



hampton pool trust

# Poolside Chat

News from the charity securing the future of Hampton Pool

WINTER 2014

**Hampton Pool Trust is a small independent not for profit company and educational charity.**

It is run by volunteers with a vision to maintain Hampton Pool as a safe, welcoming, enjoyable, sustainable and inspirational heated, public open air swimming environment, all year round.

Registered in England No 1870925, limited by guarantee. Charity No 294117



**Would you like to become a member or Trustee of Hampton Pool Trust?**

Hampton Pool Trust members are passionate about the facility and how it is run. If you care about the future of the pool then why not become a member of the 'company', or even a Trustee?

#### A company?

Hampton Pool Trust is registered as both a charity *and* a company. The company owns the building and the pool and exists to secure the long term future of the pool for community use.

#### Limited liability and responsibility

Each member of the company is liable in the unlikely scenario of bankruptcy – but it is limited to only £25. There are over 100 members of the company and they elect the Board of Trustees who are responsible for the general oversight of the running of the pool.

#### Become a Trustee

HPT Trustees attend a Board meeting once a month to oversee YMCA LSW's (our appointed managing agent) day-to-day operations of the pool and to progress the HPT strategic plan.

Sound interesting? If you are passionate about Hampton Pool and would like to join the team aiming to make it an inspiration for the popularity of sustainable, open air swimming, and the good management of a local community facility, then please contact [daphne.wharton@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](mailto:daphne.wharton@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk)

#### Get in touch

We welcome your contributions and feedback. Please drop us a line at [info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](mailto:info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk)



Christmas Day Swim 2013

## Reaching out to you – our stakeholders

by Daphne Wharton, Chair of Hampton Pool Trust

**The Consultative Group was set up in 2011 to represent the stakeholder groups of Hampton Pool: Poolside Swim & BBQ Club, Thames Turbo, general swim, gym users, aqua aerobics, water polo, neighbours, local councillors and LBRuT Leisure Services.**

The CEO of YMCA LSW and the Chair of HPT are ex-officio members. The YMCA LSW Director of Operations Angela Garrett and the Centre Manager Simon Bailey, or their representatives, are present at every meeting. Barbara Perry from the Poolside Swim & BBQ Club is Chair. At each meeting the group receives for comment and consultation:

- plans that seek to change, modify, enhance or reduce service activity or arrangements
- an update on the operations and developments of Hampton Pool
- group members comments upon the services provided
- the annual Wet and Dry Side Activity Development Plan for Hampton Pool.

The group consists of between ten and fifteen members and is empowered to make recommendations to the Hampton Pool Trust board of trustees. The Thursday evening meetings take place three times a year and the minutes and documents of the Consultative Group are uploaded onto the HPT website for members of the Trust to read.

Over the past few years this group has provided an invaluable channel of communication between

customers and stakeholders of Hampton Pool and HPT and the YMCA LSW management team. Thanks must go to all the members of the group for their commitment and the time they give to help improve the quality of this wonderful community facility. *An ex officio member is a member of a body (a board, committee, council, etc.) who is part of it by virtue of holding another office.*

#### Meet the members Hampton Pool's Consultative Group

##### Richard James

CEO of YMCA London South West, B Eng. MAFRSA

I have lived in south west London for 13 years. I am a rugby loving, passionate Welshman. I have worked as a director of an international shipping company, pioneered two youth and community charities and written journals on theology, youth work and community engagement. As CEO of the YMCA LSW I am committed to seeing the pool becoming a great, healthy, sustainable resource for the whole community. *Continued on page 3*



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*We are a charity that depends on voluntary assistance and donations to secure the future of the pool.*

*If you can help in any way, please get in touch with us at [info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](mailto:info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk)*

*Thanks to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity and the local community for their financial support.*

# HPT Chair's letter

Welcome to our winter 2014 edition of Poolside Chat

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## Meet the Trustees

Joe Tarragano, Marketing Committee

With two small children, the pool of course features regularly in my life. Both are learning to swim there. And do so alongside friends from outside the pool as well as in. Like the school, the pub and the many playgrounds, the pool is another key part of Hampton's social spaces.

