



## Tiverton Swimming Club

AGM 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### Chairman's report for 2016/7 – Sara Dilks

Hello, thank you all for coming along this evening to hear the report about the activities TSC has achieved in the last year. We have seen many changes and updates occurring in the club, with the appointment of Lucy Walton as Head coach, the continued development of the coaching team and the club squad restructure in October. Lucy has taken the training plans forward for the club and continues to drive the competitive nature of the club forward, with the help of the **entirely volunteer** coaching team who develop our swimmers skills and improve their competitive racing abilities. We have plenty of people wishing to be part of this swimming club, but it would grind to a halt without the volunteer coaching team, so I am immensely grateful to all of the coaches and teachers who give their time and passion for the swimmers both in the pool, and at the many competitions they race at.

For **2016** the club focused on:

1. Financial issues – to be able to pay the bills, and to break even at year end.
2. Promoting swimmers through the Club development pathway.
3. Maximising the number of swimmers in each training group.
4. Continuing to run the club competition calendar & 10<sup>th</sup> Sparkler open meet
5. Repeating and improve on the previous year's success
6. Appointing a new head coach & promoting the club externally

I'm pleased to say we have delivered on most of these 2016 club plans

We are still **financially** viable as a club – however after paying the pool fees and club administration costs we do not make enough income to cover the paid head coach role, so are still reliant on additional fundraising to ensure we can balance the accounts at the end of the year.

**Fundraising** still proves to be difficult- we are looking for a new fundraising co-ordinator to take this role and run with it for the club- are there any volunteers? This year Jo Skeel took the Sparkler fundraising forward, and created a great grand raffle with many prizes, which was a great success on the day, sadly she had now left TSC, so we have a gap to fill.

**Club competitive objectives** –We had a busy club competition calendar with great results at meets, particularly at Devon Counties and South West Regional Championships. We held 5 race night events for the CSA swimmers and a distance night for LTS children. We introduced a raft of young swimmers into mini-league, competed in the Devon InterClub gala and Arena league in Division 2. We also gave open meet opportunities to our competitive swimmers and held a L3 Sparkler open meet and L4 licenced club championship event. We have started land training for the competitive swimming squads, offered long course (50m) pool training opportunities for the regional swimmers

in the club at the Mount Kelly pool in Tavistock, by creating partnerships with Dawlish and Exeter swimming clubs.

**Coaching Investment-** has been important and we have appointed a new head coach. Further workforce development included the club sourcing training for two new L1 coaches Jasmine Swanston and Rosie Jones, and a new L2 volunteer coach John Bishop who has also joined the club. Sally Tovey qualified as a J1 official, and Gemma Owen is soon to complete her J1 training. All coaches and poolside volunteers have been given a TSC logo T-shirt as part of the club uniform policy, and a small thank you gift voucher was given to each one at Christmas from the club.

**Team manager development-** We have also trained 8 parent volunteers to develop as team managers to support the coaches on poolside at galas and team away events.

**Publicity-** we continue to send regular articles in the Gazette and Express & Echo thanks to press secretary Mandy Aldridge. The Club website has been updated by Tony Dilks, which is a good place to look for club information. Items are posted on the club Facebook site and the twitter account is growing in its followers plus there is a club newsletter issued every 2 months. The poolside noticeboard is regularly updated with information about the club and upcoming galas.

**Social aspects-** We offered two funsplash pool events in July for the swimmers at EVLC, and brought the club together for the Club Champs in July (we had 73 swimmers enter this year). A club meeting was held in October at the Football Club to explain the changes to the squad structure for older swimmers, and an awards presentation night was held in January at Moorhayes CC to celebrate the club swimmers achievements. However I feel we would benefit from arranging more social events for the club members in the future. If anyone would like to volunteer their time in organising non-pool social events for the club members, please let me know.

I would also like **to thank the committee members** for their continued support of the club and myself. I really appreciate their efforts and the hours they put into the club. There are three members retiring from office this year and we plan to vote in 3 new members shortly. Many thanks goes to Natasha and Anna-Marie who have served for 2 years, and Tony for 15 months.

**Secretary** –Natasha Attwood-Groves

**Treasurer** – Tony Follett

**Membership** –Anna Marie Southcott

Enormous thanks also goes to ongoing committee members:

Competition Sec – Sally Tovey

Welfare –Denise Bennett

Swim21 – Sue Haigh

Press secretary -Mandy Aldridge

Website & IT guru- Tony Dilks

President & official extraordinaire Terry Fullick

and Emrys Owen on the poolside.

I also want to personally thank the **coaches, teachers and young volunteers** who make this club function on a daily basis: Lucy Walton, Garry Arrowsmith, Teresa Smith, Lorna Burston, Emrys Owen, John Bennet, Karen Fullick, Alison Williams, Helen Wilson, Steve Carder, Lin Olsen, Nathan Muggeridge, John Bishop, Jasmine Swanston and Rosie Jones, and young volunteers Jake Stoneman, Gemma Owen, Katie Walton, Yasmin Smith and Dylan Cleverly all brilliant at giving time and effort to the club. We also have some relief coaches Christine Pugsley and Sue Haigh to help us out in times of need.

Plus more thanks goes to our great team of **TSC officials** who we take everywhere with us when we compete- Terry Fullick, Alison Williams, Teresa Smith, Jim Loosemore, Rebecca Jenkinson, Sue Haigh and Sally Tovey! We are very lucky to have such a strong team of dedicated officials at our Club.

I have the following **plans in mind for the club for 2016/17**

1. To gain Swim 21 essential accreditation again this year, plus Eastern Devon Hub Network Swim 21 accreditation.
2. Strengthen the competitive nature of the club for swimmers to reach their potentials and , offer a L4 and L3 licenced event for our club swimmers at EVLC.
3. Increase the workforce- more L1 coaches & teachers, more J1 officials and more parent volunteers to assist with running the club.
4. Improve the communication occurring across the club and increase our social events
5. Review the club policies and procedures and update as required for Wavepower
6. Develop a new membership pack for TSC members
7. Maintain and improve the financial status of the club, exploring gift aid opportunities

This last point about financial status is important- Mid Devon Council has decided to increase the pool hire charges again this year, which will have a small impact on every swimmer. We have negotiated with the Leisure Centre Management Committee for a 3% rise in pool hire fees, and will pass this increase onto swimmers in May so we remain in financial balance as a club in the future.

My last note is- I will continue as Chairman of TSC for the next 12 months, and plan to stand down as Chairman at the AGM in March 2018, to make way for someone else to have an opportunity to take the club forward.

Thank you- **do you have any questions?**

**Sara Dilks**

**Tiverton Swimming Club Chairman.**

