



# Tiverton Swimming Club

Prepared for Annual General Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

## Chairman's annual report for 2019/20

Thank you all for coming along this evening to hear how TSC has performed from April 2019. I am immensely grateful to all 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. I am very appreciative of Head coach Lucy Walton and Junior lead coach Lorna Burston, for all they do with organising the different squads and running the competitive and development aspects of the club for the swimmers whilst keeping the swimmer development on track. Enormous thanks also to Garry Arrowsmith, John Bennet, Nathan Muggeridge, Christine Pugsley, Emma Halsey, Lucy Cottrell, Dylan Cleverly, Micah Partridge, Sue Haigh, Karen Fullick, Alison Williams, Helen Wilson, Arabella Wilson, Lin Olsen, Peter Walker, Lucy Boyde, Ben Broomfield, Judith McGregor-Harper, Alex McGregor-Harper and Chloe Muggeridge as they have all enabled our club to run on a weekly basis and TSC can't teach, coach, train and race without the fantastic poolside volunteers we have supporting our club.

I am also very indebted to the **committee members** for their continued support of the club and myself. Donna Webber has been club secretary for over four years and her attention to detail makes the club run like clockwork. We are still financially viable as a club, many thanks to Ian Davies, Club Treasurer for managing income and outcome for the club, including the Direct Debit scheme and annual accounts report- a quite complex task. Ian will set out the club financial reports shortly, but I can confirm with our current club financial model, we will still be reliant on additional annual fundraising each year. Denise Bennet continues as the welfare officer we turn to for advice on Safeguarding and Wavepower guidance and completes the DBS checks and safeguarding audits for our volunteers. In January 2020 Lyndsey Baker handed over the Membership Secretary role to Lucy Boyde, another pivotal role for the club to function effectively so enormous thanks for support with that role. Mark and Mandy Aldridge are the longstanding club press officers creating news articles for the club, and after many years as club President Terry Fullick stood down and Sue Haigh accepted the role of President of the club in January this year. Alex Sharp continues to run the Club Competition calendar and meet accounts, Kate Wood and Simon Broom were amazing in fundraising and sponsorship for the Sparkler and Crowdfunder events, Tony is an IT and website guru for the club and fabulous Sparkler, club champs, race night, mini league and now level X meet manager. Judith McGregor-Harper has joined the committee with the Masters interests for the club at heart and we recruited a new volunteer co-ordinator, Vicki Clarke to take this role forward for the club who has had been running the important COVID-19 Liaison rota, plus An Janssen who has been invaluable as our new COVID-19 Officer when we returned to the pool in August. Gillian Gow joined as a Club Kit manager, revolutionising our access to Kit, and has set up a shop with Stitch to Print in Exeter to supply Joma branded club Kit for the swimmers to wear with pride.

I really appreciate all the committee members and volunteers hard work, effort, and the hours they put into keeping the club running for the members throughout the year. A special mention must go to Lucy Walton, Lucy Boyde, Lorna Burston and An Janssen who enabled the club to restructure and restart with the new Covid-19 measures in place in July and August this year.

**Swim Mark** accreditation was achieved again in June 2019 and 2020- thanks to the committee who submitted evidence for this Kite Mark and to Sue Haigh the Swim mark co-ordinator for the club.



## Tiverton Swimming Club

**Fundraising** for the club is a challenge, and we look to different schemes to raise funds for the club. The Sparkler in Sept 2019 was a successful fundraiser and fun club event with over £4K raised from entries, sponsorship, and raffles. The Easyfundraising account for the club has raised £695 for the club to date. A three-year grant from the Ashfords Foundation awarded in June 2019 totalled £7,7421, and in the first year 2019 paid for two My Jukes squad sets and in the second year (2020) paid for the six new backstroke wedges (to fit the six new track start diving blocks bought in June 2019 with £4K Tesco bags of help funds). We still have the third year of funds to come with the Ashfords grant in 2021. In August 2020, a Crowdfunder campaign raised £5,575 during the pool lockdown to replace the cancelled Sparkler 2020. For the next 12 months the club has now been selected for the Co-op Local Community Fund running from Nov 2020 to Oct 2021. The club also held a Santa Splash event in Dec 2019 and raised £440 for Children's Hospice South West.

