



It's been a busy start to the Lido and FOGL season and we've got a bumper newsletter this time for you, with lots to bring everyone up to date on and a request (or two) for help.

### Want to star in a film....and get in the pool with Olympic swimmer Mark Foster?



In the last newsletter we told you about the possibility that an independent British film maker would be filming a comedy at the Lido....well it's going ahead, over a weekend at the end of the season and FOGLs can all get involved. As an

independently made film, the producers need to raise funds, and for a **small donation - £3** – you will be amongst the first to be considered as an extra, see behind the scenes and the chance to get in the pool with Olympic swimmer, Mark Foster. Apart from the fun of this venture, it will bring excellent publicity to the Lido and help to raise its' profile for some time to come. If you'd like to know more about the project, make a donation and get involved, visit

[www.theswimmer.org.uk](http://www.theswimmer.org.uk)

### Opening Day

We put some effort this year into ensuring the Opening Day of the season gained the Lido as much publicity and fanfare as we could muster on a slightly overcast,



chilly May day. Offering a prime opportunity to tell the community the Lido is open for business, FOGL committee members ensured we got a positive, early message out through the local media. **Mayor Pauline Searle** did the official opening, accompanied by several Councillors and **Jim Miles**, Guildford's Director of Leisure Services. FOGL **Ellery McGowan**, Lido regular and World Champion was invited to share her experiences of swimming in the freezing waters of Lake Bled, Slovenia at the World Cold Water Swimming Championships in January, before taking the first official swim in the (relatively)

balmy waters of the Lido. We had organised a **Charity Channel Distance Swim** to raise funds for the **Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice** and through the course of the day, over 49k was clocked up by **23 volunteer swimmers**, including the youngsters from Tooting Bec Lido, **Cal, Brodie** and **Gus Petrie**, and **Samantha Tierney** one of Guildford City's competitive young swimmers. We were even graced by the rare sight of Russell, Lido Manager in the water for a few lengths. Thanks to everyone who participated during the day and helped us to gain some well received publicity for the Lido and raise funds for the Hospice. More details and some wonderful photographs can be found on our website.

Talking of photos, we are very pleased to welcome FOGL **Peter Merry** as our "official" photographer. Peter is a professional photographer based in Guildford and he has generously provided some fabulous photos and will continue through the season to share his photos with FOGL via our website and facebook page.

### Hugh's Big Swim

One of the great things about the Open Day was seeing such a variety of swimmers taking their first swims of the season. There were definitely happy regulars, who looked delighted to be back at the "local" and (we've had a few tell us since how nice it is to be back); there were some who came along primarily to support the Charity Swim; and then there were others for whom the publicity we were able to generate ahead of the day either introduced or reintroduced them to the Lido. Of the latter, **Hugh Thacker** heard about the Charity swim after visiting BBC Radio Surrey to talk about his upcoming Channel solo and came along for the first time in 25 years to swim in the Lido. Since then, Hugh's become a regular at the new early morning sessions on Mondays and Fridays, adding Lido swimming to his training regime. Hugh shares his impressions of the Lido:

*"Whilst in my car and listening to BBC Surrey Radio, I heard of the charity "Channel swim" and so on arrival at the Lido I thought I would go and introduce myself. I was made very welcome by those involved, and was subsequently invited to join in with the task of completing the channel distance. Amongst so many fantastic and dedicated swimmers, I thought I'd better rise to*



their challenge and offered to **complete 6km** for them.

*Although not the fastest of swimmers, I did my 120 lengths and continued to do a few more to complete a **2 hour** training swim. The pool was fantastic, the water warm and fantastic quality.*

*I was immediately captivated by the Lido, and although not swimming there since a child (over 25 years) I knew I would be back very soon. True to my word, I have found the **early morning** opening times great for when I'm not trudging around a lake. Mondays and Fridays at 6.30, the pool is quiet (well at least at the moment) and great for carrying out various sprints, stroke technique and long distance sets without bumping into people. And the showers are lovely and warm.*

Hugh's Channel swim attempt is in aid of two charities for colitis and Crohn's disease sufferers, a condition his niece Holly has been afflicted by since childhood. We are delighted to support Hugh and will be following his progress this season on the website. Visit for more details and check back regularly as we plan to update it in the run-up to September:



<http://www.guildfordlido.com/hughs-big-swim/>

### Share your stories, your news, your swimming tales

Hugh's swimming challenge is more than most of us can imagine ever attempting, but we know that the Lido has played host to many an aspiring and successful Channel swimmer over the years. However, as well as these great swimming achievements, we would like to highlight, publicise and support in any way we can, swimmers of all abilities who are enjoying the Lido. What we have created on the website is a "**FOGL's Swimmer's Tales**" page where we want to be able to document any swims or swimming challenges that FOGLs undertake and want to share with others. These don't have to be epic swims, they can be anything that have a relationship in some way to the Lido: perhaps a swimming reunion occurs at the

Lido amongst old friends, or a children's gathering or party you'd like to share to encourage others to visit the Lido with their families or children, or maybe you are undertaking a first open water swim this summer and are preparing for it at the Lido this summer; or perhaps you have been swimming each summer for years and want to share some fond memories of the Lido and look ahead to many more years enjoyment at our wonderful pool. With outdoor swimming on the rise, and events such as the Great North, Great London, Great East Swims gaining much publicity and support, we are certain that there must be many swimmers at the Lido this season with personal tales to share or training regimes they are following that might help to inspire others. If you have something to share, or know anyone who may be willing to share their swimming tales do get in touch and we'll help you to publish your swimming tale on our website and newsletters. We'll even write it for you if you can put us in touch with potential story tellers! FOGL are not in the least elitist - despite having many superb swimmers in our midst - all swimmers at the Lido are welcome to share their tales, the more we can publish, the merrier. Do get in touch.



### Website and Facebook

We have been putting a lot of effort into developing and improving our website in response to suggestions from members. We hope you like the changes and welcome all contributions and news.

Through the season, we are going to do our best to keep everyone up to date through the website and our Facebook page. At the moment, there are posts appearing several times a week, check them out if you haven't already. All members are welcome to contribute to both in fact we are actively encouraging you all to do so. To post on the website, all you need do is register as a member on the site with your name, you need to hang onto your password and then you can post any comments in response to posts that appear. If you would like to add a post, please email it to the friends email address and we will pop it up as soon as we can.

As a voluntary organisation that is run entirely by a small band of willing volunteers with full-time jobs,



we need to keep FOGL administration and bureaucracy to a minimum if we are to focus on our core objectives and frontline activities for the benefit of the Lido users. With this in mind, we will be relying heavily on the website as our main medium of communication, and the notice-boards at the Lido during the season. In the Members section of the site, you will find all past documents relating to meetings, newsletters and other membership business. We keep this up to date and advise members to regularly check the website for information as it is the most up-to-date source for FOGL activities.

If you have concerns that you would like to raise with us then please email us, we will always do our best to respond quickly and to answer concerns where we can. We have been working hard to establish an open, constructive and beneficial relationship with Lido management, which we hope everyone is benefiting from this year with the many improvements that are present, and we will continue to do this in the interests of all our members and for the future of the Lido, but we know that more can always be done, so if you have ideas for how we can continue to improve things, let us know, if you can actively help us out, all the better.

### Midsummer Party – 27<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm

We have had confirmation this week that after a while without one, the annual **Midsummer BBQ** is to be hosted at the Lido on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June. This came up on the survey last year as being something members wanted to see happen and we are very pleased that the Lido management have listened to our request to reinstate what used



to be a very popular annual event – all we hope is that the weather is kind to us, but that's one thing

beyond the control of either the management or the FOGL committee!

Details are being finalised now, as soon as we have these and tickets become available we will publish on the website. For now, put the date in your diaries and pray for a sunny June!

### GBC Procurement Process

Before the season started, we attended a meeting of the GBC Executive at which it was agreed that the Council will now move to stage two of the procurement process and invite tenders for the Leisure Services, including the Lido. **Jim Boucher spoke on behalf of FOGL** to emphasise that as the process continues, FOGL look forward to having full involvement and are prepared and indeed wish to assist in any way that is possible. Jim stressed that **FOGL wish to see the standards set at a high level for the Lido** in the tendering process. **Councillor Patrick** expressed his view that he remains *“extremely keen to see the three excellent sites preserved, particularly the Lido”* in his closing remarks. This was followed by **Councillor Rooth's** assurance that FOGL's views will be taken fully into account throughout the continuing process.

