



Dear BLU member

### **Update from Brockwell Lido Users (BLU)**

With local elections in early May and the swimming season approaching, the next month is a critical time for Brockwell Lido. The purpose of this letter is to give you an update and to remind those who live in Lambeth that **this is the last chance before the election to contact local councillors and candidates**. Please write, attend meetings or talk to your local candidates and let them know that the Lido is important.

#### **BLU Web Site and e-Mail**

You can now get frequent updates on the Lido and BLU at [www.brockwelllido.com](http://www.brockwelllido.com). Many thanks to Brigit Brown for designing the Logo.

If you have an e-mail address, please contact us at [memberships@brockwelllido.com](mailto:memberships@brockwelllido.com) so we can send future updates by e-mail. This helps keep our costs down. Please confirm your full contact details and membership number, which is .

#### **Will the Lido open this summer?**

Lambeth is offering the current managers a two-season extension to the lease to autumn 2003 to allow time for a longer-term solution to be found. Although the consultant stated that the Lido is not viable without subsidy or additional income, Lambeth is not, at present, offering any financial support for the two seasons. As a two-season lease makes it very difficult to generate other sources of income, BLU thinks Lambeth should re-consider this position on subsidy for the two seasons. Swimming is subsidised at other Lambeth pools, why not the Lido?

Paddy and Casey assure us that they will open for sunny weekends in May and for the summer swimming season at the end of June or early July. However, the terms of the two-season extension to their lease have not yet been formally agreed and signed. To avoid ending the two seasons with a debt the current managers report that they may be forced to trim the opening hours and the activities.

#### **What about the longer-term future of the Lido?**

Lambeth is committed to keeping the Lido open as a community resource, but wants it to be self-supporting. The council is now working with local community groups to establish the Lido's long-term sustainability while protecting the community ethos. This is the challenge allocated to the steering committee established at the consultative meeting on January 31. The group consists of **3 members from BLU**, one member each from Friends of Brockwell Park, the Herne Hill Forum and the Brockwell Park Management Advisory Committee. It is supported by Lambeth officers and Ian Barclay from Torkildsen Barclay Leisure consultants who wrote the report on the options for the Lido. Current managers of the Lido attend as advisors. The role of the Steering Committee is to make recommendations. Final decisions will be made by the council.

The Lambeth Steering Committee is exploring the feasibility of increasing income from the rooms surrounding the Lido and attracting commercial investment to create a healthy living or fitness centre in the nearby football changing rooms to subsidise the Lido. It is also investigating management structures that would safeguard the community interests and create a charitable organisation that might increase access to grants. Updates will appear on BLU's web site.

### **What is BLU doing?**

The BLU meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> was attended by 100 members. A draft constitution was amended and adopted and 6 criteria for future plans for the Lido agreed.

1. Retain an open-air swimming pool with at least the present opening hours and seasons.
2. Retain and expand existing community use.
3. Be in keeping with the park and local neighbourhood
4. Community representation in the future management
5. Long-term sustainability
6. Maintain an ambiance and balance of activities suitable for those of all ages, gender, diverse cultural backgrounds and life styles.

Current members of the BLU steering group were confirmed and additional members recruited bringing the steering up to 17 members. The group's main tasks are: to ensure that BLU delegates on the Lambeth working group are well supported, to campaign for support and to research other Lidos to find out how they are financed and managed. Our most important research findings so far are:

- No pool we have contacted makes a profit on the basis of swimming revenue alone.
- Management of Lidos is undertaken in one of three basic forms: direct council Management, private sector management under contract, not for profit/registered charity management.
- Local user groups have been important in rescuing Lidos and a number are run by charitable organisations established by user groups.
- Many rely on a variety of funding sources: income from swimming and catering, income from additional activities such as car parks or fitness centres, local fundraising and local authority or national grants.
- Lottery funding is proving difficult to secure. Three listed Lidos have received significant sums from the Heritage Fund.

We are now writing to all councillors and candidates to ask them to support the Lido and to agree to some continued funding. Watch the web site for responses.

### **What can you do?**

**If you live in Lambeth, please contact your local councillor and candidates immediately. If you don't know who they are you can email [llewis@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:llewis@lambeth.gov.uk), check on the Lambeth Web site at <http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/borough/wardmap.htm> or phone the Council on 020 7926 1000.** Point out that the Lido is used **all year by over 800 people a week** for classes and tell them why the Lido is important to you. If you live in Southwark there is no harm in bringing the issue of the Lido to the attention of current councillors and candidates as a cross-borough issue.

Attend Herne Hill Forum on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Carnegie Library. There is a permanent agenda item on the Lido.

If you have experience in writing invitations to tender, evaluating business potential or running charitable organisations and are willing to help BLU please contact [info@brockwelllido.com](mailto:info@brockwelllido.com)

Last but not least---support the pool this summer! Watch for the opening date!!!  
And if you know the magic to guarantee a hot, sunny summer please do that too!

BLU Steering