Shere Swimming Pool Operations and Health & Safety Report – AGM 2026

Service contractors
Plant Room Equipment Servicing -
This year, the Trustees decided that the contract for the pre-season servicing of the plant room equipment and monthly service checks should go out to tender to ensure SSPC was getting the best value for money for these services.
As a result, the contract was awarded to Pools by Design (PBD) who were already well known to SSPC in that they have been supplying our chemicals at cost. In reaching the decision we were very impressed with their professional approach and keenness to take on the business. In appointing them there was also the advantage that they are a local company making it easy for them to respond to emergency call outs, and overall their charges represented a reduction in servicing costs compared to the previous year.
The Ops team remain responsible for other incidental repairs and operations such as filter cleaning, backwashing, vacuuming and other repairs as they arise or upgrades to facilities. Two new wooden benches were installed and much appreciated. We plan to install an additional two next season.

Air Source Heat Pump servicing –
The servicing of the ASHP was included within the contract for the pre-season servicing awarded to PBD. They sub-contracted this work to Pooltech who are specialists in this field.
Gas Boiler servicing –
As with previous years the gas boiler annual service was carried out at the beginning of the season by Calypso – pool boiler specialists.
Fire extinguisher servicing –
The annual servicing of the fire extinguishers was carried out at the beginning of the season by Safe IS Ltd.

RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) Report
The Trustees decided it would be good practice to have RoSPA carry out an independent review of the processes and procedures in place by SSPC. This was carried out during the closed season. It was pleasing to find that the report was very complementary about the way the pool is run. There were a few suggested improvements and all these have been actioned.

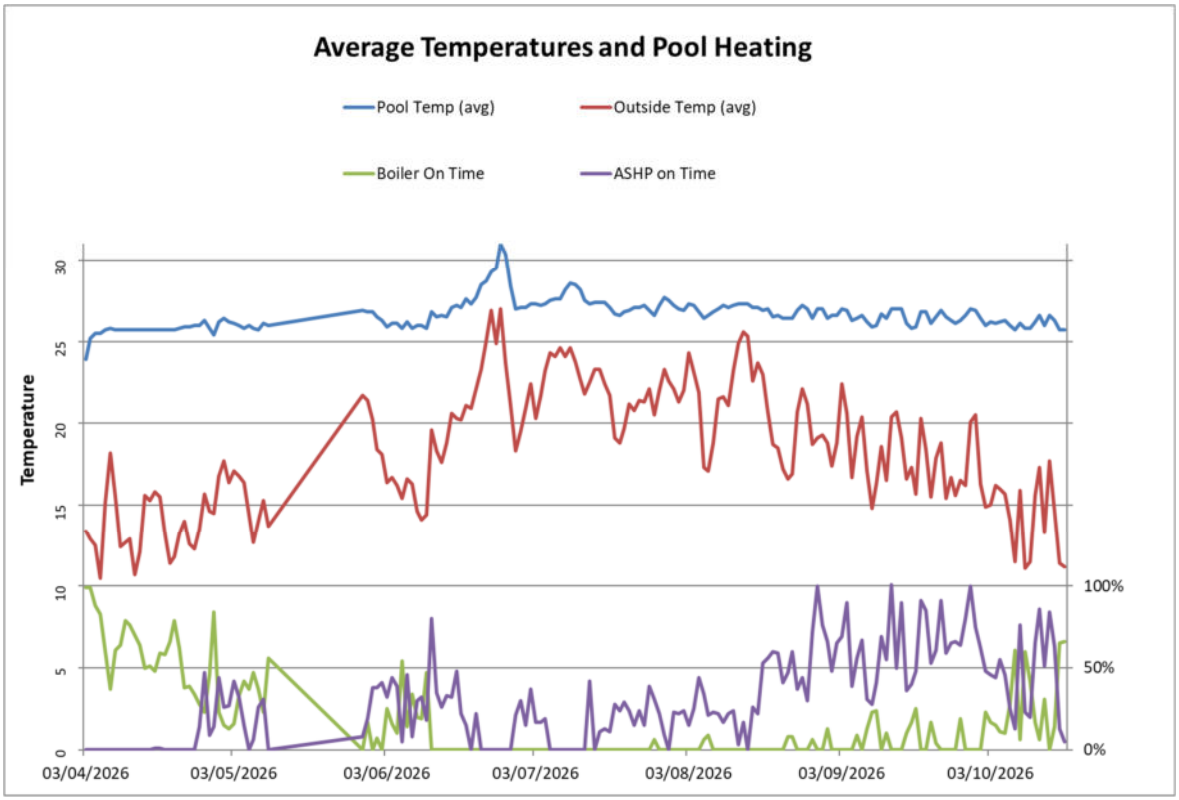
Pool water and daily testing
The pool water clarity has been very good since the pool was opened.
Two tests have been carried out most days by the plant room team and in general the PH and bromine levels have been within the acceptable limits.