And I'm delighted my children have a ritual they'll tell their kids about when discussing their childhood – the Christmas Day swim.

Apart from playing with the kids, I myself am in there regularly as a member of the Thames Turbos. Having access to a 36m pool to train in at 6am and 10pm is a key component of my feeble triathlon attempts and I'm pleased there is a strong link between the local club and the local pool.

My experience beyond the pool is in online organisations and I try to bring some of this business expertise to bear in my role as trustee. Hampton may not have the resources of an eBay, but there are further ways in which it can embrace the digital revolution and I hope to offer some experience in this area.

I'm an active Twitter user, so the regular photos of the pool looking glorious bring a smile to my face. But they also remind me that the pool is more than a functional space. I doubt people tweet pictures of their gym for example, but Hampton's Pool is worth talking about and inspires people to share.

As a trustee, these things help me appreciate just how lucky we are to have Hampton Pool, and that we must work hard to protect and develop this privilege for current, potential and future users. ●

In March with temperatures of 20°C, summer 2014 was predicted to be a heat wave. However, although there were several memorable spells of fine, settled weather in both June and July there were no major heat-waves and August was rather more unsettled and cooler with very heavy rainfall at times. You may remember that the remnants of ex-Hurricane Bertha passed over the UK helping to make August the coolest since 1993!

So overall the summer statistics were reasonably close to average and not as warm as the summer of 2013. In some ways this helped to make swimming at Hampton Pool during the summer months a more inviting experience. Despite the low key weather, TNT, the pools summer activity club for children, saw record numbers attending.

### Record year for Summer Picnic Concerts

Fortunately, the Hampton Pool Summer Picnic Concerts took place in July and music lovers enjoyed fine weather, apart from one memorable evening when a storm threatened. However despite lightning strikes looking dangerously close, the judicious use of a storm tracker showed that the storm would pass north of the pool and the concert was not disrupted. The line up this year attracted record crowds with five out of six concerts selling out. So all in all, a great concert series, a great response from the community, a great effort by the HPT concert team and Hampton Pool staff and a healthy contribution to funds needed for HPT's building project plans.

Thanks also to Nicola Gill, our local Hampton Hill florist at *Branching Out* who hosted a stunning window display in June advertising the concerts.



minute concerns about the revised articles before they were sent to the Charity Commission to be accepted. The articles had been circulated and revised by members over the past three years as they needed to be changed to reflect changes in charity law. They were also reviewed by a solicitor specialising in charity law. If accepted the Articles will have to be adopted by the members of the company by special resolution. It is planned that this will happen at the AGM in March.

The Open Forum was for the Board to report back to members on the 16 resolutions proposed by Carrie Lees at the 2014 AGM on behalf of Marshall Lees. The Board was also able to report that good progress is being made on agreeing the new Management Agreement with YMCA LSW. It is hoped that this will be signed off by both Boards by the end of the year.

In parallel with agreeing the management contract a building project team has been set up and a project plan populated with strategic dates. The first step is to agree the outline envelope development plan as already proposed, to conduct preliminary site surveys, to create detailed document to take to stakeholders, the Royal Parks and LBRuT planning in March. The team has set an ambitious target start date of winter 2015 to help maintain focus and momentum. If you would like to help preserve Hampton Pool for the future and would like to make a donation to the building project fund the Trust has set up BT My Donate to facilitate donations (search *BTmydonate*) – this can be accessed easily from the Hampton Pool website.

### Poolside freshly brewed coffee

The new improved poolside kiosk was opened this summer serving ice creams, cold drinks, snacks and a variety of freshly ground coffees from espresso to cappuccino. This has created a much needed extension of accessible provision



Generous donations were also made at the concerts in response to an appeal in memory of Marshall Lees, Hampton Pool project founder who sadly died unexpectedly in January 2014, for two projects dear to his heart: Hampton Pool Lift Fund and The Brain Tumour Charity (BTC) formerly The Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust (SDBTT). The total raised by the bucket collection was £1068 that was split equally between the two causes – £534 being donated to each.

