



hampton pool trust

# Poolside Chat

News from the charity securing the future of Hampton Pool

## WINTER 2012

**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 40 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)

## SUMMER PICNIC CONCERTS

*Rumours of Fleetwood Mac close our 2012 season of concerts to a sell out crowd*



# Win six tickets to next year's Summer Picnic Concerts

by **Tim Lawes**, Concert Committee – Artists and Repertoire.  
Help us to make next year's concerts even better.

If you came to any of the concerts this year, a big thank you. You helped an army of volunteers and the whole pool team to raise around £30,000 to help the Trustees in their mission of continually improving the pool and securing its future. Please give us 5 to 10 minutes of your time to complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HamptonPools>. You can help us make 2013's concerts even more enjoyable and successful. And if you didn't come, read on. You might find that you missed out on a really good time as well as the opportunity to support the pool.

Clearly, the performers are, in large part, what makes the concerts. The survey gives you a chance to give your views on who you've seen in 2012 and say who you would like to see in the future.

But doing our best to ensure that you have some really enjoyable, joyous, good value evenings means that we have to get everything else right too; the staging, lighting, sound, bar and food and so much more. So, please do complete the survey.

Planning is already well under way for 2013, with quotes coming in for the infrastructure. Work on selecting the performers really never stops. I go to over 100 live music performances a year and take soundings on many more. And we don't book any artists without me seeing a whole concert. Their ability to provide a great performance is key to you all having a great evening.

We hope to see you at the concerts in 2013 and expect to announce the line up and start taking bookings in February/March. ●

Questionnaire at [www.hamptonpool.co.uk](http://www.hamptonpool.co.uk)

### Contents:

Letter from the HPT Chair page 2

Consulting Group page 2

Christmas opening page 3

Poolside Swim & BBQ Club news page 4

Operations update page 4

*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.*



Above: One of our capacity crowds.

Left: Paul Carrack live at Hampton Pool's Summer Picnic Concerts.



# HPT Chair's letter

Welcome to our winter 2012 edition of Poolside Chat

hampton pool trust

**This Christmas you are invited to join Hampton Pool Trust in celebrating 25 years of opening on Christmas Day. I hope that you will bring your friends and family to help us break our record of 1,700 swimmers. Christmas hats and reindeer antlers welcome! To read more about the valiant veterans who saved the pool from closure and started the festive tradition see page 3.**

Over the summer months of 2012 we were not blessed with the run of fine days we enjoyed in 2011. However, I hope that you have enjoyed swimming at Hampton Pool whatever the weather. The Family Fun Day in July was well attended and everyone enjoyed a fun session in the pool with floats, tombola and a falconry display. TNT, our children's dynamite summer holiday activity club, attracted record numbers and swim lessons continue to provide a valuable introduction to water skills and the joy of swimming in an open air environment.

Hampton Pool is also attracting a number of local clubs who use the facility out of normal timetable hours – Teddington Masters, Thames Turbo, Kingfisher Triathlon club, RG Active and Surrey Canoe club while GB Canoeing, British Rowing and Pernod Ricard have all hired one lane during early morning sessions. Alistair and Jonny Brownlee, Olympic Men's Triathlon Gold and Bronze medal winners, swam at Hampton Pool in September and they said they loved the pool and wanted to come back.



Above: Olympic Men's Triathlete Gold and Bronze medal winners, Alistair and Jonny Brownlee, visit the pool in September.

Summer Picnic Concerts were back this summer with an impressive range of exciting performances. We weren't able to provide a balmy climate but we did provide a cracking good line up of bands. Each concert was a joyous occasion and it was a great sight to see hundreds of umbrellas rocking in unison to the beat. The six concerts of Turin Brakes, Brit Floyd with their fabulous light show, Bellowhead, Kid Creole and the Coconuts, Paul Carrack and the double bill of Illegal Eagles and Rumours of Fleetwood Mac provided first class entertainment in a unique and intimate open air environment. Your views on the concerts and how to improve them will help to make 2013 concerts even better please see page 1.

Marshall Lees founding member of the campaign to save the pool from closure and long term Board member retired from the governance team in November after twenty nine years of service. His intellectual grasp and willingness to represent the Trust at a variety of levels from TV interview to Council meetings has been a great asset to the Board and his presence will be greatly missed.

The HP Stakeholder Consultative Group continues to meet monthly and a variety of issues and problems have been brought to the attention of the management. The membership consists of user groups and stakeholders: Poolside Swim and BBQ Club, Thames Turbo Club, Water Polo Club, aqua aerobics, general swimmers, local ward councillors, LBRuT, Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity and neighbours. Member Nicky Bindler writes about her experiences on the Consultative Group in the column to the right. If you are a gym user and you would like to join the group please contact the Trust at [www.hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](http://www.hamptonpooltrust.org.uk) or leave your contact details at reception.

