



Winter 2010



Chairman's perspective

Welcome to our winter 2010 Poolside Chat By Daphne Wharton Hampton Pool Trust Chair

The main news is, of course, the completion of the changing room refurbishment – just in time for Christmas! Our thanks go to the YMCA London South West (YMCA LSW) for their assistance with the project and to you, our customers, for putting up with the portakabins.

25th anniversary celebrations

Hampton Pool Trust's 25th anniversary celebrations seem to have passed incredibly quickly. The buffet party on 18th June was a formal and timely thank you to all those who went the extra mile to save the pool in 1985 and to all the individuals and organisations that have contributed to the continued success of Hampton Pool. (Photograph above shows the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames with the Chair and President of Hampton Pool Trust.) I hope that you had the opportunity to enjoy the Family Fun Day on 25th July and to come along to our celebration summer concerts. 10cc, Courtney Pine, The Lightning Seeds, Elkie Brooks, Kid Creole and the Coconuts and The Stars from The Commitments were all a huge success.

Thanks to Grahame Hadden, our outgoing Chairman

As incoming Chairman, I would like to thank

Grahame Hadden for his outstanding contribution to the success of Hampton Pool as Chair over the last four years. Grahame has steered the board to deliver, through a successful partnership with the management team of the YMCA LSW, first rate facility improvements and a comprehensive programme of activities for all our users.

Looking forward

The board has accomplished a great deal in managing and investing in Hampton Pool since 1985 but there is never an end to what can be achieved. We are currently putting together a vision and strategy for the next five years. The draft plan will be made public on the Hampton Pool website in January and your views will be sought through a process of public and user group consultation. Open meetings will be held on 10th and 12th February. Further details will be available nearer the time. We will also be looking for your support with fundraising.

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Become a member of Hampton Pool Trust

Hampton Pool Trust (HPT) exists to oversee the general business of running Hampton Pool and to secure the pool's long term future for community use. There are about 70 members of the Company who are all passionate about Hampton Pool. The Board of Trustees is elected by the members. The YMCA London South West has been appointed to act as the managing agent.

For further information about becoming a member of Hampton Pool Trust or help with fundraising contact hpt@hamptonpool.co.uk or leave your contact details at reception.

In this issue...news and views from Hampton Pool Trust. Read about what the Trust has achieved and its plans for the future.

A valuable public amenity

By Marshall Lees Hampton Pool Trust President

In 1922, the local council provided Hampton open-air swimming pool as a public amenity for the benefit of all who wished to use its facilities. 63 years later, responsibility for the pool was transferred to Hampton Pool Limited, a new, voluntary, not-for-profit body.

After 25 years in the care of this registered charity, now called Hampton Pool Trust, the pool's role is the same as when it opened 88 years ago. And its current Directors/ Trustees have the same responsibility to provide an excellent public amenity that the Council would otherwise have had.

Today along with the council-controlled Teddington Pool and Richmond Pools on the Park, Hampton Pool is the third public swimming pool in the London Borough of

Richmond-upon-Thames. The Hampton Pool Trustees are therefore first and foremost the guardians of this unique public amenity for the whole community.



Hampton Pool welcomes the YMCA London South West new Chief Executive, Richard James

By Daphne Wharton, Editor

After gaining a degree in Architectural Engineering at University of Wales Cardiff, Richard started his professional career in finance and sales as a General Manager and then Director of a shipping company in South Wales.

At the turn of the millennium, Richard gave up his job to start a youth and community project in Swansea. He took qualifications in Detached Youth Work, Counseling and Youth and Community Work before leaving Wales to set up another youth and community work project known as Oxygen in Kingston. Richard has since obtained an MA in Youth Ministry and Theological Education as well as various management and housing courses.

Alongside his studies and vocational career, as a rugby loving Welshman, Richard brings a passion for sport and good exercise to his new role with the YMCA.

These are interesting times to be leading a charity the size of the YMCA, yet Richard is optimistic about the future:

"Two themes seem to be dominating society at present; *financial austerity* and *Big Society*. I believe the YMCA LSW, in partnership with great community organisations like the Hampton Pool Trust, can address these two issues. Firstly we are great value for money, secondly we are a community response to local need, and third all our profits are invested back into helping people who need extra support." A keen advocate of the work at Hampton Pool, Richard is keen to see how the relationship between the Hampton Pool Trust, the YMCA and the local community can grow.

