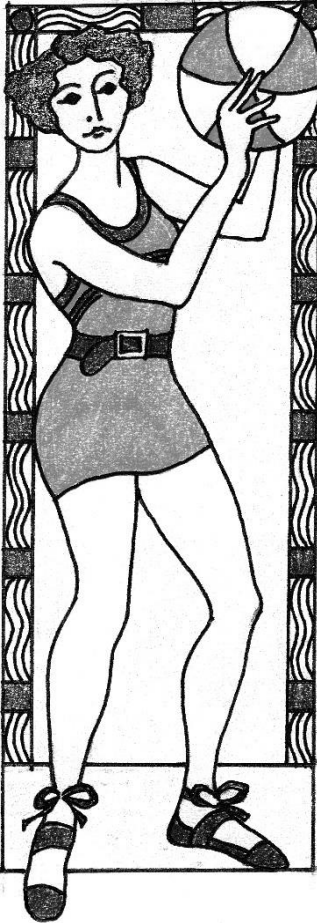


## Henleaze Swimming Club Members Annual Report 2019



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### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The centenary year for the Club draws to a close, having provided many happy memories. The numerous centenary events and the succession of busy days were a challenge for the operational staff, but the team performed admirably throughout – thank you, to all the superintendents.

I would also like to record my thanks to Alison Laity, our General Manager, and Josie Evans, Assistant General Manager, for their management of all the many aspects involved in keeping the Club in good shape. Their contribution has been vital to the success of this special year.

Whilst the centenary was the focus, many other things have been achieved over the past year. Two that I would like to mention are the extension to the swimming limit including the excellent new steps (do try them), and the replacement of the diving boards and bases. These have been significant investments in facilities for the greater benefit of members.

We made a significant development in wider engagement with the introduction of a community access scheme. I was particularly pleased also that the social prescribing scheme, featured at last year's AGM, had a second successful year.

The Club Annual General Meeting is well worth a diary note – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 7.30pm, Westbury-on-Trym Village Hall. I hope you will come along for this – top-quality refreshments provided! Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you next year – maybe even on 1<sup>st</sup>.January 2020, 12 noon to 1.30pm, for the New Year's Day swim!

**Andrew Stewart**  
**Club Chairman**

Henleaze Swimming Club, PO Box 140, Bristol BS10 6YD  
Company no: 7011983; Charity no: 1132633  
General Manager: Alison Laity - 0117 9493766 – Alison@henleazeswimmingclub.org

## **2019 at the Lake**

This time last year whilst writing this section of the annual report I was very aware how important it was for the Club to celebrate its centenary year in style and make it an event the members would not forget.

I need not have worried. With good planning, great support from the staff & volunteers and fantastic weather, we really did the Club proud.

Although hard work, it was great to see everyone enjoying the 10 days of events. We received a lot of positive feedback from members expressing their thanks, how much they enjoyed the celebrations and how it brought everyone together. I am keen to see this ' Club spirit' continue into to 2020 and beyond.

Susie Parr's book 'The Lake' has also been an important part of our centenary celebrations. It was amazing to see so many members engrossed in its pages on the book launch day. You will have another opportunity to purchase a copy at the 2019 AGM – it really is a must read for new and old members of the Lake.

Many thanks to the lead superintendents & superintendents who worked extremely hard to ensure that all the events went smoothly and their continued professionalism throughout the year helped ensure safe swimming at the Lake.

I would just like to take the opportunity to thank two people in particular who have been of significant support – Josie Evans Deputy General Manager who since her appointment has been a great addition to the operations team and Roy Pitt, who is always willing to do extra when I ask him and I ask him a lot! He has been particularly helpful in managing a lot of our wider usage one off events.

Thanks again to the Executive Committee members who have continued to support the operations team in its delivery of a well-run Club.

**Alison Laity**  
**General Manager**

## **Henleaze Swimming Club Treasurer's Report for Year Ending 30 September 2019**

The year has ended with current assets of £210,352 a decrease of £31,683 due to the expense of the diving boards and other improvements around the lake.

It is not the intention to permanently increase our reserves beyond what is necessary for the reserves policy declared to the Charities Commission. The reserves have been separated into two sections. The first amounts to the general reserve of £75,000 and the second reserve; £127,276 is related to the club's anticipated expenditure on ground developments over the next five years.

