



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 2024

Introduction

This report illustrates the performance of York City Baths Club during 2024. The following individuals have contributed to the content of this report:

- Dan Yates – Chairman
- Claire Rowson – Honorary Treasurer
- Josh Spencer – Head Coach
- Chris Turner – Teaching Coordinator
- Natalie Turner- Training Coordinator
- Christina Tremayne- Officials Coordinator

The report provides information to support the Club's Annual General Meeting, which this year will be held on Thursday 27th February via Teams.

In addition to detailing the performance of the Club during 2024 the report highlights the Executive Committee focus areas for 2025.

Membership Matters

The club currently has 569 active members across all our sections.

This includes 174 swimmers across our six competitive squads which is an increase on the 160 last year. There are a further 37 members in our Masters section again an increase on the previous year. Within our Teaching Section there are 280 swimmers across all our groups which is similar to last year.

We continue to attract new enquiries for all sections of the Club and are operating waiting lists throughout. 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. We concluded the trial of an additional early morning session considering uptake and we were delighted to be able to commence coaching at some sessions for this group.

Following a review of a new membership system called Club Organiser we decided that it would offer a lot of benefits to the club and its members so decided to implement. A lot of effort has been made to set up the system for YCBC and we are grateful for those volunteers involved. As the system is introduced in 2025, we will provide further details and introduce more of the functions.

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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

2024 has been another strong year with a good income from monthly fees and 2 successful galas over the year. Costs have also been more stable this year. Overall, the club has generated a surplus of around £30,000 this year, along with an increase of around £40,000 in the value of the Protected Fund, resulting in an increase of around £70,000 on the balance sheet.

Monthly fee income has increased during 2024 across all sections as a result of increased membership, with many of the squads now near capacity. The strong membership numbers have also contributed to a good income from the membership fees.

We have successfully run 2 galas this year, as well as the club championships. The National Qualifier gala in March was a huge success and was oversubscribed. The gala made a profit of around £18,000 which is significantly more than expected. The gala in December was very successful and made a profit of around £11,000. The raffle and tombola stalls at the winter gala were very successful, with a total of around £700 being raised. Thank you to everyone who donated items towards this.

Further information regarding the financial performance of the Club during 2024 can be found in the Treasurer Statement and accompanying accounts.

Looking forwards to 2025 the current forecast is to break even over the year, some of the forecasting remains cautious given there remains a level of uncertainty around pool hire costs. 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

Swim England, the national governing body, published its Heart of Aquatics Listening Report in 2024 and revised a number of sections of the Regulations as a result.

SwimMark is Swim England's quality mark for the development of effective, ethical, and sustainable swimming Clubs. In December 2024 following a SwimMark Review the accreditation scheme was suspended until further notice. YCBC will still need to complete the Club Affiliation requirements in 2025 when the renewal becomes due.

We were successful in completing the Swim Mark Healthcheck before it was paused in mid-2024. Whilst this was particularly challenging due to the Swim England expectations for use of the OMS. We are very grateful for the effort of the SwimMark Coordinator, Training Coordinator, Secretary and Welfare Officer for achieving this.

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We continued our work in reviewing the Clubs legal structure taking further advice from York CVS and various financial and charity specialists. The committee concluded that YCBC should apply to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as this would provide the best structure and arrangements. A number of other swimming clubs have taken this approach and a model constitution is provided by Swim England. We will continue to provide updates as the application is evaluated by the Charity Commission.

Training & Competence

We have a good uptake of interested parents after the last Email request for new officials before the club championships. We plan to make a further request as most of the officials have swimmers in regional and National squads so there are galas that we cannot offer help. We would encourage a wider cross section of parents to come forward including Development, County, Club and Junior Club squads.

We currently have 2 J2S and 2 J2's with an additional 3 in training. We have 14 qualified J1s, another 4 in training and 2 due to start. Having a large number of officials is vitally important in making our open meets so successful- thank-you to all our Officials for your support in 2024.

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. Three level 2 swim teacher courses and three level 1 swim teacher courses were completed in 2024. This brings club numbers to 20 poolside helpers across all sessions, 10 Level 1 Teaching Assistants and 14 Level 2 Teachers across all sessions. Our Training Coordinators continue to do a great job of identifying and booking courses to allow our lessons to have the required teaching and poolside support.

The next combined L1&2 course in June 2025 details currently being finalised.

We continue to support the important lifesaving training NRASTC courses so that we can operate our teaching sessions at the relevant pools. 3 individuals completed the training in 2024 to maintain those qualified at 14.

Swimming Matters

Teaching:

Where did 2024 go? What an amazing year! We want to thank all the volunteers for their amazing assistance with the teaching section in 2024 and forward into 2025. 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 in every session but also ensure they have a great time whilst doing so!

The teaching section has grown yet again in the last year, with us being solidly based at St Peter's and New Earswick. The teaching section is looking very healthy and hopefully this will be maintained throughout 2025 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

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well-deserved promotions to the training squads. These achievements were recognised in our annual awards in January and will be done so again in 2026.

