

If you want to support the pool, please  
become a member of Hampton Pool Trust  
See below-left for details...

Winter issue 2017

hampton pool trust



# Poolside Chat

News from the charity securing the future of Hampton Pool

## Join the Trust!

Hampton Pool Trust is a small, independent, not for profit company and educational charity. It is run by **volunteers from the local community** with a vision to maintain Hampton Pool as a safe, welcoming, enjoyable, sustainable and inspirational heated, public open air swimming environment, all year round.

The Trust owns the building and the pool and exists to secure the long term future of the pool for community use. Hampton Pool is managed on behalf of Hampton Pool Trust by YMCA London South West. Both are registered charities.

## You, too, can become a member or Trustee of Hampton Pool Trust

Our 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 Trust, or even a Trustee?

### Being a member

There are over 300 members of Hampton Pool Trust and they elect the Board of Trustees who are responsible for the general oversight of the running of the pool. As a member, you will be notified of Trust matters and are invited to attend meetings. There are also working teams that you can get involved in that manage aspects of the Trust's work to ensure a sustainable future for the Pool. These include:

- Finance
- Fundraising Concerts team
- Operations review in relation to the management agreement with YMCA LSW
- Hampton Pool Consultative Group
- Marketing, including:
  - road-shows and raising awareness
  - fundraising

### The role of a Trustee

HPT Trustees attend Board meetings six times a year to oversee our appointed managing agent's day-to-day operations of the pool and to progress the HPT strategic plan. There are currently 8 serving Trustees, each with their own experience that provides a broad skill-set to the Board.

## Interested?

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 the Trust by email at [info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](mailto:info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk)

### Hampton Pool Trust

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



Calling all users and lovers of Hampton Pool

# We need your help!

A **short letter of support** of Hampton Pool Trust's carefully considered and long-overdue improvements to the main building and facilities will help with our planning application with Richmond council. If you would like to see:

- **Better changing areas for swimmers, especially families with small children?**
- **More covered seating and easier access to the first floor café?**
- **Less pressure from other users and training courses during classes, especially yoga and pilates?**
- **Reasonable space to move from one station to another as a gym user?**

...then please read on to find out how a little effort can help a lot.

**Hampton Pool is owned** by a charitable trust of volunteers that are passionate about open air swimming and have recognised that the pool needs to evolve to meet the needs of the community and secure a sustainable future. The Trust is therefore planning to make much needed improvements to the main building. HPT is also planning to extend facilities into the area of disused scrubland behind the deep end as it will not be possible to meet all requirements our users have requested within the footprint of the existing building. This will at last provide a fully accessible and inclusive facility, with

new family changing rooms and showers, a Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant gym and a more flexible use of space for classes and training courses. It will also provide access by lift to more covered seating on the sun deck for those who enjoy using the café in any weather throughout the year.

The **Sun Deck Café** will also benefit from improvements including first floor toilets. Furthermore, new filtering and heating equipment will create additional space and be more energy efficient.

*continued inside*



# Great work by dedicated teams

I appreciate it is a familiar lament, especially at this time of year, but I can't quite believe how quickly my first six months as Chair of Hampton Pool Trust have flown by! The absolute highlights have been another hugely successful summer for both the Pool and the Concerts.

Despite the variable summer weather we had in 2017, total attendance at the pool from April to October is up over a fifth compared with the same period last year. The fact that significantly more people are coming to the pool is a testament to the great work being done by the YMCA team in creating interesting opportunities for people to want to visit the Pool and ensuring they have a great time during their time at the pool.

## Visitors

As I write this article, Hampton Pool has just featured again on the weather segment of the BBC Breakfast programme, which is another great boost for the Pool, showing that's it's a great place to swim all year round rather than just on the odd hot summer days.



Many thanks to Simon, all his team and the huge number of swimmers that were there (as usual). The pool looked at its absolute best and the true community gem we all love and enjoy.

## Striking the right note

The Summer concerts are how I became involved with the Trust – around four years ago – and this year we've had another really good series. There's more detail on the concerts elsewhere, so let me just thank both the organising team who work most of the

year to ensure that the events go smoothly and the vast numbers of volunteers who give up their weekends to make the events so friendly and special for our audience. We're already working on planning another great series for July 2018 so **save the dates: July 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21.**

## Unhelpful delays

Disappointingly, our progress towards delivering the much needed updates to the pool buildings has been less smooth. Unfortunately administrative difficulties caused by a merger between Richmond & Wandsworth councils, mean the application (submitted in August 2016) is now on its fourth planning officer and we still don't have a firm planning meeting date. However, there is so much that is positive support and Hampton Pool Trust remain utterly committed to making the improvements a reality.

## Support from Vince

I had the opportunity to meet Rt. Hon. Sir Vince Cable MP at Westminster recently. We had a hugely positive meeting and I left him with a copy of a government performance table which shows Richmond languishing at 290 (out of 330) district councils in terms of performance in meeting planning application review date targets! Hopefully we will be allocated a meeting early in the new year and we can get going on updating and evolving the place we all love. He thought the plans were entirely in keeping with a facility such as ours and would encourage the council to speed up the planning application.

