

one hundred yards

Your Tooting Bec Lido update from the South London Swimming Club

Hello 100 Yards



I am very pleased to take on the role of SLSC President, following in the footsteps of Giles Meyer,

who was President from 2011 to 2017. Giles leaves a legacy of success for the Club: membership at record levels, the Lido Pavilion opening this summer and secure finances. He leaves a solid foundation for members to take the Club into an exciting future and I look forward to embracing that challenge.

Brian Daly

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New SwimRun event

UK Cold Water Swimming Championships 2017



The Lido Pavilion unveiled

Former SLSC President Giles Meyer tells the story of the new Lido Pavilion, which opens this summer.

Way back in 2011, the South London Swimming Club started a process of consultation with members to explore how we could best spend the reserves we had accumulated, in a way that would help secure the long-term future

of both the Lido and the Club. So began the seven-year gestation of the new building at the deep end of the pool.

We only had about 60% of the money needed for the building, so our first job was to secure funding for the rest. This led to a successful application to Sport England for £250,000, and Wandsworth Borough Council have provided the remainder.

photo credit: Gail McLean



Continued...

**Tooting Bec Lido opening times: until 31 August – 6am to 8pm (last swim 7.30pm)
1 September to 30 September – 6am (or dawn) to 5pm (last swim 4.30pm)**



Following a tender process, we appointed David Gibson Architects to design the Pavilion, with Club member Rob Hughes as lead architect. We soon had a design that the Club and the local community were happy with.

The old arches were taken down brick by brick, so that they could be rebuilt as the final stage of the project, and in spring 2016 our appointed contractors, Oliver Builders, started work on the Pavilion itself.

The Lido Pavilion will serve many purposes. It has a sports studio overlooking the pool, which will be a light and attractive area for events and activities. This space will also be used for classes, workshops and general hire. There is a new lifeguards' room and a first aid room. SLSC will have an office – our first concrete home at the Lido. Add in a kitchen, toilets and changing rooms, and you have a dynamic new building that will serve both the Club and the community for years to come.

Once the Pavilion is open, improvement work will continue on site. The arches will be rebuilt to create an aesthetic frontage onto Tooting Common. There will be a new sunbathing deck where the current benches are on the Common side, which is the best place for catching the sun in the early morning and on winter days. The pump room will have viewing windows so that everyone can see how the filtration machinery works – and how old it is!

We are confident that the Pavilion will be a wonderful asset for the next generation of members. We very much look forward to the opening, and inviting you to see it for yourself.

Making history at the Lido

As part of the Tooting Common Heritage Project, the SLSC is cataloguing and digitising its archive before handing it over to the Wandsworth Heritage Service at Battersea Library. The archive covers more than 100 years of the Club's history – like the Lido, we date back to 1906.



We will then be tackling other projects, including a memorial to the Reverend John Hendry Anderson, who was responsible for the creation of the pool.

If you would like to help with the Club's heritage project, which involves scanning, recording oral history and cataloguing, please contact Janet Smith at **history@slsc.org.uk**

Also, look out for the new website dedicated to the history of Tooting Bec Lido and the SLSC. The History Group are busy scanning and uploading material now. **www.tootinglidohistory.org.uk**



Looking into the past



Once the Lido Pavilion is finished, you will be able to take a peek through new viewing panels set into the walls of the pump house and marvel at

the 85-year-old filtration machinery that pumps a million gallons of water through the fountain every 24 hours to keep the Lido sparkling.

Scanning the past

Sunday 4 June 9am to noon

Do you have any old photographs of Tooting Bec Lido? SLSC is creating a publicly accessible archive of the Lido's history all the way back to 1906 and your photos could be an invaluable part of this archive. Bring your photos or memorabilia from the first 100 years to the Lido and we will scan them there and then and give them straight back. Just turn up, no need to book.

Mapping the past

Sunday 2 July 10am to 4pm, Tooting Bec Lido Pavilion

Come and view a collection of maps and drawings relating to parks and green open spaces in Wandsworth, part of the Tooting Common Heritage Project. The collection includes printed, hand-drawn, and hand-finished maps and documents from between the wars and up until the 1990s when the last municipal landscape designers left the Council. FREE, no booking required. Children welcome.