YMCA London South West (previously Kingston & Wimbledon YMCA) is a registered charity that works across South West London providing a range of services including supported housing; children's work; sports, health, exercise and fitness; youth work; catering services and conference facilities; short stay hostel accommodation and community programmes.

Hampton Pool is managed by the YMCA LSW on behalf of the Hampton Pool Trust.

Comment

from the Chairman

COMMUNICATION between Hampton Pool Trustees and members, customers, the local community and our managing agents the YMCA LSW is being improved through:

- A revamped Poolside Chat
- An electronic forum for members
- A Hampton Pool Trust notice board in reception
- A quarterly consultative group to discuss changes to the programme
- Annual informal social events with HPT members and Hampton Pool staff
- An away day with the senior management of the YMCA-LSW, our managing agent, on the 15 January, to review the past three years of the contract and to discuss our vision for the next five years

Seasonal

See the Hampton Pool website for further details about:

Christmas Carol Concert

Christmas opening times

New Year gym offers

Your views

We welcome your contributions and feedback.

Please drop us a line at

hpt@hamptonpool.co.uk



Introducing....Richard James Chief Executive YMCA LSW

"I have visited Hampton Pool for a number of years and I love bringing friends and family along to this hidden gem at the heart of the community. As we look to the future, I want to see how the pool can grow and shine all the more and in the process draw more people in to see how great it is."

Changing for the better

By Grahame Hadden Hampton Pool Trust Technical Director

It's been all systems go this year. While doing essential repairs in the changing rooms, we've also improved the design of the facilities and made areas easier to keep clean and maintain.

Drainage issues resolved

In the past two years we've identified drainage issues in both changing rooms which have caused damp walls, peeling paint, loose floor tiles and, on occasions, an unpleasant odour. So last April work started in the men's changing rooms and the cause of the problems were located and rectified. This September it was the turn of the ladies' changing rooms to be upgraded.

Work carried out in the changing rooms has included:

- Blocked drains replaced
- Floors retiled with larger floor tiles
- Shower ceilings clad with easy clean Whiterock waterproof cladding – minimising the potential for mould growth
- Ventilation in the shower areas improved
- New lockers provided – fitted to the outside walls, on tiled plinths, making cleaning easier
- New changing benches installed
- Changing room decorated throughout

Completion due before Christmas

Work is proceeding well and should be completed before Christmas – all the more reason to come for a dip on sunny winter days. We hope you enjoy your new changing rooms and that they will enhance your visits to Hampton Pool.

Hampton Pool is not just for Christmas

This summer we experienced very high levels of usage due to the sustained balmy weather; on one day alone 2,442 customers enjoyed a cooling dip. Overall, more people are finding out about Hampton's best kept secret and attendances have climbed from 25,000 in the summer of 1985 to nearly 200,000 in 2010.

However, it would be great to see more people enjoying the benefits of open air swimming through the winter months. Last year nearly 1300 people visited the pool on Christmas morning! But on a bright February day 200 is the norm!! Make a New Year's resolution to visit Hampton pool on a regular basis. Come on in! The water is lovely and is kept at a tropical 28C! You can further enhance your visit by spending time in the sauna to really charge up your batteries.

Please pick up a winter timetable or check our website for opening times



Hampton Pool staff

Heartfelt thanks from Hampton Pool Trustees to all YMCA LSW staff who have contributed to the smooth running of Hampton Pool over the busy summer months, particularly on days when there were over 2000 customers to keep happy.

Wedding of the year!

Congratulations to Flo Noble who married Andrew Milford at St Mary's, Long Ditton, on 23rd of October. Flo has been swimming at the pool since a toddler and has taken on a wide variety of roles throughout her association with the pool including swim teaching.

THE HAMPTON POOL PROJECT

By Marshall Lees
HPT President

Two mountains down

Over the years Hampton Pool Trust, its directors, trustees and volunteers have taken on what at times have seemed like insurmountable challenges.

The first was to find a way to revive the fortunes of the much-loved, loss-making, council-run, unheated summer open-air swimming pool, which, was threatened by demolition. Reaching the summit of this mountainous challenge took two years (1983-5) of public-spirited effort.

The second mountain took longer to climb (1993-2006). This task was to find a way of replacing the old, leaky main swimming pool and refurbishing the shabby, rundown changing and showering facilities. This cost more than £1 million. As a result of a huge fund-raising effort, the new swimming tank arrived in 2004 and the changing rooms were refurbished in 2006.