### Trust member meetings

A General Meeting and an Open Forum were held in November. The General Meeting was to give members a final chance to flag up any last



Dates to note:

**Christmas swim times:**  
Christ. Eve: 6am-2pm;  
Christ. Day: 8am-12pm;  
Boxing Day to NYE: 8pm-2pm;  
NYD: 8am-2pm

**Moonlight Dips:**  
Fridays  
19 Dec.  
6 March

of beverages and snacks available at poolside level all year round. The new umbrellas have also provided a welcome source of protection from sun and rain. The kiosk was closed for some temporary repairs in October but should be open again from December onwards.

### Join us for a Christmas Day swim

Hampton Pool invites you to start your Christmas Day celebrations with a refreshing morning swim. Your Christmas meal will taste twice as nice. But remember Hampton Pool is not just for Christmas, it's a great way to increase your well being all through the winter. What can be better than swimming in the open air in the tropical warm waters of Hampton Pool?

In 2015 Hampton Pool will be celebrating 30 years of being run as a community venture. Make sure you check out the website for activities planned to commemorate this fantastic achievement.

Happy Christmas, best wishes for 2015 and enjoy your winter swimming at Hampton Pool. ●

Daphne Wharton

Daphne Wharton, Hampton Pool Trust Chair



## Meet the members Hampton Pool's Consultative Group *Continued*

### Jon Porter

*representing Thames Turbo Triathlon Club*

Replacing David Kehler as Secretary in November, I have been in the sport of triathlon for over eight years following 28 years in rugby and have been a member of Thames Turbo for just over seven. I have competed at all distances up to and including Ironman. I am also a qualified coach and have enjoyed passing my knowledge on to both our seniors and juniors. I'm very excited about taking a directors position and helping our club to reach its goal in bringing the sport of triathlon all those that wish to take part in it.



### Gwen Hadden

*representing aqua aerobics*

I learned to swim in a river messing about with friends as a child and spent most summers swimming in freshwater lakes.

On arriving in north London I swam in an open air unheated lido during the summer on my way to work. I came to Hampton 34 years ago. As soon as Hampton Pool reopened and my children graduated from swimming club I came whenever I had free time to swim and eventually joined the regular aqua sessions and studio sessions for fitness.



### Andy Chapple

*representing residential neighbours of the pool*

My wife and I moved to Hampton two years ago so are still relatively new to the area. We are immediate neighbours to the pool and enjoy everything it has offer. As far as background is concerned, I work for the Civil Service in a physical development and an assurance role.



### Omya Laing

*representing families*

My family and I moved to Hampton Hill a year ago and we have settled into the community very easily and happily. I am a mother of three children and that is

currently my full time job! I am a primary school teacher by profession and I have taught in a range of schools both in and outside the UK.



### Councillor Suzette Nicholson

*representing Hampton Ward*

I am a teacher by profession although I haven't taught in recent years. I am very pleased that since a by-election in October 2004 I have continued to be elected as a Councillor in Hampton Ward.



### Behdad Shambayati

*representing gym users*

I am a consultant clinical scientist working for the NHS. I first moved to Hampton in 1984 when the pool was in its infancy.

I used the pool in the early days and I started using the gym a few years ago. It is a small but adequate gym, with helpful staff. I am keen to work with the Trustees via the Consultative Group to improve the facilities that will benefit both the users and help attract new users which will safeguard the future of this unique facility.



### Anna Dowdall

*representing general public swimmers*

I am a professional linguist, with a passion for swimming. I actively trained and competed while at school for 10 years, representing Lithuania in youth racing competitions. I also did fin swimming with monofin and underwater orienteering. I have been regularly swimming at Hampton Pool since 1997. I joined the Committee to promote the interests of general public swimmers from the local community, opposing its over commercialisation.



