool availability is known, no definite plans can be made. Budgets have been set on the basis that training will resume immediately with a timetable like that at the end of 2020. Similarly, a return to teaching for the higher hat groups is budgeted from May. The resumption of a full teaching programme, albeit with much reduced numbers is budgeted from 1st September. Should all Covid-19 restrictions be lifted in June, this picture could change dramatically.

No decision has been taken on fees for 2021 yet.

Membership Fees

All swimmers are members of YCBC and, as such, are required to pay an annual membership subscription. For swimmers in teaching section, this subscription is rolled up into monthly fees. For swimmers in training squads and Masters, this subscription is explicit. The membership fees reported in the accounts are the latter. The membership year runs from March to February the following year. A swimmer joining either a training squad or Masters part way through the membership year pays a pro-rata fee. There is no refund given when a member leaves the Club. The fee is set at the AGM and becomes due shortly afterwards; for 2020 it was £42.

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Membership fee income for 2020 was £7,863 from 176 full payments from training squad and Masters swimmers, plus additional pro-rata payments throughout the year.

It is proposed to keep the fee at £42 for 2021/2022. Based on current Swim England fee renewal data for 2021, 143 training squad swimmers and 16 Masters swimmers will yield initial membership income of £6,678.

Swim England Fees

Swim England is the English national governing body of swimming. As a Swim England affiliated Club, all Club members must be members of Swim England and pay the appropriate fees (including regional and county levies), which the Club collects on their behalf and passes straight on. The Swim England membership year runs from January to December, and fees must be paid in the early part of the year. There are three categories of fees: CAT1 - non-competitive swimmers (all those in teaching section and some Masters swimmer); CAT2 - competitive swimmers (all those in training squads and some Masters swimmers); and CAT3 - anyone involved in a club who isn't covered by CAT1 and CAT2 (for example, coaches, teachers, poolside helpers and volunteers). Note that if a swimmer moves from teaching to training, a CAT1/CAT2 top up must be paid. Importantly, Swim England membership provides general insurance cover, including personal accident.

These fees are in/out. The difference between income and expenditure arises because the Club pays the CAT3 fees for honorary members, i.e. teachers, poolside helpers and other volunteers (note this excludes Committee members, who must be paid up Club members). Nearly 40 honorary members were registered in 2020, at a cost of around £425.

Fundraising

Net fundraising income of £13,725 came from two sources: a grant of £5,000 from the Sport England Community Emergency Fund; and £8,725 from a Crowdfunder initiative.

The Sport England grant was to help cover service provider fee's during lockdown. It is therefore included as an income item in the P&L since this is expenditure that would normally be recorded this way.

The Crowdfunder initiative was masterminded by Head Coach, Josh Spencer, and Caroline Garratt. The campaign period was 28 days in July 2020, with pledges coming from 173 supporters. Many thanks go to all those people and, of course, to those who very kindly donated a wonderful set of prizes.

Note that income and expenditure from fundraising activities incorporated into events and galas is reported in those areas, rather than fundraising *per se*.

Events

The net income of £743 came from tickets for Presentation Night and fundraising on the night.

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Donations

Income from donations was £4,380. Most of this amount came from excess fee payments for swimmers during lockdown months, with over just over £4,000 coming from November specifically. The Club hugely appreciates such gestures in difficult times.

Club Shop

As reported last year, the only items now sold by the Club are hats and certificates, and then at only slightly more than cost. The net loss of £541, in effect, reflects stock held.

Basic YCBC hoodies, tops, shorts and onesies can be sourced locally. YCBC-specific 'club-kit' can be purchased through the Club's appointed supplier, Swimzi, during identified windows.

YCBC Galas

The Club had planned to run three galas during 2020: the closed Club Championships; and two open meets in Spring and Winter. The Spring gala went ahead, fortuitously just two weeks before the 1st national lockdown. The Club Championships and the Winter gala had to be cancelled because of the pandemic.

The YCBC Spring Extravaganza gala, held at John Charles in March 2020, yielded an overall profit of just over £7,000. In round figures: income items were entries/coach passes (£14,900), takings - door receipts/programmes/raffle/tombola (£3,900), and advertising/commission (£300); expenditure items were pool hire (£5,400), catering (£1,850), entry refunds (£250), entry management (£550), medals (£2,000), race license fees (£425), printing (£600), expenses for officials (£300), volunteer clothing (£500) and sundries (£100). (Note that both income and expenditure reported in the accounts includes an £900 cash float sum.)