Swimming subscription income increased from £186,942 to £202,918. This income includes £16,711 from our 342 winter swimmers.

Swimming visitor income increased with much of the income concentrated on the days with good weather. Income from Bristol and District Triathletes was again covered by a fixed fee of £1,520.

Total angling income for the year is £0 as all fishing has been suspended as the lake. Last year's tally was £4,080.

Other income includes £1,000 from a fund able to make donations to charities administered by a firm of local solicitors. At the end of the year we had £6,940 from book sales along with £2,561 sales of clothing and cards.

The wage figure, £117,726, which is a rise from the previous season's total of £107,584.

Water quality remains a high priority at the lake and a lot of work goes on in the background to ensure that the standard exceeds the minimum requirements. The expenditure for this year has been £17,262 which is a £2k decrease compared to last year.

Our reserves are now banked in a charities account with Virgin Money. The interest rate currently stands at 0.5% which is competitive for an instant access charity deposit account.

**Andrew Asplin**

**October 2019**

**Henleaze Swimming Club**  
**Draft Statement of Financial Activities (prior to**  
**Independent Examination)**  
**(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure**  
**Account)**  
**for the Year Ended 30 September 2019**

	2019 Unrestricted funds £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>	10,501
Donations, book sales and location fees	
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>	
Swimming subscriptions	186,207
Diving	0
Winter dipper subscriptions	16,711
Swimming visitors	32,801
Fishing subscriptions	-281
Fishing visitors	0
<b>Other incoming resources</b>	
Bank interest received	591
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	246,530
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	
<b>Charitable activities</b>	
Wages	117,726
Cost of stock	13,157
Utilities	9,012
Insurance	11,307
Sundries	14,454
Affiliation fees	189
Repairs and maintenance: Routine	20,219
Repairs and maintenance: Major items	4,574
Water quality	17,262
Cardnet services	1,195
Depreciation	9,081
	218,176
<b>Governance costs</b>	
Administration	10,293
Professional fees	12,376
	22,669
<b>Total resources expended</b>	240,845
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	5,685
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>	
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	520,394
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	526,079

## **Water Quality and Grounds**

We have had a very good year in terms of bacterial pollution: with all readings very low and no spikes after heavy rainfall. We expect to maintain our “Good” classification under the EU Bathing Water directive which is based on controlling bacterial pollution and hope to reach the “excellent” classification in the next few years.

Controlling and reducing levels of blue-green algae in the Lake is a key priority. We continue to take action to reduce blue green algae in the Lake and improve water clarity. It is a complex and difficult issue with no quick fixes. Our water quality data does, however, indicate that we are beginning to make progress on this issue and hope to see visible improvement over the next few years.

We continue to enhance the Lake for wildlife and increase biodiversity at the Lake. The Club can only allocate limited funds to this aspect of the Lake, so we are very grateful for donations over the last few years from a charitable trust that helps us progress this work. It is worth taking a walk up the north end of the Lake during the summer months to see the increasing number of dragon flies, butterflies, pollinators and wild flowers.

I would like to thank all members of the Environment subcommittee, Bristol Conservation Volunteers, Hayley Shail (gardener) and Lee Price (groundsman) for their contributions to keeping the Lake beautiful.

**Mark Thompson**  
**Chair - Environment Subcommittee**

## **Angling**

After the very serious intruders’ incident on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 all Club activities were suspended. Following an emergency meeting of the executive committee, supervised activities were restarted whilst unsupervised activities – notably angling – remained suspended. All anglers were refunded their 2019 subscription. A subcommittee was established to review the implications of the incident.

That detailed review has now taken place. The review process included consideration of the future development of wider usage at the lake in line with our charitable objective, as well as the specific issue of angling. Some points arising were:

- The serious incident on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 illustrated the extreme risk of unsupervised access to the lake.
- Angling numbers have been declining and were down to 39 @ 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- Since the suspension of angling we have seen an improvement in the water quality results.