# Over 20 years of water polo at Hampton Pool

**Water Polo session times:** winter Sunday 4pm-5.15pm & summer 5pm-6.15pm.



## Alan Cammidge, Water Polo Club

About 23 years ago, Stuart Leamy and I, along with a group of volunteers, were busy scraping and painting the old pool tank as part of the yearly maintenance programme. Strangely, we came upon a number of brass holes in the pool bottom and wondered what they could have been used for. It was not long before we realised that these brass holes were used for securing water polo goals. It became apparent that, many years previously, water polo had been played at the pool.

We both thought it would be a great idea to try and bring it back if possible. Although we didn't play water polo, I knew that the Metropolitan Police had a team. So I decided to make contact with them and see if they could help us in any way.

Dave, who ran the Police team and was a lifelong player and coach of the game, came down and was keen to help. He agreed that if we could set it up to be an all-inclusive session (for boys, girls, men, ladies and even those with disabilities who could swim) then he was willing to commit.

First challenge was to find a session slot. With the generous agreement of the Hampton Pool Trustees, we were given a time on a Sunday evening between the public and club session. What we now needed were a couple of goals. We were given a set of broken ones which, at first glance, looked impossible to use. However, George the maintenance man with half a dozen scaffold poles and a few bolts created goals that have lasted us 20 years!

At first numbers were small, slowly growing to about 10 after the first year; a mixed group of old-young-abled bodied and disabled swimmers, boys, girls and the odd duck in the winter months.

We then started to attract swimmers who had played at school and university and wanted

to start up again bringing their children with them. We also attracted some interesting guest appearances from a variety of overseas back packers who popped in for a friendly game. The youngsters who first came have now gone on to play for a variety of clubs and universities and are now coming back to us.

The session has not changed since we started – everyone who turns up has a game. Currently, our youngest is eight years and our oldest is 84! We have girls, boys, mums and dads, those who currently play for various clubs and those who have never played. We have doctors, vicars, builders, policeman, artists, bankers, postman, accountants, teachers, and lifeguards, all joining together in a unique, all-inclusive, water polo session.

We are also the longest-running session on the timetable. Last year, we ran for 48 weeks. Snow, rain, hurricanes – we are always there throwing a ball around. ●



*Autumn skies captured by Duty Manager David Makriel*

# Poolside Swim & BBQ Club news



Ron Sim took this picture of the special thank you event at the club session at the end of the season

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## Join our friendly club!

Barbara Perry, Poolside Swim and BBQ Club Chair

**The Poolside Swim & BBQ Club is your opportunity to enjoy out-of-public-hours swimming where the pool is available just for members. Sessions take place on Saturday and Sunday mornings between 8am and 9am and on Sunday and Tuesday evenings. The great value membership could save you many pounds over the equivalent number of open swim sessions!**

Now that it is definitely winter and the temperatures have dropped we can still look back fondly at the wonderful summer we had for the Poolside Swim & BBQ Club. It was a glorious spring and summer so we were able to enjoy lovely morning – as well as warm evening – swims, followed by a relaxing BBQ. We were pleased to have quite a few new members this year who we hoped enjoyed their swimming with the club.

Members of the club were once again pleased to be the backbone of the helpers for the road shows and concert bar staff and stewards. Thank you also to former club members and friends of club members who helped.

Our club season finished at the end of September and the Board hosted a special thank you event at the club session on 21 September for all those who helped to make the summer concerts such a success. It took the form of an evening

barbeque, where the excellent fare was cooked by the concerts principle organiser, Tim Lawes – also a Poolside Swim & BBQ member. Most of the members of the swimming club and other friends of the pool who had participated by promoting the concerts at the road shows, delivering tickets, helping on the bar and stewarding, taking the tents down, etc, attended the evening. They were addressed by Daphne Wharton, Chair of the Trustees, who thanked everyone.