The Trust is getting closer to identifying a building project that will best add value for the local community. It aims to agree a project by the spring of 2013 to make good use of the donation from the Dowler family. If you would like to make a contribution to the work of the Trust you can make a gift aided donation through BT My Donate. A legacy leaflet is available online and in reception if you would like to help preserve Hampton Pool and open air swimming in Hampton for future generations.

The Trust is still seeking new members. If you love the pool, are able to attend meetings once a quarter on a Thursday night and have high level business skills in accountancy, the law or fundraising please contact the Trust at [www.hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](http://www.hamptonpooltrust.org.uk) or leave your contact details at reception.

Thanks to all staff and volunteers who make Hampton Pool such a special place.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Remember to make swimming at Hampton Pool part of your healthy lifestyle resolution this winter. ●

*Daphne Wharton*

Daphne Wharton, Hampton Pool Trust Chair



## Consultative Group

Nicky Bindler, HP Consultative Group

I moved to London with my family 12 years ago from Connecticut, USA. When my children were older I found more time for 'me' and joined the King's Cormorants swim club. About the same time I registered to swim 5k for Marie Curie's Swimathon. I was swimming during the week at a 20 metre indoor pool when a good friend invited me to Hampton Pool to train with her. It was January, perhaps 3°C and probably about to snow. I thought this was all mad especially since I had to walk from the changing rooms to the pool in just my swim costume. I very quickly entered the pool and started swimming. I was both surprised and grateful for the water's warm temperature. We swam 3,500m for an hour and 15 minutes, uninterrupted by other members. I fondly remember my first swim at Hampton and have happily continued to swim there – preferably September through May – and especially if there is rain, snow or it is cold.

I joined the Hampton Pool Consultative Group in June 2011. I think the Consultative Group quota was filled, but Daphne Wharton of the Hampton Pool Trust very kindly found a seat for me under 'general swim' member. The Consultative Group was formed by the Hampton Pool Trust to provide consultation from members, neighbours, and clubs such as Thames Turbo Club, aqua aerobics, Water Polo Club and Poolside Swim & BBQ Club. The Consultative Group is given updates on the operation and development and information on plans to modify or enhance the pool and gym.

This has been a wonderful experience for me. I love Hampton Pool and its historical and green surroundings. I intend to continue supporting the centre and sharing this well preserved oasis in London with friends. ●

## Additional news

> **Carbon Footprint news:** S-measure a commercial application which converts energy use into carbon has been installed at Hampton Pool. A carbon footprint notice board is planned for reception in the New Year. You will be able to check out the pools carbon footprint and keep up to date on energy reduction news.

> **Thanks to Teddington Masters** for sponsoring half the pace clock (see back page).

> **Hampton Pool won Silver Gilt** in the Richmond in Bloom Competition this summer. The theme was Olympic colours. Thanks to Betsy and all other Poolside swim and BBQ Club members who worked so hard on this.



# Remembering our first years of Christmas Day opening

by **Andrew Pratt**, former Hampton Pool Trust Chair and Director

**Hampton Pool reopened as a community run venture in 1985. At that time it was very much a hand-to-mouth operation and we only opened for the summer months. Initially we did not open on Mondays because we did not have a receptionist. It was only when Marcia, the local vicar's wife, volunteered that we opened every day of the week.**

Those of us who attend the pool now and benefit from the wonderful facilities need to remember that it was not always the case. In fact, in the early years, we were told by Sports England when applying for lottery funding (which we never got) that open-air swimming was not viable. The Royal Parks, who are our landlord, said we were an anachronism and in those early days were not very keen on our presence.

It is only now that we realise that it is cheaper to run an open-air pool all the year round than an indoor pool. Financial viability even for summer opening in those early years was not guaranteed and any article on Hampton Pool must acknowledge the fantastic support from the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity and the annual grant from the London Borough of Richmond.

£1,000, that the decision to open was made. The voluntary effort cannot be underestimated, for example, the café was run in the first two years entirely by volunteers. Many people provided home cooked food throughout the 10 days opening including Christmas Day. We owe everyone involved a debt of gratitude. We also owe thanks to the staff in those early days who were admirably led by Events Manager Peter Moysey, a leading light in Thames Turbos 25 years ago.

I remember arriving on Christmas morning at 7.30am and was delighted to see a queue. Shortly afterwards our local MP, Toby Jessel, who was a good supporter of the pool, arrived, ignored the queue, and walked straight in. I said to others



Andrew Pratt, Marshall Lees, Peter Moysey and Jane Jewell receive a cheque from John de Mont of British Gas who helped sponsor our first festive season.

