



# Tiverton Swimming Club

Prepared for Annual General Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Chairman's annual report for 2018/9

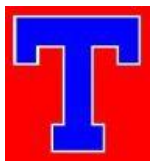
Thank you all for coming along this evening to hear how TSC has performed in the last 12 months. We have had continued development of the coaching team, with Head Coach Lucy Walton achieving the SE Senior Coach training award and an increase in the number of volunteer coaches and teachers at poolside. Lucy has taken the training plans forward for the club swimmers, with the help of the **entirely volunteer** coaching team who develop our swimmers skills and improve their competitive racing abilities. I am immensely grateful to all of the coaches and swim teachers who give their time and expertise to the swimmers both in the pool, and at the many competitions they race at. **My thanks** goes to Lucy Walton, Garry Arrowsmith, Lorna Burstons, John Bennet, Nathan Muggeridge, John Bishop, Christine Pugsley, Emma Halsey, Lucy Cottrell, Dylan Cleverly, Kerry Peters, Sue Haigh, Karen Fullick, Alison Williams, Helen Wilson and poolside helpers Lin Olsen, Peter Walker, Lucy Boyde, Ben Broomfield and Judith McGregor-Harper. We can't teach, coach, train and race with our swimmers without you.

**Swim Mark** accreditation was achieved again in 2018- thanks to the committee who submitted evidence for this Kite Mark and to Sue Haigh the Swim mark co-ordinator for the club.

We are still **financially** viable as a club – however after paying the pool fees, head coach, event expenses, awards trophies, team transport, direct debit fees and club IT and administration costs, we need to raise additional funds to provide new equipment for the club members. This means we are still very reliant on additional fundraising to ensure we balance the accounts at the end of the year. Many thanks also to Ian Davies, Club Treasurer for managing the financial income and outcome for the club- a quite complex task.

**Fundraising** is still a challenge. Graham Yardley applied for grants from Tesco bags of help, as well as undertaking a successful fundraising campaign at the Sparkler open meet in November 2018. At The Sparkler, Graham created a grand raffle with many prizes, which was a great success and also obtained sponsorship from local businesses Ashford's and All Pools and Spa's for the event. Many thanks for his support in driving the fundraising forward for the club. We were thrilled to be awarded the maximum of £4,000 from Tesco and then a further £500 from Swim England South West and £50 from Nick Seddon Estate Agents to make £4,550 to pay for 6 new track start diving blocks for the club. These blocks are currently being manufactured to our specifications. We have started an Easyfundraising account for the club and are encouraging members to use this portal when online shopping to raise funds for the club throughout the year. So far we have raised £22 for the first quarter Oct-Dec 2018 with EasyFundraising.

**Club competitive opportunities** –We ran a full club competition calendar with success at meets, particularly at South West Regional Championships in May 2018 and English Nationals in July 2018. Recently we had 25 swimmers enter the 2019 Devon County Championships. We held three CSA race night events and two distance nights for LTS children. We ran another a Junior Team gala and raced at Coventry/Exmouth gala to introduce our young swimmers into a team event, competed in the Devon Interclub gala, Devon and Regional Relay galas, Devon development galas and Arena league in Division 2 (finishing in 3<sup>th</sup> position and gaining promotion to Division 1). We also gave a variety open meet opportunities to our competitive swimmers throughout the year and held the



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2018 L3 Sparkler open meet and 2018 L4 licenced club championship events. We continue to offer land training opportunities for the competitive swimming squads with the support of P.E. specialist Chris Davies, and have offered long course (50m) pool training opportunities for the regional swimmers in the club at the Mount Kelly pool in Tavistock, by continuing partnerships with Dawlish and Exeter swimming clubs.

**Coaching Investment-** has been important and we have supported the head coach to become a Swim England Senior coach and welcomed John Bishop, Lucy Cottrell, Dylan Cleverly and Emma Halsey, Judith McGregor-Harper and Lucy Boyde to poolside. Further workforce development included the club increasing the number of volunteer coaches and poolside helpers available to us. 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.

**Officials development-** In January 2019, we have offered J1 training opportunities to 6 new parent volunteers to develop as club officials to support the licencing of the club championships to L4 and support in open meets and at arena league.