Another mountain to climb

Now a third challenge is looming large for the Trust – the long term well being of the pool. Because the pool appears to be in good shape, this mountain may not seem as obvious as its predecessors. However as much as £900,000 may be needed over the next few years.

Potential improvements

- Expansion of the entrance hall, office space and storage.
- Investment in greener energy sources
- Making Hampton pool more inclusive
- Resurfacing and upgrading the car park
- Replacing the pool surround
- Enlarging the gym
- Enlarging the cafeteria

Hampton Pool Afloat

By Barbara Perry Hampton Pool Afloat Chair

It's been a busy year for members of Hampton Pool Afloat, the swimming and social club. As well as gardening work, including organising the hanging baskets that provided a wonderful display well into the autumn, club volunteers also helped at the fund-raising summer concerts.

Concert nights effort

More than 50 members provided about 500 hours of help, acting as fire marshals, litter pickers and bar staff. Not only did they do a great job on the actual concert nights, they also did a huge amount of behind the scene organising of supplies, including this year's innovation – draught beer and lager. Special

thanks go to Kevin Rice for much of this, and to Andrew Pratt for setting things in motion – plans ably taken forward by Caroline Curd. Although it was hard work, everyone involved also enjoyed the experience very much – even if there was little chance to appreciate the music, as we were all too busy! See photo below.

Quiz night coming up

Plans are now afoot for more fundraising efforts – a vital part of the club's activities. So it's time to start swotting up, as there's a quiz night coming up on Friday 11th February at Hampton Infants School. This isn't limited to club members so look out for posters nearer the time and come along.

Committed new members Welcome

Hampton Pool Afloat welcome new members, either individual swimmers or families, as long as they are committed to the future of Hampton Pool and want to provide support for its continued existence. You don't have to be a dedicated lengths swimmer either to enjoy the club sessions. There's always a section of the pool for recreational swimming – and space for children's games. You can enjoy the 'bring your own food' barbecue held on Tuesday and Sunday evenings from April to September. Tempted? Then come Along and join us next season! All the details are on the Hampton Pool website and leaflets will be at the pool early in the New Year.



Summer Picnic Concerts – South West London's best kept secret

The 2010 Hampton Pool Concert Season was the most successful ever – raising over £45,000 for pool funds. Over 5,000 people attended our concerts of original bands including 10CC, Courtney Pine, Lightening Seeds, Elkie Brooks, Kid Creole & The Coconuts and The Stars from The Commitments. While over 50% of our concert attendees are from south west London, the popularity of our concerts has spread far and wide with ticket sales in all quarters of the UK and abroad. Concert goers came from Stockport, Edinburgh, Bristol, Swansea, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Wight, Weymouth, Zagreb in Croatia and Alicante in Spain!!

The concerts are produced by HPT Marketing Director, Paul Campbell. Paul, like many of us, has a passion for the pool. He spends literally hundreds of hours each year, all unpaid, researching and booking the bands and organising the concerts. The concerts are now HPT's biggest, most consistent and longstanding fundraising event. **Thank you, Paul.**

Hampton Pool is an independently run registered charity
Thanks to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity and
the local community for their financial support

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www.hamptonpool.co.uk

THE HAMPTON POOL PROJECT cont.

Where is the money for
this programme to come
from?

We hope some of it will come from ongoing operating surpluses. The summer fund-raising concerts are doing wonderfully well. The 200 club is doing its bit. The trustees have a lot of experience of successfully raising funds from public sources and will put that expertise to work again. But more resources and many more fund-raising events are necessary. Ideally an organising mechanism such as a very active "Friends of Hampton Pool" would encourage and assist supporters and well wishers to run special events and to seek donations and legacies. The Trustees are working on such a scheme and will give details in the New Year

The role of YMCA LSW

In addition to running the day-to-day operations to high standards and generating useful operating surpluses, YMCA LSW Management team has shown that it shares the HPT passion for making Hampton Pool progressively better and keeping it financially solvent. It has already provided a better telephone service, a better computer system and has installed improved boilers. Also it has provided £100,000 towards the cost of work on the changing rooms. So the ascent of Mountain No 3 will be a joint effort by HPT and YMCA LSW.

Perhaps this piece of ancient wisdom will help us along the way.
"Think big and your deeds will grow
Think small and you'll lag behind
Think that you can and the job's half done
It's all in the frame of your mind" (Anon)