

29 July 2003



Dear Member

### **Fusion to be given responsibility for Brockwell Lido**

*For BLU this means a transition from a campaigning to an effective user group*

**On 14 July the Executive Group of Lambeth Council voted to award Fusion a 25-year lease on Brockwell Lido**, subject to planning permission being granted for Fusion's proposals and agreement over documentation. This follows 18 months of campaigning by BLU and a process of consultation organised with other local groups and Lambeth Council which included:

- Public meeting in January 2002 to discuss consultant's report on the Lido
- Regular meetings over 18 months of Lambeth Steering Group representing local organisations and Lido users
- Invitation to express interest in leasing the Lido published in national press
- Presentation and discussion of 3 proposals for the Lido at a public meeting in February 2003.

**Fusion emerged from this process as preferred bidder.** Fusion is a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status. Its aim is to make leisure facilities more accessible to all members of the community on a self-financing basis. The Fusion proposal (summarised on our Web site) for Brockwell Lido involves investing £2 million in the Lido over the three years to improve rooms surrounding the Lido and to increase space so that a wider range of year-round classes and fitness activities can take place. The proposal also promises annual maintenance expenditure and a sinking fund to accumulate money for further development.

Lambeth and Fusion have assured us that the lease and contracts will incorporate a number of requirements based on BLU's consultation with users and negotiated through the Lambeth Steering Group. These include a requirement that the pool remains a large open-air pool and that current classes and activities are entitled to continue. Pool hours and season are also stipulated.

Classes will be given temporary accommodation during building work which will begin when planning permission is secured and should be completed in 18 to 20 weeks. Whippersnappers will be accommodated in the Lido complex until they have achieved their goal which is to lease the football changing rooms which they plan to refurbish to provide a larger base for their expanding programme.

#### **Involvement of Users**

Fusion has made a commitment to work closely with users and the local community. To ensure that this happens effectively, a consultative group representing BLU and other local organisations will be established. Fusion have agreed that this group will nominate a representative to the Fusion Working Group on the Lido and to the Fusion Board and so it will be able to promote good communication between Lido users and Fusion Management. This group will also ensure that users are involved in evaluating the service and have a voice in planning future development of the Lido.

To make user involvement effective, BLU will need to be a strong group representative of the diverse users of the Lido

#### **How Can You Help?**

To become an effective user group BLU needs a steady income. For this reason we are asking BLU members renew memberships and to send a small donation. You can do this completing and returning the membership form overleaf.

#### **Be sure to support the Lido this summer**

It is Paddy and Casey, of course, who have made the Lido so special for so many people for 10 years. A good way to say thank you to them is to support the Lido this summer by swimming even when weather is cloudy, doing classes or enjoying a meal by the poolside. The water is almost warm! Do ring 020 7274 3088, however, to check opening times.