

one hundred yards

Special Tooting Bec Lido update from the South London Swimming Club

Work starts on new Lido Pavilion

**By Giles Meyer, SLSC
President**

If I had a pound for every time someone had asked me, "When will the building work start?" I would be able to finance the Lido Improvement Project myself by now. So I wanted to use this issue of *100 Yards* to update you on developments, and I am very pleased to announce that the work is about to begin.

We hope all the effort that has already taken place behind the scenes will result in a building we can all be proud of, and which has the full support of the local community. In recent months we have been:

"... create a building of real quality, which will last the test of time."



- Gaining planning permission. As the building will be on common land, it was necessary to obtain this from both Wandsworth Borough Council (WBC) and the Secretary of State, who took account of the environmental considerations, ensuring the building will enhance the Lido and Tooting Common as a whole.
- Raising the necessary funds through South London Swimming Club (SLSC) reserves, Sport England, The Heritage Lottery Fund and WBC. This means the finance is in place for us to make the most of the space available and create a building of real quality, which will last the test of time.

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Opening times at the Lido to 1 May (SLSC members) – 7am (or dawn) to 2pm (last swim 1.30pm)
1 May to 31 August (open to the public) – 6am to 8pm (last swim 7.30pm)

- Producing a detailed design specification of the building. This has been sent to five companies that have expressed an interest in tendering and we should have their responses in January.

The project team, which meets every month, consists of myself (SLSC President), Jenny Barker (Treasurer), Margy Sullivan (committee member), Susan Venner (club member, an architect), Rob Hughes (architect for the project, from David Gibson Architects) and Simon Ingyon (Head of Leisure and Parks at WBC). While many decisions have been delegated to this group, I report back to the SLSC committee, elected by Club members, which has the final say.

When the tender for the building was issued, it was agreed to begin the demolition of the current deep-end entrance. This will begin in December and will be completed by the middle of February, when we hope the preferred construction company will start on site. It is estimated that work will take most of 2016, with the new building opening in time for the Cold Water Swimming Championships in January 2017.

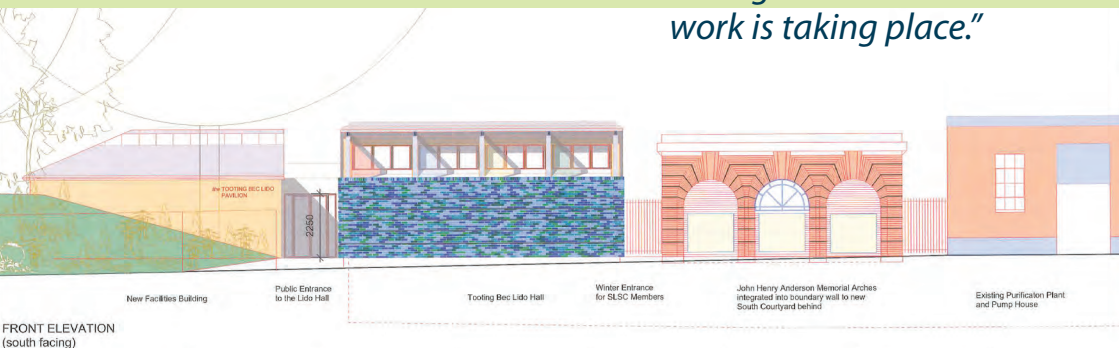
The cost of the project will be almost £900,000, compared with the original estimate of £700,000. This is a result of increases in the cost of building materials

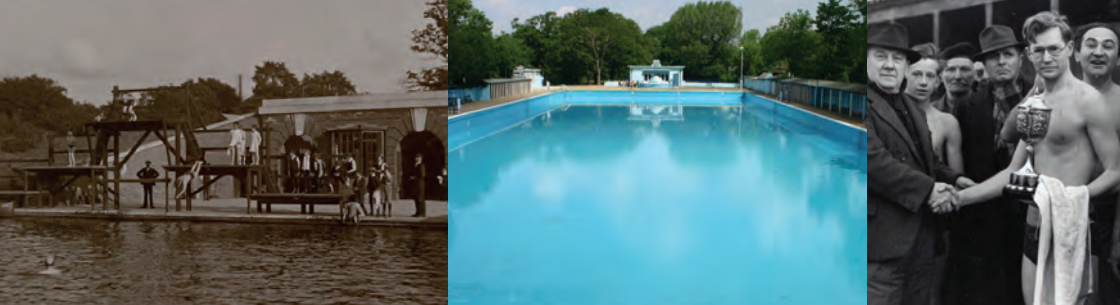
over the last two years, changes made in consultation with Sport England to ensure the building meets their guidelines, and additions to the original specification to ensure the building is truly multi-functional. It has been agreed that the extra cost will be met by the SLSC and WBC, through additional money that has been raised from reserves because of the favourable terms we enjoy as part of our new contract with WBC.