The two main conclusions reached, which have now been endorsed by the Club committee, were as follows:

- Unsupervised activities at the lake will no longer be permitted and angling, as it has previously been operated will not be reinstated for the following reasons.
  - the unsustainable cost of providing angling supervision (taking into account angling membership revenue at its recent level);
  - the adverse impact on water quality of angling in its previous form; and

- the need to open up the Club's resources for use by the wider community (which would not be possible if the angling end of the lake remained closed to everyone but anglers).
- The existing wider usage programme will be increased and actively promoted.

We believe that this outcome gives significant potential to increase wider usage at the lake, both in numbers of users and variety of activity, and will thus better fulfil our charitable aims. We have now approved a budget for this purpose for the year ahead, and have already identified potential new users including from within the local Southmead area.

## **Staff & Operations**

### **Swimming Membership**

Thank you all for complying with the deadlines early this year for returning your renewal application forms. Your patience while we dealt with the volume of applications that arrived in such a short space of time was also greatly appreciated. It is important to have membership processing completed as early in the year as possible so time and resources can then be focused on preparing the Lake for the opening of the summer season. Very many thanks to the volunteers who processed membership applications this year.

We had a total of 2226 members this year, of which 370 were juniors. This is the first year we have given the option of 'full' or 'weekday' membership to all members renewing. Weekday membership was taken up by 56 members.

We were able to offer membership to 250 people on the waiting list and so were able to open the waiting list again. The Club received 700 applications so we now have a full waiting list of 400. All of the people joining the waiting list were required to take up Community Access as part of their membership application - an initiative which continued to be successful in 2019 and which the Club hopes to grow in 2020.

### **Sophie Summers Membership Secretary**

### **Future Development**

At recent AGMs there has been discussion on how the facilities at the Lake can be improved and fit for purpose for the next Century.

After the enlarged sauna replacement in July 2017 the Executive Committee has given ongoing consideration to the need to refurbish or develop others buildings and facilities at the Lake.

In the last year the Executive Committee has had many other priorities - in particular the Centenary Celebrations which was a great success but did take up considerable time.

Members will also have noted that there have been other significant improvements, costing approximately £46K, particularly to the replacement of the old springboards, steps and infrastructure improvement to enable the swim extension to 160 metres, for summer months, and electrics provision at Lakeside required for the Centenary Celebrations and future events. The implementation of these improvements also took considerable time but have added to the members enjoyment of the Lake.

Now with the successful Centenary Celebrations behind us, it is time to return to the question of possible improvements at The Lake. We have also taken time in 2019 to further consider the feedback we have received from members regarding their thoughts on future development.

The separate financial report comments on reserves held. The most effective use of these funds, and funds generated from future years' operations, have to be carefully considered and meet our members' and employees' requirements for now and in the future.

## **Alan Giles**

### **Wider usage of the Lake**

During 2019 the Club continued to deliver on its charitable aim of providing open water swimming facilities and facilitating wider usage of the Lake and our facilities to the community.

We have continued to work with Southmead Development Trust on their Social Prescribing Project, with new and more patients visiting us on a Thursday. This initiative has been very well received and the Club will be looking to expand on it in 2020.

We continue to offer training sessions for non-members training for an open water event with some raising significant amounts of money in support of their chosen charities.

We have had visits from cub and scout groups. It has often been the first time most of the children have swum in open water and it has been a very enjoyable and fun experience for them. Both groups have asked to come back next year!

In 2020 we are hoping to expand our wider usage activities in ways which increase access to the Lake for the local community. We are planning a structured outreach exercise, to identify how new groups might want to access our facilities. As mentioned above, the Club is looking to grow its Community Access scheme to allow wider usage of the Lake at quieter times.

## **Ros Miller Head of Wider Usage**

### **Henleaze Swimming Club Committee and Officers, 2019**

<b>President</b>	Mark Thompson
<b>Chair</b>	Andrew Stewart
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Ros Miller – (from January 2019)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Andrew Asplin
<b>Assistant Treasurers</b>	Mark Thompson, Ross Harley
<b>Lake Trustees</b>	Alan Giles, Ross Harley, Mark Thompson, Ros Miller (from January 2019)
<b>Other Committee Members</b>	Richard Spence, Sophie Summers (Resigned October 2019), Sarah Webster (Resigned May 2019), Abigail Davies (Resigned April 2019), David Bruce, Scott Fisher (from March 2019) Charles Booth (From March 2019).