**Club competitive opportunities** –We ran a full club competition calendar for swimmers and held the 2019 L3 Sparkler open meet and 2019 L4 licenced club championship events for the competitive element of the club until swimming was stopped in March 2020. For the developing swimmers we also ran CSA race night and distance nights for LTS children. The club also competes in the Devon Interclub gala, Devon and Regional Relay galas, Devon development galas and Arena league in Division 1. We re-joined the North Devon Mini league in January 2020 to introduce our young swimmers into a team event. In November 2020 we completed a Level X sprint event for one cohort of swimmers, and plan to run this new SE competition initiative when we can return to the pool. A big thank you to the club Team Managers who support the coaches on poolside at competitive events across Devon and Somerset- Donna Webber, Chris Davies, An Janssen, Sarah Smyth, John Bennet, Hilary Brownlow and me!

**Officials development-** In October 2019 Alex Sharp, Paul Roberts, Alison King, Chris Davies, and Tony Dilks all qualified as J1 officials for the club, to support Jim Loosemore, Sue Haigh, Rebecca Jenkinson, and Sally Tovey as club officials. Also having Terry Fullick and Alison Williams as our club referees enables us to run licenced meets, they both support the club at open meets, club champs, the Sparkler, and junior galas, as well as training new timekeepers for the club, and their longstanding support has been immense over the years- A huge thank you to all our officials at the club, we are fortunate to have so many.

**Publicity, social media, and Website-** we continue to write and publish 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. News items are posted on the club website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. There is a club newsletter issued every 3 months updating members of the club's 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 July 2019. The Junior Team gala was fun to run in Sept 2019, and the team spirit and buses used for the journey to the three Arena league galas were enjoyed by all in the Autumn. The Santa Splash was great fun for members across the club too and lovely to raise funds for a different cause. A competition for a member to design a new Club Mascot was held in spring 2019 and the winner selected in May, with the design being created electronically for us to take forward. A club awards evening was held in January 2020 at Moorhayes



## Tiverton Swimming Club

Community Centre to celebrate the club swimmers' achievements as usual. However, we would benefit from arranging more social events for the club members in the future. **If anyone would like to organise non-pool social events for the club members to enjoy in the future, please let me know as this is an area we can build on.**

It is not clear the impact that COVID-19 will have on the swimming club in 2021, we have a good membership base, and financial reserves to see us through, but we are reliant on using Exe Valley Leisure Centre for the pool hire as a club. Mid Devon Leisure staff have been fantastic during the pandemic and were very supportive of our return to swimming in August- I would like to thank Haley Walker in particular, for all her support in achieving our club's return to the pool. During the long pool closure, Lucy Walton kept the swimmers engaged with learning and meetings on zoom and with emails to parents to offer support for the members- a fantastic job at a difficult time for all. Sylvia Cottrell at Wiveliscombe pool was also a big support as she enabled us to access pool time in the Wivey open-air pool during August- it was great to start to get the club back on its feet and ready to return to EVLC.

I have the following **suggestions for the club for 2021.**

1. Recruit more coaches to help Lucy Walton on poolside
2. Run level X racing plus a L4 club Championships and L3 Sparkler open meet.
3. Enter the NASL Arena League
4. Join the Devon Mini-league when it restarts.
5. Organise a party in the park as a social event when groups can meet up.
6. Recruit a social secretary for the club to organise non-pool social events for our members.
7. Gain Swim Mark essential accreditation for the club in 2021.
8. Use Zoom meetings for the club for learning opportunities.
9. Streamline the club organisational processes with the introduction of a new management package.

I am fortunate to be part of this community sports club and am constantly amazed at what our fantastic team of volunteers can achieve when we work together to run this club. TSC offers a wealth of opportunities for swimming, volunteering, and a great sport for people across our local community, not least my own family and many of their friends.

**Sara Dilks - Tiverton Swimming Club Chairman**