I can't exactly remember why I proposed Christmas opening. I do remember the pool closing in September and missing open air swimming enormously, as did many others. A proposal to open up in the middle of winter was greeted with some scepticism, and, in fact, one board member suggested I received psychiatric advice! In those days the swimming pool emptied itself naturally as soon as we closed because of leaks. Start up costs were significant as the pool needed to be cleaned and refilled with nearly 1,000 tonnes of water and heated to 22°C. It was only through a massive effort from volunteers and, significantly, a grant from British Gas of

in the queue, "I think that means we're open". Having mentioned Toby Jessel I must also mention Vince Cable, our current MP who has given enormous support.

After a number of successful Christmas openings and an extension to summer opening hours we took the plunge and opened all year round.

Hampton Pool is a magnificent example of what can be done by the community. It wasn't easy and it won't be easy in the future, but, by keeping to a mission statement of 'providing community open-air swimming in heated water all year round', we should be all right. ●



Our first three year's of promoting our Christmas swim.

# Poolside Swim & BBQ Club news

Join the club! Do you like the idea of sharing the pool with a sociable group of Hampton Pool enthusiasts? You can find information of how to become a member of this friendly club on the pool website.

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## In which we serve!

**Barbara Perry, Poolside Swim and BBQ Club Chair**

If you came along to the concerts in July you may have seen club members and friends – in our black tee shirts – behind the bar serving wine and beer and also helping with the crowds.

Running the bar is good fun especially getting to know other club members and meeting concert goers but also hard work setting up and clearing away for every concert.

We finished the season with a final barbecue and get together at the end of September – with early sparklers for the children. We are now in the club's winter recess period (although many of us still swim in winter).

Over the winter we will be holding a fund raising quiz night in early March (provisionally 2nd March). So if you are a keen quiz goer or just want to support the pool put the date in the diary and start to get your table together. We'll be advertising the event on line and at the pool, so keep your eyes open.

Club will be starting again in spring and just a reminder that we have four swimming sessions a week with 'bring your own food' barbecues on the two evening sessions.

Club members commit to helping on poolside during club sessions as well as helping to promote the pool and raise funds. We're always keen to have new club members so if you're interested ask at reception. ●



## 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 Director of Operations

Yes, it's that time of the year again when Hampton Pool gets ready for the festive season. There is so much going on from Carol Swimming to our successful Mid-winter Moonlight Swim. And don't forget we are open on Christmas Day and that the very keen swimmer can book our Christmas Day Early Bird Swim sessions from 6.15am. Visit [www.hamptonpool.co.uk](http://www.hamptonpool.co.uk) for up to date information.

A recent article in *The Sunday Times* describes us as "one of Britain's coolest, biggest and hippest pool!"

## Maintaining our reputation

You may not realise that a lot of work is being done behind the scenes on planned maintenance to keep up our good reputation. The plant room is currently under going a complete over haul and the filters in both pools are being replaced. When this work is finished it will represent a total spend of nearly £50k – money well spent for the future of the pool.

Ten new spinning bikes for the ever popular class have been purchased; delivery of these will be before Christmas.

It has been another successful year for Hampton Pool in which we have seen the pool going from strength to strength.



## Our commitment

YMCA London South West is committed to a vision of continuous improvement at Hampton Pool and to the aims of Hampton Pool Trust and we would like to express our thanks for all the support we have received from the Trustees and volunteers.

If you would like to know more about the work of YMCA LSW, please visit our web site [www.ymcalsw.org](http://www.ymcalsw.org)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. ●

## A big thank you to Marshall

by **Daphne Wharton, HPT Chair**

**Marshall Lees has been actively involved in the creation and running of Hampton Pool since 1983.**

He has been engaged in all the pool's major milestones from the successful opening campaign in 1983-5, to the eventual replacement of the main swimming tank in 2004, the major refurbishment of the buildings in 2006 and the first five years of the operations management contract with the local YMCA LSW. He has seen the 'footfall' grow from 25,000 in Hampton Pool's first summer season to about 250,000 now.

He has been a lead contributor in developing Hampton Pool into the remarkable local facility it is today providing a unique service to the local community, especially to the children and older people.

After close on thirty years of tirelessly working for the continued survival of this valuable community resource Marshall has decided to retire to spend more time with his family. The Board would like to express a heartfelt vote of thanks to Marshall Lees on behalf of past, present and future users of Hampton Pool.

> Project Founder 1983

> Campaign Leader and Board Chairman 1983-1995

> Granted Freedom of Hampton Pool and appointed President in 1996

> President 1996-2011

> Retired from Board 1996-2001

> Director/Trustee 2002-2012



Write to **Daphne Wharton, HPT Chair** and editor of Poolside Chat by email [daphne.wharton@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](mailto:daphne.wharton@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk) or by letter to Hampton Pool Trust, Hampton Pool, High Street, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2ST.