

# Operations Report for 2021 AGM

This year we extended the season by opening the pool from the beginning of April and keeping it open until the start of October. As this proved popular with many members it is the intention that we will open the pool again in April next year.

As with last year we started the season using Calcium Hypochlorite tablets as the primary means of disinfection. It then came to our attention that the feeder stack used to add chlorine tablets to dose the pool water was not supposed to be used with Calcium Hypochlorite tablets and potentially could be dangerous. Nb. This was not the fault of SSPC as it was the contractors who had installed the stack and advised the use of these tablets. As a safety measure it was decided to change over to using TriChlorocyanuricacid (TriChlor) tablets for which the stack was designed to be used with.

The change to using TriChlor tablets resulted in other problems as it was found that the build-up of cyanuric acid levels in the pool water (in itself not dangerous to swimmers) caused the automated pool chemical dosing system (Dosi) to mis-read with the result that the Dosi had a tendency to over-calculate the amount of chlorine in the water resulting in too little chlorine then being injected into the pool. Hence, on a number of occasions it was found when testing the water that there was below the minimum recommended amount of chlorine in the pool. Fortunately in addition to the chlorine dosing we have the UV system which runs in tandem as a secondary source of disinfecting and which compensated to some degree when the chlorine levels were at lower than desired levels.

Whilst the UV system was acting as a back up, the low levels of chlorine were just about acceptable. Unfortunately during the latter part of the season the UV system stopped working which meant that there was no secondary source of disinfecting the water. As the chlorine levels were very low at that time a decision was taken for H&S reasons to close the pool. The pool remained closed for a few days until the chlorine levels were suitably restored to acceptable levels and the UV system was back operating.

In addition to the problems it caused with the Dosi constantly misreading, in order to try and combat the build up of cyanuric acid the pool had to be frequently backwashed and replenished with fresh water. Not only did this require more work, but it would have increased the heating costs as the backwashing disposed of warm water which was having to be replaced with cold water which then needed heating up. We are at least now using water from the well to top up the pool rather than using the more expensive mains water.

Taking all this into account it has been decided that we cannot continue using TriChlor as the means of primary disinfecting. The intention next season is to trial using Bromine tablets which we are advised should have no adverse affects on the dosing system. Although this is likely to cost more we feel that if this does ensure we can maintain the correct level of chemical dosing it will be worth the additional expense.

Even though the pool is now closed for the Winter period, we are obliged to keep the pumps and boilers operating in order to maintain a minimum water temperature of 10 degrees. This is necessary to ensure that the pool tiles and plant room equipment are protected from very cold conditions and is a condition of the guarantee we have with our contactors PPE. A small team of volunteers has been set up to carry out regular checks to ensure that the pumps and boilers are running throughout this period.

In closing, I would especially like to thank Clive and Barry who have spent numerous hours at the pool during the season keeping things going. Additionally we must also thank all the members of the plant room team who have carried out essential duties including water testing and topping up chemicals throughout the season, as well as those who will be helping with checking the pool during the closed period..

If you have any questions I'd be happy to answer them.

**Steve Moggs**

Deputy Operations Manager (and Health and Safety Manager)

# Shere Swimming Pool Health & Safety Report – October 2021

## Accidents

There have been no recorded accidents since the issue we had with the falling tree on the changing room area. Indeed, this was the only accident that was reported during the whole season.

## Tree risk assessment

The above mentioned accident called into question the reliability of the inspections carried out on the trees by the school. The school (in conjunction with Surrey County Council) have confirmed that the last tree risk assessment was carried out by a competent/qualified person (although we don't know when that took place). The oak tree appears to be in good order, but despite asking for reassurances as to its state of health the school have not directly answered that question. All they say is that the tree is protected and that if we applied to SCC to have it cut back then all they are likely to agree to is 1 metre.

It is also worth adding that the school's insurance company refused to pay for any of the damage caused by the school's tree, and the school were using this as an excuse not to take any responsibility for the various costs of the damage. After exchange of many e-mails the school have at least got their insurance company to cover the cost of the initial work in removing the tree debris carried out by Excavation Services. They are still not prepared to pay for the damage caused to the gate system or costs relating to the reinstatement of the collapsed roof.

## Chlorine levels

We experienced issues with very low chlorine levels during parts of September as a result of the Dosi misreading the chlorine levels in the water and not dosing correctly. To try and boost the chlorine levels Calcium Hypochlorite tablets were added into the skimmer baskets on some days. – this is not an approach that is to be recommended but under the circumstances it was the only quick solution for boosting the chlorine levels in the pool. Whilst the UV system was acting as a back up, the low levels of chlorine were just about acceptable. Unfortunately the UV system stopped working which meant that there was no secondary source of disinfecting the water. As the chlorine levels were very low a decision was taken for H&S reasons to close the pool. The pool remained closed for a few days until the chlorine levels were suitably restored to acceptable levels and the UV system was back operating.