In closing, I'd like to thank everyone for the opportunity to be Chair and hopefully help to support the ongoing success of the Trust.

## We need your help!

continued from front page

The Trust's plans have been in development for over six years and adapted after considerable consultation with many user groups. The plans, that have been drawn up by award winning architects appointed by the Trust, are currently in for planning approval at Richmond Council. We are truly grateful for the enormous support shown by so many users of the pool and especially those that responded to an article in and on the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* paper and website in October. Here are extracts from two of the many positive comments:

*"Back in 1985 Hampton Pool was saved by the community for the community. These are great plans for the pool and the customers, they utilise all the available space, providing terrific facilities for the future – for all the community."*

*"Anyone who looks at the plans on the Richmond planning portal will see that the environmental and cost saving items alone will help secure the future of the pool for swimming for the community for the foreseeable future. The plan is entirely related to swimming."*



The Trust's plans are available to read at the following website address:

[hamptonpooltrust.org.uk/development](http://hamptonpooltrust.org.uk/development)

There is also a page of **Frequently Asked Questions** that should alleviate any concerns, should you have any.

HPT also encourage you to become a member of the Trust so that you can show your support and have a vote at the AGM, either in person or by proxy.

**HPT membership application forms** are available to download and complete from the website address above.

We need your letters of support **urgently** to prevent our application being delayed any further. Please send them to **Mark Doyle**, Chair of Hampton Pool Trust, c/o Hampton Pool. Thank you. 📧

## Frances Merry Christmas Light Up!

*The staff at Hampton Pool pulled out all the stops to put on a stunning display and really fun 'lights on' party for this inaugural event. The lights over the pool and on the tree look truly stunning. A huge thanks to Frances Merry (hence the name of the event), Sarah Critch, Alex Standen, Daniel Hosier and Mickey Lewis for staying well into the night to get the display up and looking so wonderful. The event to mark the switching on of the lights was a true family affair and extremely well organised. The café served delicious Christmas food and drink to get everyone in the spirit and the children thoroughly enjoyed meeting Father Christmas and his trusty elf. Hopefully this will become an annual Hampton Pool event as it was a wonderful start to the Christmas countdown! 📺*

# When you play together, you grow together

Whilst the 2017 season for the Poolside Swim & BBQ Club finishes at the end of September, that is by no means the end of our activity.

The gardening is ongoing with bulbs being planted for spring 2018 as well as hanging winter baskets. We ran the bar for the September Viva Santana concert and, of course, many members continue to swim through the winter which has its own very special feel. In this edition of Poolside Chat, club member **Carl Beetham** describes how it is for him.

*"Popular perception says the devil makes work for idle hands. As it turns out, he also makes work for other parts of the body and this he calls exercise!"*

*"As a relatively recent convert to the world of water, I remain a newbie to the Poolside Swim & BBQ Club fold and the beauty of the summer club was that the actual swimming was almost certainly regarded as, first and foremost, a social activity and both pool etiquette and exercise can go hang. Spectacular Saturday mornings represented the opportunity to catch-up on local gossip and balmy Sunday evenings were there to work-up a thirst! So, I'm mightily relieved to discover that, even following its winter demise, the lanes are still largely patrolled by the same supportive, welcoming, witty and*

*micky-taking 'Club individuals that I've grown to know and, er... like.*

*"Being a cold-blooded Piscean, you'd be forgiven for thinking I'd be at one with my watery surroundings. And you'd be wrong. Every stroke, every length, every session is as painful to undertake as it is ungainly to watch. I may be many things in life but a swimmer will never be one of them. Consequently, it's doubly-difficult to drag myself out of hibernation in the dark depths of winter and my every attendance is a constant battle of mind over matter. But anyone who's ever been part of a team knows that when you practice together, you play together, and when you play together, you grow together. Friendship follows. In short, the more you put in...*

*"Rumour has it that we regret the things we don't do and this is certainly the case with winter dipping at Hampton Pool. When the alarm goes-off, the last thing I want to feel is an icy chill on my back, sleet on my scalp or the cold chill of flagstones under my feet. But by the time I'm enjoying a cuppa on the balcony, there's nowhere else I'd rather be. And long may it continue." P*



## Frequently Asked Questions:

**Are you open 365 days a year?**

Yes, even on Christmas Day!

**Is the pool heated all year round?**

Yes, 28 degrees in the main pool and the learner pool is heated to 31 degrees for our younger swimmers.

**Do I need to book to swim at Christmas?**

No, we would love to see you so please just turn up on the public swim times.

**When is the next moonlight swim?**

The Christmas moonlight swim is taking place on Friday 29 December from 10 until midnight. You do need to book this and don't delay as it is selling out fast!