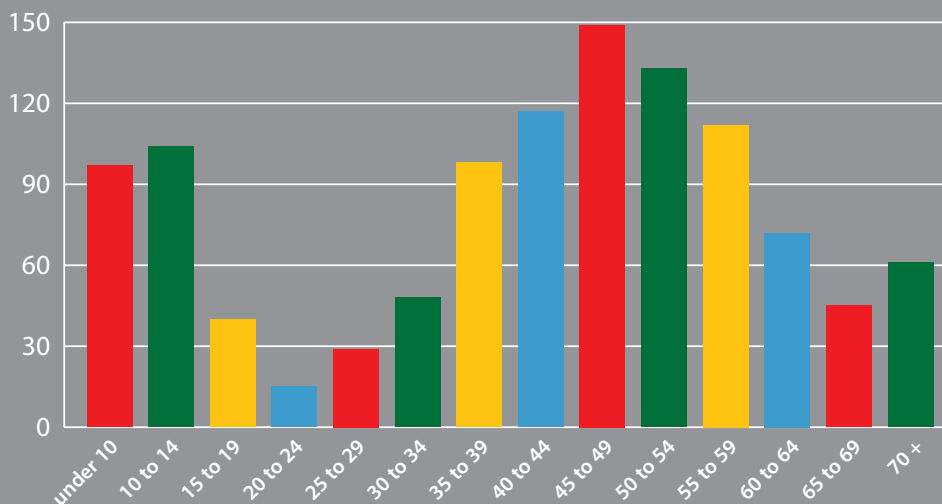
Art event

Water painting

**Sunday 17 September 2017
10.30am to 1pm**

Join SLSC artists, painting the water and water colour painting. All materials supplied by the SLSC. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

How old are SLSC members? May 2017



Hello from the new swim captains



We have lots of plans for the next three years. This summer we have new coaches for our lido training sessions – our

winter coach, Aymeric, and Salim of Swim Lab will be running open water sessions from June to August. We have plans for Club trips to races and events through the year and training camps and seminars from the UK's top open water swimmers. Plus the usual swimming races of all distances from half a mile to 10k. See you down the Lido!

Jonathan Cowie and Cecilia Hazlerigg

Away from the Lido

SLSC members out and about, discovering it's fun doing new things.

Lido regular Patricia Richardson competed in the prestigious Ötillö SwimRun World Championships, one of the toughest adventure races in the world, with Naomi Shinkins – they finished in 11hrs 59mins. Inspired by their achievement, Mandy



Worsley entered her first SwimRun event in Llanberis, Snowdonia. She was the second fastest woman over the sprint course (12km run and 4.4km swim) and loved every minute of it.

At the age of 71, Ellery McGowan completed five swims in five countries

in honour of her son, James, who died aged 35. She swam 56km in total to raise awareness of Cardiac Risk in the Young, www.c-r-y.org.uk

Having only taken up rowing in 2015 – they were the oldest female team in the Thames Cutterman race – Julie Brand, Margy Sullivan, Pip Tunstill and Susan Venner have discovered that being on top of the water is just as much fun as being in it. They swapped their oars for paddles to kayak the 42nd Vogalonga, a 32km regatta through Venice, originally a protest against the proliferation of motor-powered boats.



Jess Campbell became the fastest British woman to swim an ice mile in January this year. Only five women in the world have done it faster.

Undeterred by never having skied before, Jonathan Cowie and Kerry O'Hara entered the Kryathlon in Prague. The ultimate winter triathlon, it consists of a 250m ice-cold, no-wetsuit swim, a 2.5km run on ice-numb feet and a 3km cross-country ski.



Kerry also swam the Straits of Gibraltar in 4hrs 14mins.

Race-shy Tom Keen swam the English Channel in 13hrs 44mins and Pip Barry joined a relay team of eight to swim the earliest ever English Channel crossing in April this year, changing over every 20 minutes in 8°C water.

If these achievements have inspired you to take on a challenge, why not try something new this year?

Who to contact



"If you have a comment or question about the running of the Lido, please speak to me."

**Karen Wells,
Manager,
Tooting Bec Lido**

**KarenWells@
pfpleisure.org**



"Want to know more about the SLSC or to get involved? Talk to me or any other member of the committee – see the notice board."

