



Tiverton Swimming Club

AGM 4th April 2018

Chairman's report for 2017/8 – Sara Dilks

Hello, thank you all for coming along this evening to hear how TSC has performed in the last year. We have seen the continued development of the coaching team, with Head Coach Lucy Walton being selected by Swim England to complete the Senior Coach training course and an increase in the number of volunteer coaches. Lucy has taken the training plans forward for the club and continues to drive the competitive nature of the club, with the help of the **entirely volunteer** coaching team who develop our swimmers skills and improve their competitive racing abilities. We have plenty of members who want to be part of this swimming club, but it would grind to a halt without our fantastic coaching team supporting the club every week. 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 and Garry Arrowsmith, Lorna Burston, John Bennet, Rosie Jones, Jasmine Swanston, Nathan Muggeridge, John Bishop, Christine Pugsley, Kerry Peters, Sue Haigh, Karen Fullick, Alison Williams, Helen Wilson, Teresa Smith and poolside helpers Lin Olsen, Jenny Miller, Peter Walker, Chris Davies and Judith McGregor-Harper. We can't do it without you.

During **2017** the club focused on:

1. Financial issues – fundraising, and to break even at year end.
2. Achieving Swim Mark Essential accreditation for the club
3. Updating the Club constitution and Terms and Conditions
4. Developing swimmers through the Club squad pathway.
5. Increasing the number of coaches, and poolside volunteers
6. Running the club competition calendar, and L4 club Champs & 11th Sparkler L3 open meet
7. Developing a new local Junior Team Gala event
8. Training club Time Keepers and Team managers
9. Competing in the Devon County club events and the NASL Arena league

I'm pleased to say we have delivered on these 2017 club objectives.

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

Fundraising is still a challenge. We have a volunteer club fundraising officer- Graham Yardley, who has applied for grants from Swim England and Persimmon Homes, Viridor and Cullompton town Council, plus Tesco bags of help, as well as undertaking a very successful fundraising campaign at the Sparkler open meet in November 2017. 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 Hepco-Motion for the event. Many thanks for his support in driving the fundraising forward for the club.

Club competitive objectives –We ran a full club competition calendar with good outcomes at meets, particularly at Devon Counties and South West Regional Championships and English Nationals in July. We held three CSA race night events and two distance nights for LTS children. We created a Junior Team gala to introduce our young swimmers into a team event, competed in the Devon Interclub gala, Relay gala, Devon development galas and Arena league in Division 2, finishing in 5th position. We also gave a variety open meet opportunities to our competitive swimmers throughout the year and held a L3 Sparkler open meet and L4 licenced club championship event. Sally is an amazingly diligent competition secretary and J1 official, who also offers time trials for our swimmers. We continue to develop land training 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 application to become a Swim England Senior coach. 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.

Time keeper development- In 2017/18, we have trained 18 parent/ volunteers to develop as timekeepers to support the licencing of the club championships to L4 in and support race nights

Team manager development- In 2017, we trained 8 team managers for the club who are able to support the club coaches with swimmer duty of care at open meets and galas.

Publicity- 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, which is a good place to look for club information and he ran an incredibly successful 11th Tiverton Sparkler in November which was enormously oversubscribed and difficult to manage- many thanks. News items are posted on the club Facebook site and the twitter account is growing in its followers, there is a club newsletter issued every 2 months. The poolside noticeboard is regularly updated with information about the club and upcoming galas. The club has also started an Instagram account which is rapidly growing in membership.

Social aspects- We offered fun splash pool events at the end of terms for the young swimmers at EVLC and Blundell's open air pool, and brought the club together for the Club Champs in July (we had 66 swimmers enter this year including Masters swimmers). The Junior Team gala was a great success in May and the team spirit and buses used to journey to the 3 Arena league galas were a great success this year. A club awards evening was held in January 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 has developed a fantastic new member welcome pack, recruits new 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 for our adult volunteers. Our club President Terry is one reason why we can run licenced meets, as a Swim England referee he has 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. There is one member retiring from office this year, Sue Haigh and many thanks to Sue who has served on the committee for quite a few years, achieving Swim Mark accreditation for the club once again this year.

I also want to personally thank the **young volunteers** who assist at the club Yasmin Smith, Chloe Mugeridge, Arabella Wilson and Dylan Cleverly all brilliant at giving time and effort to the club.

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 development **targets in mind for the club for 2018/9**

1. To gain Swim Mark essential accreditation, plus Eastern Devon Network Hub Swim Mark accreditation for the club again this year.
2. Implement GDPR compliance across the club.
3. Offer a L4 club Championships in July and L3 Sparkler open meet in Sept for our club swimmers at EVLC.
4. Enter a team in the Western division of the NASL Arena League
5. Increase the volunteer workforce- more coaches & teachers, more team managers plus more parents to assist with the running of the club.
6. Improve the communication occurring across the club between Parents and coaches
7. Increase the non-pool social events for our members.
8. Purchase 6 new starting blocks with adjustable footrests for members to use.
9. 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 a small impact on every swimmer. We have negotiated with the Leisure Centre Management Committee for a 3% rise in pool hire fees, and are likely to pass this increase onto swimmers in May, so we remain in financial balance as a club in the future.

My last note is- 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, and will stand down as Chairman at the AGM in March 2019, to make way for someone else to have an opportunity to take the club forward.

Do you have any questions? Thank you

Sara Dilks - Tiverton Swimming Club Chairman.