**Regular visitors to the pool are bound to recognise Francis Kasozi.**

*He is guaranteed to be in one of only two places – either cleaning anything and everything and generally maintaining Hampton Pool to the standards we all appreciate, or in his spare time ploughing up and down the pool.*



*What is really surprising though is that just eighteen months ago, Francis could not swim at all. Over the last year or so, the Hampton Pool team have given up their free-time to teach him how to swim. As many of you will know, learning to swim, especially as an adult, is not easy but Francis and the team have persevered and practiced, practiced and practiced!*

*Commenting, Francis said, "I could not have learnt to swim without the support and patience of all the team, especially Connor. Everyone has been so supportive and I have truly got the outdoor swimming bug!"*

*Francis has progressed so rapidly that he plans to take his lifeguard test this coming Easter. If you would like to join Francis in learning to swim or improving your stroke please see the Hampton Pool website [www.hamptonpool.co.uk](http://www.hamptonpool.co.uk) for details of our lessons and masterclasses. Equally, we run regular lifeguarding courses and would love you to come and join our lifeguard team at Hampton Pool.*

## 2017 achievements

– **Mark Doyle** Chair of HPT

*The staff work hard to ensure the pool is a safe and enjoyable place to be. In 2017, Hampton Pool received **outstanding ratings** in an independent Health and Safety Risk Assessment Review and Fire Risk Assessment Review – well done to Simon and the team.*

*In October, a 'mystery shopper' customer service review saw Hampton Pool exceed expectations, scoring 84.5% – the target is 80%.*

*The Sun Deck Café received a '5 Star' hygiene rating – well done to Dabbie and the team.*

*Thanks must also go to **Betsy and Katherine** and their gardening team as Hampton Pool was awarded a **Silver Gilt** from **Richmond in Bloom** for its floral arrangements and displays.*

*With changing conditions in 2017, we have introduced new levels of training including 'first aid at work', Epi-pen use, dealing with the threat of terrorism and customer care. P*

# Magical musical evenings that delight

**Wow!** Another summer season of wonderful concerts delivered by the hugely dedicated concert team and enjoyed by thousands!

The fundraising concerts kicked off with **Waterloo: The Best of Abba Tribute Show** opening for **Ben: The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute Concert**.

Mark Doyle and I have been looking for a good Abba tribute for years so it was wonderful to see the audience thoroughly enjoying Waterloo. Ben and his band also provided a performance that clearly delighted the audience on the night.

The weekend was topped off with the **City Funk Orchestra**, the stunning vocals of Noel McCalla and Imaani fronting the very fine, very funky orchestra. They were followed by **Jason Donovan** and his band performing his full Festival-season set of hits and more.

Moving into the second weekend we enjoyed **Mike d'Abo** and his band performing his hits from Manfred Mann and more, followed by the excellent **Cregan & Co** with Ben Mills on vocals giving a great performance of the Rod Stewart Song Book. **The Kast Off Kinks** finished the evening with the collective former band members' rousing performance of the music of the Kinks.

**Nine Below Zero** opened the Saturday with their excellent expanded eight-piece line-up with keys, horns and female vocalist. The evening continued with the excellent and inventive **Wilko Johnson Band**. Unfortunately, their fine performance was cut short when Norman Watt-Roy, the bassist, fell ill part way through their performance.

## To the rescue

Trust directors Mike White (Head of Security, Concerts) and Andy Cowper were first backstage to help, closely followed by duty manager Sarah Critch who took control of the medical emergency until professional support arrived at the scene. Sarah was supported by a medically trained member of the audience until the paramedics and ambulance arrived a few minutes later.

The good news is that after treatment, Norman left hospital the following

Wednesday and is back playing concerts. As the Hampton Pool Trust Chair and Concerts Producer Mark Doyle said, "This demonstrates what's great about the community at Hampton Pool – the Trust, well trained staff and dedicated customers pulling together to ensure a positive outcome." So, a happy ending.

## Legends

**Andy Fairweather Low** and **The Low Riders** opened the third Friday with a very fine performance that set the scene for **Georgie Fame** and **The Blue Flames**, his classic band with Alan Skidmore on tenor sax, Guy Barker on trumpet, Anthony Kerr on vibes, Alec Dankworth on bass and his two sons Tristan Powell and James Powell on guitar and drums respectively, who all combined to provide a stunning performance. This was a double delight, as this was a band that we've been working on booking for three years.

**The Rollin' Stoned** opened the final evening with tight, yet laid back and tongue-in-cheek performance that provided the perfect opening for the **Bootleg Beatles'** joyful and pretty much perfect performance of Beatles music that delighted the audience and provided the perfect end to this year's Summer series.

As I write this at the end of November, we've had an excellent start to the Pool's Autumn series with **Viva Santana** and are looking forward to **The Christians** the weekend before Christmas.

## Who next?

In the meantime, Mark and I and the rest of the concerts team have been hard at work on the line-up for next year and planning and booking the infrastructure.

However, it's not an 'easy' task. You may have noticed that we rebook performers, usually due to popular demand. Simple, you'd think but not so. Their fee may have risen to the extent that they're no longer affordable, or they're not touring in the year that you want them, or they are touring but they're in a different country or even continent when our concerts are on. And it's even more difficult with new performers, as you have all the same problems plus convincing them that they want to perform at a swimming pool, and that whilst it's outside it's more like a concert than a festival. But next year is coming together and is looking good and we're confident that you'll enjoy the 2018 summer series. We hope to see you there! 📍

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

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