Monthly water testing
Water samples were taken by Best Water Monitoring each month. 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.

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 the last two seasons, we continued to test the bromate levels in the pool. The first test carried out early on in the season showed the bromate levels to be within the safe levels designated by PWTAG. The test carried out in July was inconclusive in that the report back showed the level of bromates to be under 30ug/L (but how much under is unknown). A third test carried out at the end of September showed more precision with the level of bromates below 15 ug/L,
An unidentified substance in the pool water appears to have obscured the bromate reading. However, based on European safety limits, the water is likely to be safe, although PWTAG currently recommends a limit of 10 ug/L.

Monitoring and Pool Heating
We continue to monitor how our hybrid (boiler + Air Source Heat Pump) heating system is operating.
The following chart shows the average pool temperature and the corresponding air temperature along with the activity of the boiler and the ASHP.
Close examination will show a straight line from 10 May to 29 May. The reason for this is that, owing to a broadband failure, no data was logged during that period.
For the data we do have logged, when the pool was being heated (~84 hours), the ASHP was on for 65% of that time and the gas boiler for 35% (very occasionally both can be on at the same time).



We continue to aim to heat the pool to around 26C. Our preference is to use the ASHP, however, for reasons of efficiency, it will only come on when the air temperature exceeds 15C, with the gas boiler filling it when it is below that
Due to the heat waves, the average pool temperature actually reached 31C for a couple of days at the end of June - the result of solar heating - we were not heating the pool at all during that period!

Plant room and other Issues

- The Seko dosing system has frequently gone out of calibration resulting in incorrect levels of bromine being injected into the pool although nowhere near dangerous levels. PBD carried out corrective work earlier which did improve things, but the issue has since continued. PBD will be looking to address the issue during next year's pre-season servicing
- Part of the pool side rail was found to have been pulled off the pool wall. It is not known who did this or how it happened, however, the likelihood is it was children either standing on or pulling excessively on the rail. The rail and also the grill where the well water enters the pool was subsequently repaired.
- Early on in the season, there was a problem with the gas boiler and for a few days it was unable to heat the pool water resulting in lower than the normal temperatures in the pool. Thanks to Christian for the suggestion, we got Valiant to come out under warranty and they replaced the fuse board, the pump and the fan, which would of cost us over £1000! So the boiler was fixed and working to warm the pool for opening on Good Friday.

Sewerage blockage
During the latter part of the season, the sewerage sump behind the changing rooms was found to be overflowing due to a blockage in the pipe running under the school playground. As a result, the use of the toilets and shower had to be stopped which meant that the pool had to be closed temporarily until the issue was resolved.
A drainage contractor was called out to clear the blockage and the issue was resolved. However, it was found that the pipework is cracked in several places and it is quite likely that another blockage could easily occur again unless action is taken. The Trustees have agreed to have an inner lining put into the pipe which hopefully will resolve the problem. We are in the process of getting quotes from a number of companies for this work.

Chemical deliveries
The monthly delivery of chemicals 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
Three reported during the season:

1. A young girl was pushed underwater and vomited in the pool and was rescued by another member. She was sick again. She was later taken to hospital and was found to be okay.
2. An elderly lady was seen to be floundering in the pool. She was rescued by another member. It is understood she later attended a doctor's appointment. It was suggested that she does not swim alone.
3. A young girl bumped her head on the bottom of the pool. She was okay.

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.
One issue was reported where no adult was supervising children aged under 16 years old. The family membership was suspended for 8 weeks.
It is difficult to put any exact figures on other transgressions as we are reliant on all such incidents being reported to the Trustees by the membership.

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 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
Operations Manager - Health & Safety