It is the consensus of the Operations team that we cannot continue using TriChlor due to the issues caused by the cyanuric acid. Having had a meeting with PPE it is suggested that there would be advantages to converting over to using Bromine tablets and we will be looking to trial this at the beginning of next season.

It is also suggested that it would make good sense to have the UV system serviced during the closed season.

## Water testing

The monthly independent water test carried out in September showed the water to be of good quality.

## Covid restrictions

In view of the rising number of Covid cases it was agreed by the committee that the responsible thing was to maintain the system of booking swimming slots which continued until the season ended. Assuming there are no restrictions imposed next season it is likely that some form of hybrid combination of bookable lanes and periods of free swimming will be put in place.

## Members behaviour

No issues to report

**Steve Moggs**  
Health & Safety Manager

## SSPC Booking System Report

The booking system registered 14,760 transactions since we opened this year.

Members cancelled 2655 bookings and the system cancelled/didn't confirm a further 335 bookings for various reasons.

In all, a total of around 11,770 effective bookings have been made this season.

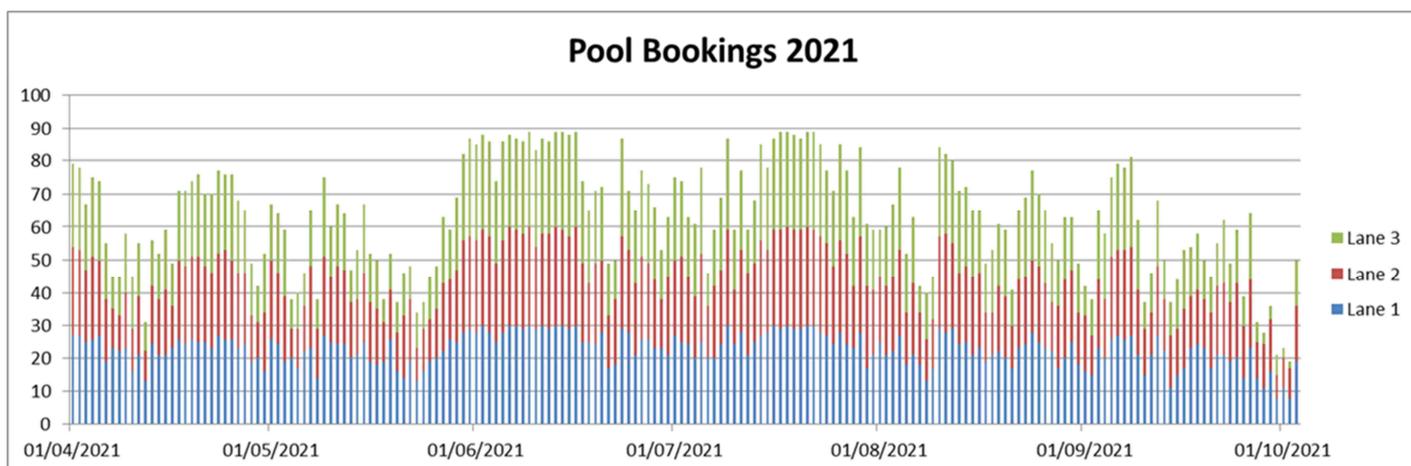
Of these, 563 were standby bookings – these can be booked on the day only when there are slots available.

One member managed to book nearly 250 swims over the 180+ days we were open, proving that if you are prepared to be flexible there are plenty of opportunities to swim!

Lane 1 again proved to be the most popular with 36% of bookings followed by Lane 2 (33%) and then Lane 3 (31%).

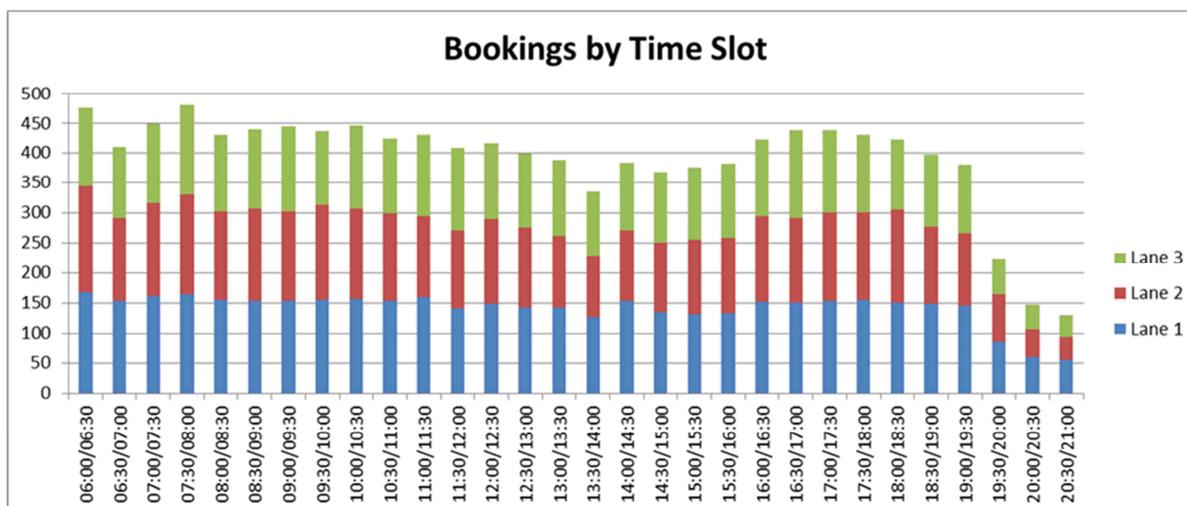
The Availability page, which allows bookings across the next 3 days to be seen at a glance, proved very popular and was accessed well over 9,000 times.