**Brian Daly,
SLSC President**

"We love to hear what our members are up to – send in your stories for 100 yards, Bec Chat and our website."

**Margy Sullivan,
SLSC Comms
Manager**
news@slsc.org.uk



Barbara and Chris – this year's unsung heroes



Barbara Kohler and Chris Gore with Margaret Lipsey, who donated the Lipsey Cup

The SLSC is extraordinary in the range and depth of activities undertaken by volunteers with stunning success. This year the Lipsey Cup for Outstanding Services was awarded to Chris Gore and Barbara Kohler. When asked why he had got involved with the Club, Chris said, "Well, to support Barbara, of course – it's what I do", which is why the cup was awarded to them both.

Barbara has been an SLSC member for over 20 years, and joined the committee in 2003. She not only represented leisure swimmers but also helped with summer handicapping. In 2004 Chris began his mission to bring order to the complexities of handicapping in his own inimitable style.

In 2007 Barbara and Chris became keepers of the trophies, collecting, recording, engraving and, as one nominator said, "gently placing them in the hands of grateful winners". Chris helped to initiate races for younger swimmers, allotting now much coveted trophies.

Barbara and Chris are people who simply help as and when needed. They pop up all over the place and in many guises. Chris has covered most aspects of Club administration, including membership, events, website, social media and proofreading, always intent on supporting the Club and its committee.

Barbara has quietly executed a wide range of tasks over many years, many of which will not have been noticed. She spreads her version of well-being through just being herself – always thoughtful and considerate.

Their planned move to Cumbria makes us realise just how big their contribution has been and we thank them for their support over the years.

Margaret Lipsey

Remembering SLSC members

John Hapgood, 1932 – 2016



John was a regular swimmer at Tooting Bec Lido for 40 years. He was a member of the Outdoor Swimming and

Physical Culture Club, running, weightlifting and winter swimming. Although John became increasingly disabled in his later years, his spirit and willpower remained undiminished. From 1993, he came to the Lido with his friend and companion Brigid Seckington – they came swimming most days, always ready for a laugh and a joke.

Hazel Green, 1920 – 2016



Hazel swam at Tooting Bec Lido nearly all her life. She first joined her brothers, who were regulars at the pool, when mixed bathing was introduced in 1931. She hated the shallow end, where the mud squelched through her toes.

Hazel and her husband George had three children. In 1960 they moved to Drewstead Road, but George died five years later. Hazel then took up teaching at Hillbrook School. She would take the children to the Lido, where they could gain their certificate for 33 yards without going out of their depth.

A keen leisure swimmer, Hazel went in the water whenever she could. She swam nude off a Swedish yacht in the Baltic and watched the first dogfights overhead in the summer of 1940, while floating in Brockwell Lido on her break from driving for the London Auxiliary Ambulance Service.



Sophie Bennett, 1996 – 2016



Sophie was the youngest of our four children. She was a shy, kind and caring child. She loved swimming, gymnastics, and creating beautiful pieces of art. Her love for being in water

started at a very young age – on holidays she would spend hours in the pool or playing in the sea.

She began at Battersea Jacs Swimming Club, where her brothers Tom and Jack swam. We had a fabulous trip to Poland to take part in a gala. Sophie got to swim even though she was too young. She became the club mascot.

At the age of 10, Sophie took part in the first Cold Water Swimming Championships at Tooting Bec Lido as the youngest competitor and won herself a silver medal.

In the same year, she competed in the Surrey Championships where it became apparent

that 200m breaststroke was her race. Sophie then joined Leander SC where she impressed the coach. Not only did she love the swimming but she made many good friends there.

At 14, Sophie started to become very unwell with a serious mental illness and her confidence began to disappear, which sadly stopped her from swimming. However, in March 2016, she returned to swimming to take part in a Swimathon raising lots of money for Sports Aid. This was a huge achievement for her.

Sadly in May 2016, we lost our beautiful girl to suicide. Life was such a terrible challenge for her. We often think that water was her favourite and most comforting place to be. She used to say she loved the feel of the water on her body.

