Shere Swimming Pool Operations and Health & Safety Report – AGM 2025

Pool Plant Experts (PPE) service visits

As with previous years, PPE carried out a pre-season service of the plant room equipment during March.
Additionally, we decided we would continue with a slimmed down version of the monthly service visits that PPE carried out the previous season and these took place each month from April until October. This proved useful as in addition to the standard checks carried out, it also enabled us to get professional advice on the running of the pool.

Pool water and daily testing

The pool water clarity has been excellent since the pool was opened.
Two tests have been carried out most days by the plant room team and in general the pH and bromine levels have been within the desired limits. There were a few occasions where the Seko dosing system went out of calibration resulting in incorrect levels of bromine being injected into the pool although nowhere near dangerous levels. It is the intention that more of the plant room volunteers be trained on recalibrating the Seko next season so that any such variances can be corrected more quickly.

Monthly water testing

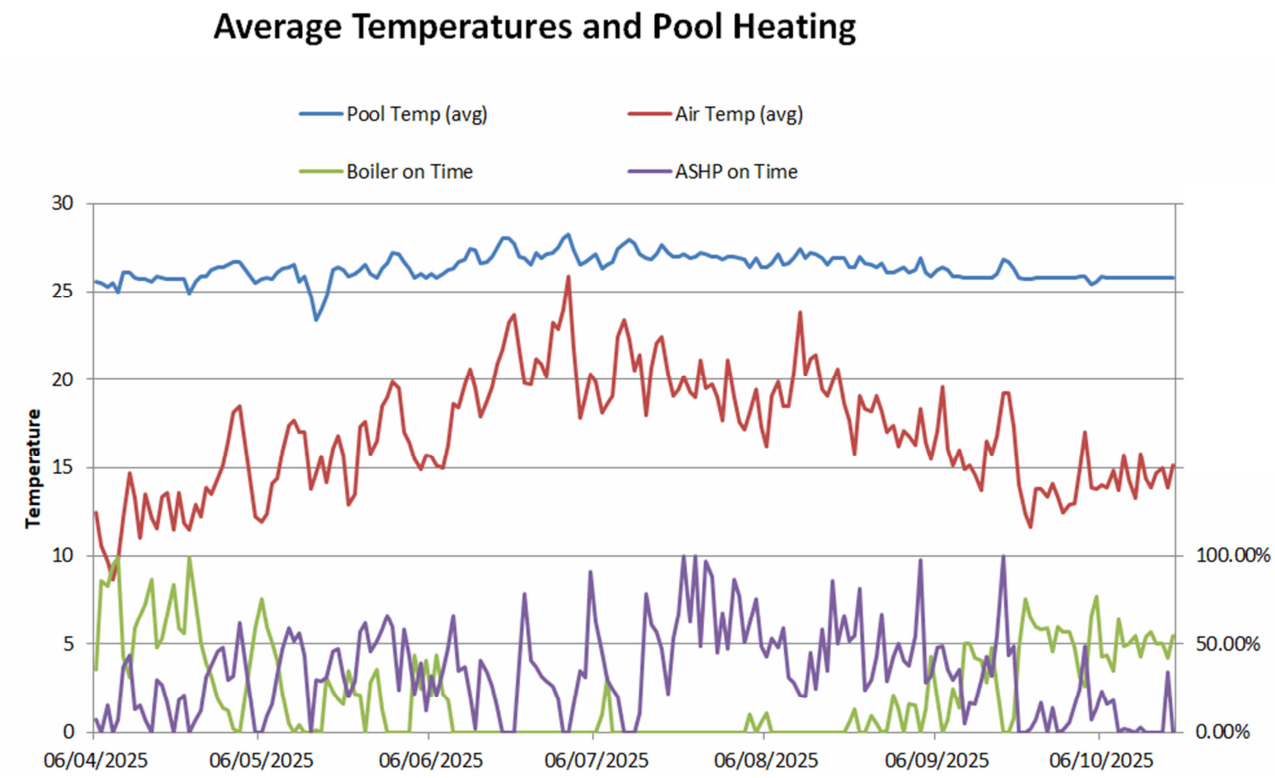
Water samples were taken by PPE on each of their monthly visits. These were sent off to an independent laboratory for independent testing. Every test carried out showed the water to be of good quality and within safe limits.

Flow rate

The recommended turnaround time of the water circulation of under 4 hours was generally met throughout the season.

