



YORK CITY BATHS CLUB
Incorporating
York City Swimming Club (Founded 1882)
York Baths Club (Founded 1937)
Amalgamated 1951

Annex D



Dear Councillors

Following York City Baths Club (YCBC) representative attendance at the first Yearsley Pool Scrutiny Review session on the 24th February and subsequent correspondence to arrange for a scrutiny committee visit to the pool whilst a YCBC club session is in progress, we would like to take this opportunity to outline the importance of this facility to York's largest swimming club in a little more detail.

YCBC is a competitive swimming club which uses a variety of pools in York to support a comprehensive programme from learn to swim, through development and into competitive swimming. This includes Masters, an adult competitive and fitness squad. We also have options for younger swimmers who want to swim in a more structured non-competitive fitness group. The overall aim of the club is to teach York to swim and swim fast. The make-up of the club, summarised below, means YCBC is currently one of York's larger youth organisations:

- Learn to Swim - 280 swimmers aged from 4 years through to 11, taught to swim on an 8 stage development plan.
- Training for competition – 125 swimmers across 5 training squads working to compete for York in Club, County, Regional and National events. This broad training capability is a good example of 'grass roots' development that supports the national search for Team GB stars of the future.
- Swim Fit – a squad which enables swimming for just fitness or to compliment training for other sports activities, with 17 swimmers.
- Swimming Pathway programme – due to access to the Long Course training at Yearsley Pool (swimming in a pool over 25 meters) YCBC currently attracts swimmers from the Region and local universities who wish to enhance their training for competition at major swim events.
- Masters – an adult competitive and fitness squad with 35 swimmers.

Yearsley Pool is currently a key hub for YCBC that both supports Long Course training and allows for multi-squad training due to its capacity. Long Course swimming is a fundamental requirement to deliver a balanced training programme and support swimmer success in an annual competition cycle that operates just under 70% of key events in Long Course (50 metre) pools.

The closure of Yearsley Pool will mean YCBC is unable to continue with its current comprehensive training programme. A 45 metre pool can't be replaced by a 25 metre pool as the swimmer capacity is not like for like. The club's multi-squad training capability and interest in York for pathway development will be significantly reduced. Current swimmer numbers would be unsustainable from both water safety and financial perspectives. Losing the ability to provide a balance between long and short course swimming training locally, within the City of York, would impact the development of young swimmers and their ability to progress through the competitive ranks. The club's success at all levels of competition would be diminished (*please refer to Appendix A for a snapshot of current YCBC achievements*).

Simply put the expected outcome of the closure of Yearsley Pool is a forced downscale of club structure and size. YCBC would no longer be one of York's larger youth organisations.

Kind Regards

Craig Gibbons, Claire Douglas, Tony Brown



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Appendix A

Examples of YCBC Achievements in Competition

International

- An ex YCBC swimmer was part of Team GB at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, competing individually and winning a gold medal by helping the medley team to reach the final.

National Level Gala

- 5 swimmers represented YCBC in the 2014 British Gas ASA National Championships.

Regional Level Galas (North East)

- YCBC squad of 22 qualifiers in the 2014 ASA NER Winter Championships, achieving a 59% personal best record with a total of 11 medals.
- 16 swimmers at ASA NER Regional Age Group Championships May 14.

County Level Galas (Yorkshire)

- YCBC had 32 qualifiers in the Yorkshire 2015 Spring Sprints competition, achieving 75% personal bests and 8 medals including 2 Yorkshire Champions.
- YCBC squad of 33 qualifiers in the Yorkshire 2015 Spring Championships with 54% personal bests and 20 medals including 3 Yorkshire Champions.
- At the Yorkshire Winter Championships YCBC had 42 qualifiers with 71% personal bests. Achieving nine medals between them.

Swimming Club Galas

- In the season so far YCBC have captured two top club trophies (Doncaster Dartes, & Rotherham Metro).

Masters

- A new British record holder, breaking the previous record which had stood for fourteen years.
- Three swimmers from York City Baths Club were part of a Yorkshire team that won the ASA National Masters and Senior Inter Counties Competition.
- Five medals out of five events in the British Gas ASA Nationals Masters and Seniors Short Course Championship 2014 in Sheffield in October 14.
- A ten-strong York City Baths Club swimming team came home with an impressive 34 medals after competing in the Yorkshire Open Masters Championships.

Open Water

- Two swimmers represented YCBC at the North East Regional Open Water Championships, with a joint first and 5th place achieved.
- One swimmer representing the club at the National Open Water Championships.