

## BLU UPDATE July 2013



### *Summertime and the livin' is easy George Gershwin*

A warm pool. An air-conditioned gym. A shady café. What more could anyone want? As Kurt Vonnegut said; "If this isn't nice, I don't know what is!" The water is up in the twenties and you can check the temperature every day on Twitter.

The Lido has been in the news recently with features in the Lambeth and Southwark Weekender papers. Also a brief [history on the Brixton Blog](#).

The latter piece mentions the **swimming lake** that preceded the Lido. That lake is now number one pond in Brockwell Park and during the first hot weekend of this year, two gentlemen were observed swimming across the pond, clad in Speedos and Sombreros. Probably not something to be encouraged – we don't want to scare the wildfowl. Mind you, there are two mallards who regularly swim lengths in the Lido and the humans don't seem to object.

If you are not a Choice member you can avoid the queues for the pool by [applying for a Fast Track card online](#).

Zac, one of the heroic **lifeguards** who supervised swimmers all through the long and bitter winter, has moved on to be deputy manager at Dulwich Leisure Centre, also operated by Fusion. We shall miss him but wish him all the best in his career.

The **wildflower meadow** behind the Lido has also been getting a lot of attention. Walkers and runners stop and stare and exchange happy comments about how glorious it is. BLU are very proud to have made a financial contribution to the cost of creating this wonderful spectacle. But huge credit must go to Susy Hogarth and the Friends of Brockwell Park for having the vision and seeing it through, as well as the volunteers who did the hard work.

**The car park chaos** is getting more and more like Groundhog Day. The car park is abused by commuters, shoppers and traders; able-bodied drivers park in disabled bays; vehicles block access for emergency vehicles; and there is daily aggravation for legitimate Park and Lido users and Lido staff. Those of you who attended BLU's Annual Forum last September may recall that it looked as if this long-standing issue would be resolved within the following few weeks. Indeed, a similar promising statement had been made at the 2011 Forum. But that did not happen. Pressure for car parking enforcement has been raised at every Forum since 2008. Our members have emailed us/twittered or collared some of our Committee members at the pool or in the gym about the chaos in the car park, particularly the blatant mis-use of disabled bays and the areas around them. We have expressed our frustration frequently to Fusion, and recently wrote to Lambeth Planning supporting Fusion's latest amended planning application. We await a resolution as soon as possible.

Apart from the car park issue, our stalwart BLU committee member, CJ, had a full agenda for his regular **monthly meeting** with the Lido Manager, Clare Bushell. Too much to detail here but good points include the following: a pool alarm has been installed; there are more picnic tables; and there is a pool hoist which can be used to help disabled swimmers into the pool. The poolside and men's wet-side showers are now working; Clare has agreed to get the bottom of the pool cleaned; and we hope that the pool surrounds will get spruced-up too. Fusion are going to provide a parasol for the swimmers' terrace and we look forward to that area looking a bit more welcoming. Fusion have been asked to provide a spinner for wet swimming costumes, but say this would be a health and safety risk.

In the spa area there is now CCTV overlooking the hydrotherapy pool; and the spa water cannon have been fixed, the cause of the blockage of the pipes having been traced to a user's flannel (use of which is not allowed!) And in the gym more attachments have been ordered for the cable machines. We know that some of you would like Wifi in the gym, but Fusion report that there are no plans to install it. It is, however, available in The Lido Café. **Gym users** are reminded not to walk through the spa on their way to and from the changing rooms. And please do not use weights in the stretching

area of the gym, as this could cause a serious injury.

After many requests from users and the arrival of summer, we are hoping that the **whole pool** will be available for swimming most of the time. Fusion report that they have good numbers of lifeguards on their books now. And we also hope that the beach hut will be open more of the time so you can sample The Lido Café's speciality free-range sausage in a roll.

### **Reminder – events in July**

**Brockwell Lido Annual Summer Swim Races.** Free, fun, family event on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July** 5.30pm – 8.30pm. Volunteers needed for time-keeping and other pleasant chores.

**From 30<sup>th</sup> July** 9am – 9.45am for six weeks: fitness and technique courses for adults who can swim two lengths. Cost £42.

**From 30<sup>th</sup> July** 10am – 10.30am: a similar course for people with disabilities aged 16 – 23 years. Cost £36.

For these events and courses contact Sarah/Mike at [lidomike@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lidomike@hotmail.co.uk) tel: 07770 261809.

However you use the Lido, if you have any **comments or suggestions** PLEASE fill in a Fusion “Please Tell Us What You Think” card, available in reception AND let BLU know via twitter or Facebook or email.

Finally, do come to the **Users’ Forum and BLU AGM** on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 10am at the Lido where you can put your views to senior Fusion and Lambeth personnel. Put the date in your diary now!

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