*Nickie and Ben Bennett
with Natasha, Tom and Jack*



Making a splash and smiling in the cold



There was something for everyone at the Cold Water Swimming Championships at Tooting Bec Lido in January: medals for the fastest, an award for the best hat and a mass jump-in for Crisis, the charity tackling homelessness.



It was a day of cold blue therapy, when volunteer marshals lined up more than 600 competitors for 114 races at intervals timed to the second.



The water was just 1.5°C, but there was barely time for swearing at that first freezing slap.

This cold hits you over the head. There's no subtlety about it. It's like panto, with brash fun, broad humour and loud outfits. People swim in glitter lipstick, joke-shop wigs and their boldest swimwear. Homemade hats

feature monuments and anemones, igloos and an enormous iceberg lettuce.



It's easy to forget that for some, it's not just the taking part. This is a day of competition – there are medals to be won and official adjudicators keeping time.

People may take it seriously, but you would still be hard pushed to find a serious face. "You look so happy," I said to one swimmer. "I'm always happy when I come out of the water," he replied.

The oldest competitor was 77, the youngest 14. There is no defining feature of the cold water swimmer, just maybe that post-swim smile. "How was it?" I asked one member of the Chilly Nipples relay team. "Terrible!" she replied. "But I enjoyed it." Relay team names are a study in themselves. Some set a false trail (Munich Cricket Club), some are

random (Cashier Number One Please) and some represent important work (International Institute for Swim Cake Studies).

This was a day run by volunteers, who hung the bunting, built the milk carton igloo floating in the pool and handed swimmers their clothes as they got out. In the grandstand, supporters whooped, hollered and blew their horns.



A man in a polar bear onesie with sequin knickers sold raffle tickets. A small dude dressed in fur with a pink inflatable guitar sold fairy cakes from a basket. Volunteers bought trays of soup and bread round for other volunteers. This is the wonderful community of swimmers, inclusive and happy and creative and kind – it's only cold in the water.

Jenny Landreth



Club events

Fitness swim sessions every Monday and Thursday evening until 29 August, 7.30 to 8.45pm SLSC members only.

Sunday races every week, 9.30am (9am in July and August) Handicapped starts, so people of all ages and abilities can compete*.

Summer social Friday 30 June, 7.30pm
Music, dance, food and leisure swimming.

Summer races Friday 7 July, 7.30pm
Hotly contested children's width, half mile and mile races. BYO picnic.

River swim Friday evening, 21 July
Ever fancied swimming in the Thames?

110-length challenge Saturday 30 September, 1.30pm Swim 10k, either solo or as a relay team.

Cyril's run Sunday 29 October, 7am
Run from the Lido to the Serpentine, have a swim, then run back. All before the Sunday race.

Serpentine SC v SLSC Gala Sunday 19 November, 10am The annual, hard-fought competition between London's oldest open water clubs.

Christmas Day races* Monday 25 December, 10.30am
The Jenny Kinnaird Trophy for women followed by the Burton Cup for men.

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

Public events

Water workouts every Saturday, 10am
45 minutes of FREE Zaqua – dance moves in and out of the water. Just turn up.

Aquathlons Wednesdays 31 May, 14 and 28 June, 12 July, 8pm
The ever popular aquathlons.

Scan the past Sunday 4 June, 9pm to noon Bring your old Lido photos.

SwimRun Wednesday 7 June, 8pm
Try this great sport at the Lido.

Midsummer relay Wednesday 21 June, 8pm Open water teams take on the 4 x 1 x 4 lengths challenge.

Open House London Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September, guided tours 10am and 3pm, both days
Interested in the architecture and history of the Lido? Try a free tour.

Water painting Sunday 17 September, 10.30am to 1pm SLSC's free art event. Learn from SLSC artists.

For details and to enter events visit www.slsc.org.uk. Keep an eye on the Tooting Bec Lido notice board too.

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

100 Yards team

Editor: Margy Sullivan

Sub-editor: Andrew Ingamells

Design: Susan Rentoul

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If you would like to join the South London Swimming Club, visit our website or ask the lifeguards for an application form.

 www.slsc.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/SouthLondonSwimmingClub

 twitter.com/slslido

 [slslido](https://www.instagram.com/slslido)