The week following the Executive meeting saw FOGL again making representations at the Scrutiny Committee meeting. Jim requested that greater involvement of bodies such as the FOGL should be part of the Tendering Process. Recognising that the process requires a high degree of confidentiality he requested that the tender documents should contain a list of partner organisations – eg Guildford City SC and major users of the Spectrum, as well as the FOGL.

Jim drew on his personal experience of being a member of the South London Swimming Club (SLSC) and discussed a view that out-sourcing could bring real benefits to the Lido, as Tooting Bec Lido is run by an effective combination of Wandsworth Council, DC Leisure and SLSC. There are difficulties from time to time but the tripartite arrangement works well and required hard work – something FOGL is not averse to if needed. GBC were urged to request consultation by bidders with FOGL and to ensure that in the service level agreement, formal, periodic consultation was built-in to any subsequent contract.



The next stage moves to creation of the tendering documents. This will be led by Leisure Services Management and published in the OJEC (Official Journal of the EC). The expectation is that tender responses will enable up to six parties to be shortlisted and engaged in a process of competitive dialogue with GBC to ensure the bids fully cover the specifications and service levels. The assessment is best value, not lowest cost. "Value" incorporates an assessment of service level.

There are many positive changes at the Lido this season that have come about as a direct result of the efforts FOGL have made to engage at all levels of GBC and Spectrum Leisure Services. The FOGL committee remain committed to being closely involved in the outsourcing process and to representing the wishes of its members within the challenging financial circumstances prevailing at the current time.

## Offers galore

This season, there are so many ways to get good deals on Lido swims, to detail them all almost takes a newsletter in its' own right, but we'll do our best to give you a condensed list here, and hope we don't miss any. For fuller details, terms and conditions, see relevant websites.

### Active Card 2-4-1 Wednesdays

Active card holders can get **2 for 1 swims** on Wednesdays (term time only).

Other Active Card discounts are £1 **CRAZY GOLF** and £1 **DECK CHAIR HIRE** until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010.

Cards are available from the Spectrum and must be produced at the Lido to claim the offer.

More details found here  
<http://www.guilfordpectrum.co.uk/images/stories/ActiveoffersMay-Aug10.pdf>

### The Good Time Guide Card 2-4-1 Wednesdays

For students with **The Good Time Guide Offer** Card, there is a **two for one offer on entry** to the Lido running until the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. For details see <http://www.thegoodtimeguide.com/newsflash/?id=34>

If you know someone who doesn't have a TGTG Card who might like to take advantage of a range of offers (not just for students) around Guildford, visit

<http://www.thegoodtimeguide.com/static/offers.asp>

The lovely people at TGTG will be helping us to promote the Lido throughout the season through their newsletters, website and general all round good efforts. Thank you!

### Lido season tickets & Prime Time deals

In our April newsletter we highlighted the advantages of getting a season-ticket and if eligible, joining Spectrum's Prime Time club for even more discounts. If you're a regular Lido swimmer, these are still offering excellent value even as we move through the season. The season ticket **covers all swim sessions** with the exception of the new early morning swims on Mondays and Fridays, which can be bought at a discount for season-ticket holders.

### Buy 12 and get a discount

Following our feedback and requests for offering something other than the season tickets, the newly introduced discounted blocks of 12 swim sessions offer good value for money and are ideal for those who may swim less often, or who discover the Lido later in the season but still want a good deal.

Details are available on our website, or from the Lido directly.

<http://www.guilfordlido.com/389/season-tickets-offer-excellent-value/>

## FOGL AGM

Last but certainly not least, a reminder that the FOGL 2010 AGM will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm at Spectrum Leisure Centre. The agenda is available on the website and minutes will be posted on there sometime after the meeting. We hope to see you there.

We welcome all contributions to the newsletter & website.  
Please do get in touch:  
[friends@guildfordlido.com](mailto:friends@guildfordlido.com)