Monitoring

We continued to monitor how our hybrid (boiler + ASHP) heating system was operating.
The following chart shows the average pool temperature and the corresponding air temperature along with the activity of the boiler and the ASHP.
There was a dip in the pool temperature around mid-May when a component failed that prevented a pump from transferring heat from the boiler to the pool water.
Similarly in early August there was unexpected boiler activity which resulted from the ASHP booster pump failure. This situation might have gone unnoticed for a longer period had we not had this monitoring in place.
The brief spike in boiler activity in early July was the result of low overnight temperatures, This situation became evident again towards the end of August.



Pool Heating Strategy

We aim for around 26C, however, the gas boiler thermostat is set so that the boiler doesn't come on until the temperature drops to 25.5C, switching off at 26C. There is a separate thermostat for the ASHP which is set to stop heating the pool water when it reaches 27.5C. This allows for the pool water being used as a heat store (particularly overnight) which helps limit the need for the boiler to be used in the morning, except during cold spells. During the very hot spells, we also gain from solar heating which can further warm the pool. For reasons of efficiency, the ASHP is only used when the air temperature exceeds 15C.

Bromates

One consequence of using bromine as the disinfectant is that bromates can be produced in the water, which over certain concentrations could in theory be harmful. As with last season, we continued to test the bromate levels in the pool. The tests carried out in May showed the bromate levels to be above those recommended by PWTAG (Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group). It was not known why this happened given the levels were comfortably below the recommended levels last year. In an effort to reduce the bromate levels the agreed plan of action was to reduce the pH level and to carry out additional backwashing and topping up with well water. This was done and more tests were carried out later in the season which showed that the bromate level had fallen significantly, eventually to that below the safe level recommended by PWTAG.

There were, however, negative consequences of reducing the pH level to combat the bromate levels as described above:

a) Much more sulphuric acid was used to reduce the pH level resulting in our chemical costs increasing as a result. Also, our supplier advised we were required to use a more diluted type (15% instead of 30% concentrate) meaning that the rate of usage doubled.

b) The reduction in pH negatively altered the water balance in the pool, so that the water moved to being on the corrosive side of things, rather than the preferred scale forming. Over time, if this were kept up, the grouting and plant equipment would be corroded which would have very significant costs of repair.

NB. From discussions with PWTAG's technical department they advised that they are reviewing the safe level for bromates within pools with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), and they are of the opinion that it is likely that the current level adopted will likely be raised to be more in line with other European countries. With this information in mind,we will be reviewing the pH set level in order that we hopefully can achieve a safe level for bromates balanced against protecting the pool plant and tiling.

Plant room Issues

-In May the bleed valve on the bromine stack started leaking. This was replaced.
-In mid-May there was an issue with the boiler pump not coming on resulting in no hot water from the boiler being circulated into the pool. For a few days the pool was only being heated by the air source heat pump (ASHP) and the pool temperature was lower than desired. The fault was traced to the contactor for the boiler pump, having overheated and melted. The unit was replaced.
- In June, sulphuric acid was found to be pumping over the plant room floor due to the hose becoming disconnected. This was fixed.

Chemical deliveries

The monthly delivery of chemicals (principally bromine and sulphuric acid containers) by Pools by Design worked very well. We are extremely grateful to them as they supply the chemicals at cost which has saved the Club a significant amount of money.

Accidents

Two reported during the season – neither being serious:

1) a girl scraped her knee on the concrete
2) a girl ended up with two cuts on her feet whilst playing.

Child supervision and member's behaviour

The vast majority of members have abided by the child supervision rules and followed the club H&S rules. There have been a few transgressions, but it is difficult to put any exact figures on this as we are reliant on all such incidents being reported to the trustees by the membership.

Handrail

A new handrail was fitted during the season which greatly benefits the elderly and less physically mobile people entering and exiting the pool.

Toilet
Early in the season there was an issue with water leaking from somewhere and ponding on the WC floor. The issue was resolved.

As always the running of the pool simply would not happen were it not for its many volunteers. The Plant Room team especially play a key role in the pool's operation and a very big thank you goes to each and every one of them, too numerous to mention.

Special thanks go to the following:
-To Will Esplen and Marc Anstey who have vacuumed the pool during the season which has been a great help in keeping the pool clean.
-To Christian Staunskjaer for procuring and fitting the new hand rail.
-To Alex Holliday for carrying out remedial work in the plant room.
-To Roger Troughton for his development and regular updating of the remote monitoring system which helps tremendously in being able to keep an eye on things without the need to be on site.

Steve Moggs
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