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:

YCBC are delighted to be able to report on a successful and progressive year for the swimming club. There have been some phenomenal highlights from our swimmers as individuals and collectively as a team in the last twelve months. We have a set of service providers providing coaching that have excelled in developing the swimmers throughout the squad pathway and a strong volunteer presence whose support has been crucial in keeping the club running efficiently.

In the last report we highlighted an increase in the number of swimmers who were qualifying at each level (county, regional and national). This trend has continued throughout the last 12 months, and we have raised the bar again.

A group of six Yorkshire clubs including YCBC formed a team-based competition called H2Go. The inaugural competition took place in September 2024 at the Hydro in Harrogate and YCBC were the crowned the winners. This will now become an annual competition in the calendar, and it will expand to eight clubs taking part with the next competition in September 2025. For the first time since 2019, YCBC qualified in the Girls 14-16 4 x 100 IM at the British Summer National Championship. The Yorkshire Teams event in February 2025 saw almost 100 of our swimmers representing the club. The coaching team recognises the enjoyment and enthusiasm that the swimmers have for taking part in teams and relays, and we will seek to find further opportunities to participate in more events in the next year.

Five of the training squads are now at full capacity. There continues to be significant demand through external enquiries at all levels, and we have a waiting list for our entry level squads.

Squad lead service providers were again secured to provide coaching over the last 12 months, strengthening significantly the coaching provision. Several experienced level two qualified coaches are providing services by assisting or acting as lead cover across the schedule. Allie Campbell is supporting the Regional and Development Squads and Emma Dorland is supporting on the Regional Squad. These additional service provider coaches are allowing the effective targeting of the various ability levels in each squad more effectively. Emma Wills has taken on the role as the Volunteer Masters Coach.

Our pool time in training has remained constant in the last year. The sessions across all squads are proving to be very popular and regularly we are seeing the training pool full and therefore we're happy that we are fully utilising the pool time well.

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It was the second year of the YCBC National Qualifier in March 2024, the entries were up significantly from 2023, and the club delivered a full capacity meet. The Winter Extravaganza continued to receive strong support from a number of clubs and the meet was almost full.

The National Squad departed on their first training camp in nearly five years and really enjoyed the experience. We would like to thank Lou Harrand, Kelly McSeveny and John Suddes for their planning and hard work to deliver a memorable week for the swimmers.

Looking ahead to this year, we are in a strong position to outperform our recent achievements, and we hope that collectively we can continue to develop this fantastic club and the positive values which it promotes to all our members.

Performance Highlights March 2024 – February 2025

National

British Champs / Olympic Trials (April 2024)

1 Qualifiers

Summer Nationals (July-August 2024)

16 Individual Summer National Qualifiers (British and English combined)

British

4 Individual Qualifiers

1 Team Qualifier

2 Finals

English

13 Individual Qualifiers

5 Medals (3 Gold, 2 Bronze)

5 Finals

English Open Water

2 Qualifiers

Swim England Winter Championships (December 2024)

6 Winter National Qualifiers

4 Finals

Regional

SENER Youth/Senior and Age Group (Long Course April-May 2024)

15 Medals (9 Gold, 4 Silver, 2 Bronze)

42 Finals

SENER Winter Championships (Short Course November 2024)

16 Medals (3 Gold, 7 Silver, 6 Bronze)

21 Finals

County - Yorkshire Championships (February 2025)

55 Individual Medals (13 Gold, 24 Silver, 18 Bronze)

3 Team Medals (1 Silver, 2 Bronze)

97 Individual Finals and 17 Team Finals

H2Go Team Competition (September 2024)

Overall Winner

Relay Points Winner

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Masters:

Three swimmers from the YCBC masters section travelled to Blackpool to compete in the North West Masters Championships (short course) in February 2024. All three swimmers came away with medals in all events they competed in. Emma Wills (3 Gold), Laura Chidgey (1 Gold, 1 Silver), Grant Peters (1 Gold, 1 Silver). Emma Wills also broke three British Records and one European in the 1500m free and the British record and European Record in the 400 free.

In March, three swimmers from YCBC masters section competed at AP Race Masters Grand Prix (long course) held in Sunderland. All swimmers had some great swims, with PBs and all coming away with medals in all events they entered: Laura Chidgey 45-49 (3 Gold); Jo Farrow 45-49 (1 Gold, 1 Bronze); Steve Brewer 60-64 (1 Silver, 1 Bronze)

On Saturday 23rd March a team of 12 masters swimmers competed at the Masters inter-club gala in Maltby. This was the second year the club got an invite to this competition. Like last year there were six clubs competing in over 47 events consisting of individual (50m), teams (4x25m) and skins events across a number of age groups. The team managed to improve on last year's result of 5th place by coming 4th and improving on last year's points by 33 points.

The British Masters Championships (long course) were held in Swansea from 19th to 21st April. This is the largest long course masters meet held in Britain, so it always attracts the top master swimmers from across the country. Emma Wills (45-49 age group) came away from the championship with 3 records. In the 1500 free she broke the European record by 21 seconds and her 800 split was also a new British record by 2 seconds. Her third record came in the 200 free and she also competed in the 200 IM and came away with a gold medal.