This gala was described in last year's report as a 'toe dipping' exercise with expectations set at a much lower level than the annual Winter gala. The Executive Committee concluded it was a resounding success and will aim to run both a Spring and a Winter meet in future years. It certainly provided vital income for the Club at a crucial time.

The Club ran a Swim England Level X Racing day at St Peters in October. 115 swimmers took part, each paying an entry fee of £10, i.e. £1,150 in total. This covered the pool hire costs of £840.

External Galas and Competitions

Gala entry fees are in/out. In 2021, both income and expenditure figures are distorted by significant refunds for events cancelled because of the Covid-19 situation.

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Expenditure on coaches passes and expenses is a function of the number of galas attended and the proximity of venues to York.

Expenditure on team competitions was small. This was for Team entries at the Spring Yorkshires.

Pool Hire

Pool hire is, by far, the Club's largest expenditure (nearly 50% of total costs, having stripped out "in/out" income and expenditure). Post the 1st national lockdown, St Peters was not available to the Club until late October and The Mount remained closed to external lets through to the end of 2020. The two GLL pools and New Earswick were utilised, with the Club being able to deliver in the slots available a timetable to all the training squads that was fair and balanced. The predominant use of Yearsley and Energise did, however, come at a cost. Yearsley is the most expensive pool to hire and, post lockdown one, Energise rates were aligned with it by GLL (a rise of over 30% from early 2020). The budget for 2021 assumes a timetable similar to the back end of 2020 once swimming resumes.

Lifeguards

Lifeguard costs are for the Masters session on a Tuesday at The Mount.

Service Provider Costs

After pool hire, service provider costs is the largest outlay for the Club (37% of total costs in 2020, having stripped out "in/out" income and expenditure). This is higher than might have been expected given there was no swimming for four months in the middle of 2020. This is explained by a conscious decision taken by the Officers, supported by the Executive Committee, to pay retainers to ensure that as full a training and teaching programme as permitted by Covid-19 restrictions could recommence at the earliest opportunity, once lockdown ended. At the end of 2020 there were contracts in place for a Head Coach, four lead coaches, three assistant coaches and a teaching coordinator. No fees are being paid to service providers during the current lockdown.

Training Courses

Expenditure on training during 2020 was less than a third of that in 2019.

In 2020 the Club funded: 4 assistant swimming teacher courses; 3 swimming teacher courses; 1 swimming coach course; 2 NRASTC courses; and 5 safeguarding courses. (Some of the practical modules of the teaching courses were not able to be completed in 2020 because of Covid-19 restrictions.) Investment in training will continue to be a priority in 2020.

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Note that individuals who receive funding for either a teaching or coaching course are required to sign an agreement, which commits their time as a teaching/coaching resource to the Club.

Trips

The Club was forced to cancel a trip to Switzerland in June 2020, which would have seen swimmers from our National, Regional and Club Squads compete in the 28th Meeting du Lac in Vevey. All monies paid out for hotels and transport were refunded in full, with the Club taking a small hit for currency transaction charges.

Management Accounts

Comprehensive management accounts are produced each month for the Executive Committee. The same data is used to produce end of year accounts for submission to the External Auditor. Swimming fees, Swim England fees, YCBC Membership fees, pool hire costs, external gala fees and open gala revenue and costs are also subject to separate detailed analysis and reconciliation.

2021

Looking ahead to 2021, the pandemic still looms large and will no doubt continue to impact operations for some time to come. As of today, swimming remains suspended and the earliest re-commencement date (for some) looks likely to be mid-April. The basic assumption is that when activities do resume, they will do so in a similar manner to the back end of 2020, with the outlook for teaching being the most uncertain. Until an unrestricted swimming programme can resume across a variety of pools, the Club will operate at a monthly loss. On a positive note, the Executive Committee is hopeful the Club will be able to host a Winter open gala, but, nevertheless, the baseline budget for 2021 shows a loss of around £30,000. Naturally, the Committee will be working extremely hard to mitigate this.

When financially possible, the Executive Committee would still like to revamp the Club website, specifically to provide support for membership management and gala entries. The anticipated cost associated with progressing this has not been budgeted for.

David Jordan
Honorary Treasurer

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