

Lambeth and the Lido

Dear Living South,

I would like to respond to your readers' letters about Brockwell Lido. First, a couple of factual corrections. Evian were indeed the sponsors for the Lido last year and this season, but only for these two years. Last year they paid for improvements to the pool, including decking, but did not contribute to running costs. This year, they have contributed £10,000.

A retractable roof is an attractive idea but there is no evidence that it would produce an attractive financial return. No swimming pool in this country makes money. Indoor pools are subsidised by local authorities. Outdoor pools tend not to be. Lambeth Council is currently trying to find a solution to the problem by offering an adjacent site for appropriate development which could provide rental to cross-subsidise the Lido.

The water can be cold but has been very warm during the better weeks this summer. It can't be that cold anyway because on any day of the week you will see people in their 70s and 80s

swimming happily, as well as babies and toddlers. There is a lot of evidence that swimming outside in cooler water is a much healthier option than swimming in an indoor pool.

The best way to support the Lido is to use it – as a swimmer, sunbather or by joining a yoga, meditation or Tai Chi class, or by taking children to the wonderful Whippersnappers music workshops (all of which go on all through the year) or by using the poolside café. The other important way to contribute is to join the Brockwell Lido Users, which is a support group working with the council to safeguard the future of the Lido. We aim to have 1000 members by the end of the year and are absolutely determined to keep the Lido open. Membership is free and we keep our members up to date with what is happening at and to the Lido. To find out more, please look at our website at www.brockwelllido.com.

*Yours sincerely, Yvonne Levy,
Stradella Road SE24*

Dear Sir,

In an otherwise positive article on the Brockwell Lido you stated that Lambeth Council has failed to support the facility. In fact Lambeth is committed to Brockwell Lido and we are doing everything possible to ensure that it remains open over the coming seasons. Short term we recently invested £120,000 as landlord to ensure that the lido is safe for use by the public. We have also been able to provide further financial support for activities through the summer. For the long term we are working with a steering group of community representatives to explore a full range of options for developments that will safeguard this important community facility. With those community representatives we will shortly be looking at proposals from a number of leisure contractors and in the autumn we will be making decisions which should see a new lease of life for the lido well into the future.

*Yours sincerely, Cllr Clare Whelan, Executive
Member for Environment, Lambeth Council*