



Tiverton Swimming Club

Prepared for Annual General Meeting on 31st March 2021.

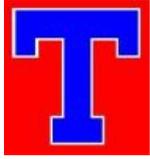
Chairman's annual report for 2020/21 – the pandemic year

Thank you all for joining this zoom meeting to hear how TSC has performed from April 2020 to date. I am immensely grateful to all the coaches and swim teachers we have who give their time and expertise to the swimmers. I am very appreciative of Head coach Lucy Walton and Junior lead coach Lorna Burston, for leading the different squads, running the competitive and development aspects of the club for the swimmers, and keeping club training on track. Enormous thanks also to Garry Arrowsmith, John Bennet, Nathan Muggeridge, Christine Pugsley, Emma Halsey, Lucy Cottrell, Dylan Cleverly, Micah Partridge, Sue Haigh, Alison Williams, Helen Wilson, Arabella Wilson, Lin Olsen, Lucy Boyde, Ben Broomfield, and Chloe Muggeridge for their support of the club, as they have all enabled our club to restart after lockdown one, two and three. They are all fantastic teachers and coaches, and we are very lucky to have them supporting our swim club.

I am also indebted to our club **committee members** for their continued support of the club and myself. Donna Webber has been club secretary for five years keeping the club running like clockwork. Ian Davies, as Club Treasurer manages income and outcome for the club, including the hugely important Direct Debit scheme and creates the club annual accounts - a quite complex task over the last 5 years as well. Denise Bennet continues as the welfare officer a role she has performed for about 6 years too! In January, Lucy Boyde stood down and handed over another pivotal role – that of the Membership Secretary to Gillian Gow, (who also manages the club kit orders). Mark and Mandy Aldridge are our longstanding club press officers, Sue Haigh continues in the role of Club President and Alex Sharp continues as our Competition secretary. Kate Wood was hugely supportive when we ran the Crowdfunder campaign in September, creating a club video on YouTube, updating the information on platform, sourcing and donating rewards for this important club fundraiser. Vicky Clarke our volunteer co-ordinator organised the important covid liaison rota across the club, with herself, Simon Broom, Kate, and other parents active on poolside at every session in this new safety role. Tony continues to update the club website, adding new policies and guidance and ran the Level X programme in November. Judith McGregor-Harper remains as Masters representative and An Janssen joined last summer as our new COVID-19 Officer another invaluable role created, to guide us on appropriate safety measures for the club.

I really appreciate the time and commitment the committee members and volunteers give to the club to keep it running, especially throughout this last 12 months. 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 August and again in December after lockdown two, to for Kate Wood who created the electronic return to the pool survey and its associated reports in July.

What a strange and unusual year we have had since March 2020. The club first closed on Tuesday March 17th and during the first Lockdown, Lucy discussed land training plans for swimmers and ran twice-weekly zoom educational sessions in the months we were out of the pool. In August, Lucy restarted weekly swimming at Wiveliscombe open air pool, a great boost for the swimmers, before the club restarted training at the EVLC pool on Tuesday 25th August with reduced training hours and social distancing in place. All members arrived *pool ready* and followed *covid guidelines* to keep each other safe whilst at the pool. The club closed again for lockdown two on Wednesday November 4th



Tiverton Swimming Club

and Lucy and Ben held twice weekly zooms including S&C sessions for swimmers, which were well received during this month. Wednesday December 2nd saw the club reopen again, sadly only for a few weeks training, until a third closure occurred at very short notice on Sunday January 3rd. This third lockdown saw the focus of club zooms turn to a social event, with quizzes, group cooking events, a treasure hunt and Ben's weekly S&C zooms, which were all a fantastic way to keep in contact with swimmers at the club during the dark winter months. We are now planning to **reopen the club on Tuesday 13th April** if the restrictions are lifted and the pool reopens as hoped on 12th April. Unfortunately, following lockdown three, our adult Masters swimmers cannot join us in training at the club until 17th May.

Fundraising for the club is a challenge, and we look to different schemes to raise funds for the club. Since we started it, the Easy fundraising account for the club has raised £841.46 for the club to date. The second year of the grant from the Ashford's Foundation was awarded in April 2020 and paid for the six new backstroke wedges we bought for the club in October. The year three grant from the Ashford's Foundation will be released for purchase of speakers and audio equipment in April 2021. In August 2020, the Crowdfunder campaign raised £5,575 during the pool lockdown to replace the cancelled Sparkler event. For the next 12 months the club has also been selected for the Co-op Local Community Fund running from Nov 2020 to Oct 2021, however this has raised limited funds during the months so far.

Swim Mark accreditation was achieved again in June 2020- thanks to the committee who submitted evidence for this Club Mark and to Sue Haigh the Swim mark co-ordinator for the club. Following publication of **Wavepower 2020-23**, the club policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated, and this information can be viewed in the policies section of our club website.

Club competitive opportunities – We did manage one session of Level X sprints on Tuesday 3rd November before the pool closed, and plan to run this new SE competition initiative when we can return to the pool.

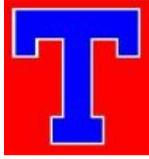
Officials' development- In October 2020 Hilary Brownlow, Edie Campbell, Lucy Webber, Gemma, and Jodie Dilks completed the online Timekeeper training for the level X events.

Publicity, social media, and Website- News items have been posted on the club website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts during the year to keep members in touch with the club.

Club Development- South West Region have started zoom meetings and forums for Club Chairs, Coaches, Covid officers, Welfare officers and soon a forum for Volunteer co-ordinators. We have had representatives attend these meetings on behalf of the club, to identify and follow best practice and receive updated information from Swim England.

Mid Devon Leisure staff have been fantastic during the pandemic and are very supportive of our return to swimming after each lockdown. I would like to thank Haley Walker in particular, for all her support in achieving our club's returns to the pool. Sylvia Cottrell at Wiveliscombe open-air pool was also a big support as she enabled us to access pool time in the Wivey open-air pool during August.

It is not clear the impact that COVID-19 will have on the **swimming club in 2021**, we have a reduced membership base and less pool time for swimmers due to social distancing and Lucy Walton will stand down from her head coach role at the end of June. We will need some time to restart training



Tiverton Swimming Club

for our swimmers, increase the club membership, find a new head coach, and eventually get back to swimming competitions as we go forward.

I have the following **suggestions for the club to focus on in 2021/22.**

1. Recruit a new head coach for the club for July onwards.
2. Identify additional teachers and coaches to volunteer on poolside.
3. Run level X racing plus a L4 club Championships and L3 Sparkler open meet.
4. Enter the NASL Arena League in October 2021
5. Join the Devon Mini league (when it restarts).
6. Organise a party in the park as a social event when groups can meet up in the summer.
7. Gain SwimMark Essential accreditation for the club in 2021.
8. Use Zoom meetings for the club for learning opportunities and meetings in the future.
9. Streamline the club organisational processes with the introduction of a new club management package.

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

Sara Dilks - Tiverton Swimming Club Chairman