YCBC Masters section travelled to Scarborough in May to compete in the Yorkshire Masters Championships. The use of 'age adjusted times' meant it was more difficult to win a medal however three swimmers, Emma Wills, Trystan Hymers and Jo Farrow came away with medals (a total of 3 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze across the team) and all four swimmers came away with at least one PB.

Emma Wills competed in the European Masters Championships in Belgrade winning 2 golds and a Bronze medal whilst also setting a British Record in the 400 free.

In July at the Swim England Masters National Open Water Age Group Championships, Tristan Hymers achieved a Bronze medal in the 2k Open Water 45-49 yrs Age Group.

In September, Emma Wills competed at the North West Masters (short course) in Blackpool. She and won golds in all 3 events she competed in in the 45-49 age group, breaking the British Record the 200 Free. Emma now holds British Masters Records in all the freestyle events of 200m upwards short and long course in the 45-49 age group.

It was a successful three days of swimming for the six master's swimmers competing at the Swim England Masters National Championships (25m) held in Ponds Forge. The Nationals are always a high

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standard of competition with many British, European and world records broken over the three days. YCBC Masters swimmers came back with 3 gold, 1 Silver & 1 bronze medal:

- Emma Wills won a gold medal in the 800m breaking the previous record from 2010 by 6 seconds. On the way to that record her 400 split was also a European record breaking her own by 1 second.
- YCBC won Gold in the women's 160+ 4x200 relay (Kirri Hansford, Jo Farrow, Laura Chidgey and Emma Wills). Emma lowered her British record in the 200 free on the lead leg.
- There was also a gold medal for Tristan Hymers in the 800 free and a silver medal in the 400 free.
- There was one more medal for YCBC, Jo Farrow swam a PB in the 400 free to get a bronze medal in the 45-49 age group.

In November, 5 swimmers (Julie Kettlewell, Tristan Hymers, Laura Chidgey, Jo Farrow and Shane Hamilton) from the YCBC Masters section competed at the South Yorkshire Masters held at Ponds Forge. The meet was a successful one for all who competed as everyone came away with at least one medal (6 Gold, 5 Silver and 1 Bronze) and there were also plenty of PB swims.

Tristan Hymers competed for Yorkshire in the northern part of the Masters Inter-counties in Middlesbrough, he helped Yorkshire to win the areas competition.

It's fantastic to see the Master section continuing to enjoy their swimming and being successful in competitions!

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 £29,000 and we are thankful to those parents who raised additional funds through organising raffles and tombola's at the events. Our Level 1 National Qualifier (Long Course) in March was our most successful gala to date attracting nearly 4000 entries with clubs attending from across the UK and as far North as Garioch Swimming Club in Inverurie. We continue to receive positive feedback from visiting clubs with swimmers posting qualifying times for the national meets in the summer.

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.

New Opportunities

The first Swim Camp was organised by a number of parents including fundraising which allowed the National Squad to visit the Best Centre in Majorca during October 2024 half-term for a week of warm

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weather training. The feedback was very positive increasing squad togetherness and swimmer motivation and is something to aspire to for the younger squad swimmers!

The first H2GO Team Gala took place successfully in Harrogate and YCBC Won! The other competing clubs being BOK, City of Bradford, Harrogate, Hull and Tadcaster.

Further progress has been made on the YCBC Development Plan objective to develop a partnership with York St John University. A meeting was held with academic experts in the area of sports science and strength and conditioning. It was a positive meeting and there are some good opportunities being explored in a programme. This includes free S&C training opportunities, a possible Master's by Research fee scholarship and access to the specialist S&C facilities.

The clubs continued growth has allowed us to increase our service provides for coaching during 2024, see training section, with this included in our base budget for 2025. We will continue to explore further opportunities here in line the clubs development plan.

We have received some fantastic coverage in 2024 and we are thankful to our volunteer Publicity Coordinator for seeking opportunities to promote the club which includes: being featured as a "Better York Club in the Spotlight"; appearing on YO1 Radio both live on air and on the website; multiple press articles in York Press covering performance at County, Regional and National competitions

We have been able to provide new equipment including new lane ropes at Yearsley pool, bungee power cords and new whiteboards. Plans are in place for purchase of timing equipment to help with our teaching section race nights.

Focus for 2025

The Club has continued to strengthen year on year, working towards the objectives in our two-year development plan. 2024 saw the club reaching capacity in many of our sessions and to continue to invest and seek opportunities towards meeting our ambition to enhance our provision of a centre for high performance swimming.

2025 will see the club set out the next phase of development and review and re-define our strategic objectives. This will need to include our approach to meeting capacity challenges in teaching and training and the next steps for performance in the pool.

It will be particularly important that the Club continues to find new volunteers for committee succession planning over the next 12 months. We have seen a good response recently for those willing to volunteer to commit their time to making YCBC an ongoing success in this regard and continue to seek others for key roles - so please come forward or encourage someone you know!

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 coaching providers, seen more and more swimmers learn to swim and improved again our performance in competitions throughout the year.

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Many Thanks,

Dan Yates
YCBC Chairman

For and on behalf of YCBC Executive Committee

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