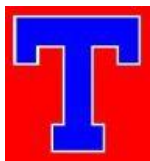
**Team manager development-** In 2018/9, we trained 2 more team managers for the club who are able to support the club coaches with swimmer duty of care at open meets and galas.

**Young Volunteer (YV) development-** Friday Learn to swim is supported by young volunteers Chloe Mugeridge, Dylan Cleverley, and Megan Sharp. Micah Partridge volunteers on poolside at CSA, Olivia Broom at Tuesday sessions, and Katie Walton at Sunday sessions. With Club captains Oliver Bennet and Katie Walton, plus Harry List they organised the excellent Pudsey Plunge with the support of Masters Kitty Hollingsworth and Lucy Boyde (YV mentor).

**Publicity, social media and Website-** we continue to write and publish amazingly regular articles in the Tiverton Gazette and Express & Echo thanks to press secretary Mandy (and Mark) Aldridge. The Club website has been updated by Tony Dilks, (who also ran an incredibly successful 12<sup>th</sup> Tiverton Sparkler in September 2018 which was a fantastic fundraiser for the club). News items are posted on the club website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. There is a club newsletter issued every 2 months updating members of the clubs activities. The poolside noticeboard is regularly updated with information about the club and upcoming galas.

**Social aspects-** We offered fun splash pool events at the end of terms for the young swimmers at EVLC and brought the club together for the Club Champs in. The Junior Team gala was a great success in March, a junior team also raced against Coventry SC at an invitational gala in Exmouth and the team spirit and buses used to journey to the three Arena league galas were a great success in the Autumn. The new Pudsey Plunge raised £440 for Children in Need and was great fun A club awards evening was held in January 2019 at Moorhayes CC to celebrate the club swimmers achievements. However, 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. Donna makes the club run like clockwork and is the fastest minutes writer I know, Lyndsey updates our new member welcome pack, the SE Online Management system (OMS) recruits new



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club members, promotes swimmers within the squad structure and ensures we are all members of Swim England. Denise is the welfare officer we turn to for advice on safeguarding and Wavepower guidance and completes the DBS checks and safeguarding audits for our adult volunteers. Our club President and referee Terry is one reason why we can run licenced meets, along with referee Alison Williams they supported the club at open meets, club champs, the Sparkler and junior galas, as well as training new timekeepers for the club. I really appreciate all of the committee member's hard work, effort and the hours they put into running the club as a whole. Thank you to There is one member retiring from office this year, Sally Tovey and many thanks to Sally who has served on the committee for quite a few years and been a great competition secretary for the club. Welcome also to two new committee members Simon Broom and Kate Wood, plus a new Comp Secretary Alex Sharp,

Plus more thanks goes to our great team of **TSC officials** who we take everywhere with us when we compete- Terry Fullick, Alison Williams, 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 development **targets in mind for the club for 2019/20**

1. To gain Swim Mark essential accreditation for the club again this year.
2. Offer a L4 club Championships in July and L3 Sparkler open meet in Oct for our club swimmers at EVLC.
3. Enter a team in the Western division of the NASL Arena League in Autumn 2019
4. Increase the volunteer workforce- more coaches & teachers, more team managers and officials plus more parents to assist with the running of the club.
5. Improve the communication occurring across the club between Parents and coaches
6. Increase the non-pool social events for our members.
7. Purchase and fit 6 new starting blocks with adjustable footrests for members to use.
8. Maintain and improve the financial status of the club, exploring fundraising 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 an impact on every swimmer. We have been told by the Leisure Centre Management Committee that there will be a 7% rise in pool hire fees, which we will have to pass onto swimmers in May 2019, so we remain in financial balance as a club in the next year. I am looking for a new Club fundraising volunteer, particularly to lead with the Sponsorship and grand raffle prizes for the Sparkler in October this year- let me know if you are interested in helping us to raise funds for the club.

I am incredibly proud to be part of this local sports club, and am constantly amazed at what a team of volunteers can achieve when they work together to run this club and it's variety of swimming events. I plan to continue as Chairman of TSC for the next 12 months.

**Sara Dilks - Tiverton Swimming Club Chairman**