We are already looking forward to the club season next April, so look out for details on the website or at reception if you are interested in joining Poolside Swim & BBQ club. ●



## Meet Charlie Lewis

I recently started swimming at darling old Hampton Pool following an absence of almost 20 years. Growing up in Hampton Hill, my earliest pool-related memories are of school galas and summer swimming as an excitable little child. I was probably, if not certainly, one of the urchins shouted at by lifeguards for getting in the way of ye faithful lane swimmers. How the tides have turned and I find myself back at the pool that served me so well as a child.

I moved back to the area following an operation to amputate my lower right leg. The chop was on the back of 15 operations over a rather frustrating 10-year period having shattered my lower right leg in a snowboarding accident. Having gone through eight surgeons and four major reconstructions, the decision to lop off my leg was rather simple and matter of fact. So, in January this year (my 29th birthday as it happens) I had said procedure. Fast forward a few months and on a late-March day – basked in early spring sun – I ventured, for the first time in adult life and on crutches, to the swimming bastion that is Hampton Pool.

It was actually a fairly big deal for me; it was the first time I had swam in years, the first time I had

swam with no leg and the first time I had really got out of the house into a public place alone. I also had no real idea what I was going to do when I got there! Confident or not, having no leg can be an awkward thing, both physically and mentally – you believe everyone is going to stare and feel pity for you. I was, dare I say, a little nervous.

However, what greeted me when I got to the pool were smiley faces and people to help. I can't tell you enough how great all the Hampton staff have and are being. Especially a certain leggy – sometimes stern, sometimes smiley – swimming instructor called Petra. Truth be told, I envisaged just a few trips to Hampton Pool to help my rehab and then back to the London smoke to complete my mission to get to the Rio Paralympic Games and compete in the Triathlon. Suffice to say, I keep coming back and now share a home with the slightly more smiley girl!

Hampton Pool has introduced me to several brilliant people and reconnect with old school friends and old teachers (who seem to have put aside how bad a pupil I was). When I reminisce with friends, who left home long ago, they all talk with fondness about little old Hampton Pool. I had never given it much thought having moved away but now I'm back its very obvious what an important place it is and will always be. ●

## Operations update

Hampton Pool is managed on behalf of Hampton Pool Trust by YMCA London South West. The ethos of this arrangement is 'Partnership working within a management agreement'

Angela Garrett,  
YMCA LSW Chief Operations Officer

## YMCA London South West is 140 years young!

Here in South West London our small YMCA beginnings go back 140 years where local churches came together to start a project to improve the lives of young people. Over the decades the types of programmes that our YMCA has run have developed in response to local need. Many fundraising campaigns have been run and wise investments made. As a result we are able to celebrate our 140th birthday as a vibrant community focused charity that is *Here For Good*.

We provide a wide range of services across South West London:

**Accommodation** – Winter night shelters; Hostels; Move on houses; Young peoples supported lodgings; Y Cube.

**Family work** – After school & breakfast clubs; Holiday camps; Childrens' activities & courses; Youth work.

**Support & advice** – Chaplaincy services; Buddy schemes; Senior social events.

**Health & wellbeing** – Gyms & fitness classes; Tennis & football; Cafes & restaurants; Senior classes & walks; Community gyms; Personal training; Disabilities classes; Get Active & Get Started programmes; and of course, *Hampton Pool!*



We are committed to creating healthy sustainable communities in which everyone has access to physical exercise and healthy food, regardless of age, ability and income.

YMCA is the largest voluntary sector provider of services promoting Health & Wellbeing. We have 500 staff and 120 volunteers working across our sites for YMCA London South West.

Hampton Pool a truly wonderful asset for the community we continue to improve the day-to-day operations with dedication from the team.

Hampton Pool Trust & the YMCA continue to work very closely together. We are passionate for the future to see Hampton Pool grow with the exciting new development.

Thank you to everyone for their continuous support. See you all for your Christmas Day swim – a great morning for everyone!

Merry Christmas to you all. ●

Write to **Jo Coles**, HPT Trustee and editor of Poolside Chat by email [joanne.coles@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](mailto:joanne.coles@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk) or by letter to Hampton Pool Trust, Hampton Pool, High Street, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2ST.