Below is a visual representation of bookings throughout the season by Lane – the peaks most likely corresponding with sunny weather!

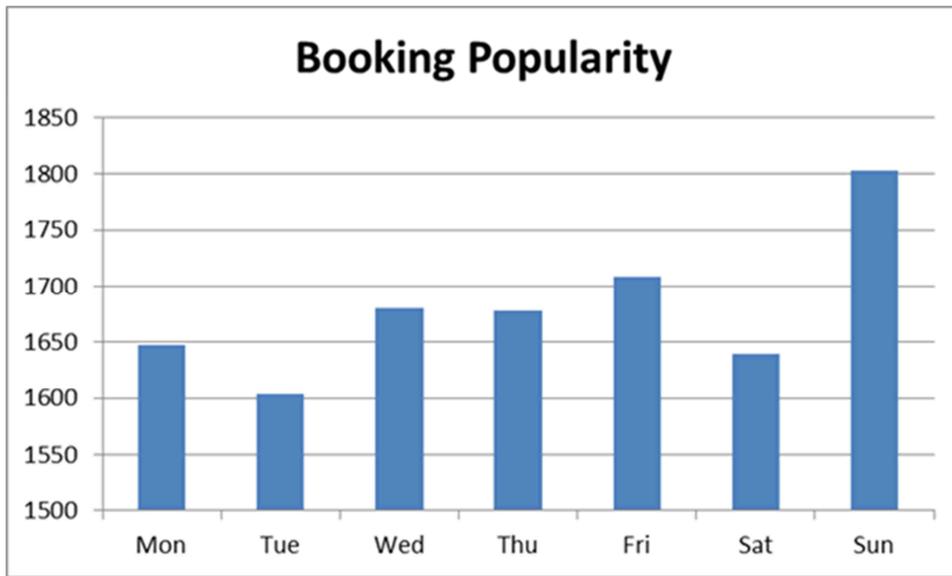


The following chart shows the bookings for each lane by time slot:

Ignoring the slots after 19.30 (which aren't bookable all season), the least popular slot this year was 13.30-14.00. Most popular are the early morning slots 07.30-08.00 followed by 06.00-06.30, then 07.00-07.30



Looking at bookings by day of the week, this chart shows that Tuesday is the least popular followed, rather surprisingly, by Saturday:



Roger Troughton

## Treasurer's report AGM November 2021

### Financial Review for Year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

- a) Operating income: Net pool revenue (Subscriptions) received during the year of £42,283 ( compared with £30,206 in 2020)
  - Members subs raised by £10 for individuals and £20 for families
  - Membership numbers back to capacity having been restricted in 2020
- b) Operating expenditure (before depreciation) totalled £23,226 (compared with £14,139 for 2020 and £22,642 for 2019).
  - Gas & electricity costs\* have increased due to running the pool for a full season and at 10 degrees through the winter
  - Insurance for the new plant systems has increased
- c) This has left a cash surplus of £19,057 from operations (compared with a deficit of £1,766 in 2020)
- d) Donations of £11,000 and Gift Aid of £8,358 gives £19,538 of restricted income to be spent on Phase 2 rebuild. The Gift Aid claim relates to donations made in 2020 and 2021 and includes members who donated the subscriptions refunded from 2020 to SSPC. A massive thank you to all our generous members and donors, for the donations and the Gift Aid
- e) Fixed Assets: Pool infrastructure and plant room systems amounts to £185,978 after depreciation of £12,985 has been charged for this year.
- f) Financial position at year end. Operating surplus of £19,057 together with restricted income minus depreciation (£19,538 – 12,985 = £6553) results in total funds available of £25,610
- g) Net Current Assets of £62,884 have increased by £38,595 (£24,289 in 2020)

\* Note: SSPC is on a fixed contract for gas until July 2023 and electricity until March 2023

## Preparations for the SSPC Stage 2 Building Programme

The planning and design process has recently been completed and approved and we can now proceed with the proposed Stage2 Building works. A local company ,Rob Arrow Builders, have been appointed together with a specialist foundation contractor who will install a grid of piles to support the ground slab foundation that will protect the tree root system of the adjacent School Oak Tree . The Works will commence later this month and substantial completion is anticipated by late February next year . SSPC has worked with specialist advisors at all stages of the process to support the preparation of the Architectural and Building requirements and Guildford Borough Council has approved the measures that SSPC is incorporating into the delivery of the Works .

12th November 2021

MCK