After discussions with the demolition contractors, People for Places and WBC, it has been decided that we will use the shallow-end entrance throughout the time that work is taking place, starting on Sunday 6 December. This will speed up the demolition and construction work and make it easier for the lifeguards to manage the site.

We will keep you informed of progress over the coming months, but are pleased that there will soon be more visible signs of the work that has been going into the project. If you have any questions about the work, please speak with me or another member of the committee.

“... we will use the shallow-end entrance throughout the time that work is taking place.”





Increased focus on the Lido's history

To complement the new Lido Pavilion, South London Swimming Club plans to highlight the historical features of the Lido as part of Wandsworth Council's Tooting Common Heritage Project. The planned improvements to the Lido are:

Rebuilding of the original entrance arches. The current arches will be demolished to make way for the new Lido Pavilion, and will be rebuilt to form the outer wall of the deep-end sunbathing terrace, linking the pump room to the new Pavilion. The in-filled arches will make a fitting location to commemorate the Reverend John Hendry Anderson, the local rector and alderman who came up with the idea of recruiting local unemployed men to build the Bathing Lake.

Renovation of the changing cubicles. In addition, more cubicles will be added to improve the overall visual impact and symmetry. The simple construction and bold colour scheme will be retained.

Extension of the western terrace with the installation of a commemoration wall. The sunbathing area along the western edge of the pool (next to the Common) is to be enlarged by reclaiming part of the wooded mound behind it. Ceramic plaques will be placed on the new retaining wall in memory of SLSC members and Lido enthusiasts.



Highlighting the pump room. Views will be opened up into the pump building, allowing the original filter equipment to be seen and appreciated, with an explanation of the science and history of water filtration.

Increased cycle parking. Large numbers of Lido users arrive by bike, so further public cycle parking is planned at the main entrance, along with a new cycle parking area near the deep-end entrance used by SLSC members in the winter.

Archiving of historical material. There are plans for cataloguing and digitising precious documents and pictures relating to Tooting Bec Lido and the SLSC. In addition, a safe archive repository will be established.

Creation of a heritage website. Material from the digitised archive will be uploaded to a dedicated site so it is easily accessible to all.

If we are successful in our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the funds to turn these ideas into reality, it will be possible to save money by carrying out the work in parallel with the Lido Pavilion project.

For more information on the Lido Heritage Plan visit www.slsc.org.uk

For details of all events, keep an eye on the Tooting Bec Lido notice board or visit www.slsc.org.uk

Club events in 2016

Invitation Spring Gala **Sunday**

20 March 10am Local clubs are invited to a fun cold water gala.

Sunday races **every week, 9.30am** **(9am from 5 July to 30 August)**

Handicapped starts, so people of all ages and abilities can compete*. Warm up with tea, coffee and cake.

Children's races from 5 June, 9.30am On five successive Sundays, with a cup for the most improved young swimmer.

Dip, dine and dance Friday 24 June, 7.30pm An evening swim, delicious food, music and dancing.

Summer evening races Friday 1 July, 7.30pm Mile, half mile and children's races. Bring a picnic.

River swim Friday 15 July, 5pm Ever fancied swimming in the Thames? Now's your chance.

**Swimmers can only win a trophy in a handicapped event if they have recently competed in at least three races.*

Public events for the summer

Water workouts

Every Saturday from 7 May at 10am 45 minutes of FREE aqua-aerobics. No need to book, just turn up and join in.

Summer evening aquathlons Wednesdays: 25 May, 8 and 22 June and 6 July 1km swim and 7.5km run.

Children's aquathlon Saturday 9 July, 9.30am For eight to 16-year-olds with a parents' race at the end.

Information: www.slsc.org.uk

Contact the SLSC at info@slsc.org.uk or phone **07985 141 532**

If you'd like to volunteer to help at any of our events, please email volunteer@slsc.org.uk

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If you would like to join the South London Swimming Club, visit www.slsc.org.uk or ask the lifeguards for an application form.