

Stroud Lido Update (AKA Stroud Outdoor Pool)

Stratford Park Outdoor Pool opened in the summer of 1937 and is situated in Stratford Park, adjacent to the Leisure Centre which opened in May 1975. Although initially heated before World War II, the outdoor pool is now a cold-water pool, open for around one hundred days a year during the summer months (end of May to the beginning of September)

The briefing paper for June covered the work programme for the Lido over the next 3 years including the wider consultation and where the Lido sits as part of the wider park project.

This briefing paper covers the highs and lows of the Lido 2022 season.

The high points

1. The hot temperatures had a positive impact on the attendance. The centre recorded temperatures against attendance which clearly showed the correlation between the two elements
2. Early morning swims were trialled this year for the first time (2 days a week) with the first hour 7am-8am proving to be popular
3. The contractor ran three free National Pool Lifeguard courses this year to encourage the sign up of new lifeguards
4. The booking system introduced because of COVID continued into this year. This made it easier to staff the pool in line with Health and Safety requirements
5. Refreshments at the point of entrance selling hot and cold drinks and ice creams
6. The removal of the false ceiling exposing the original roof and brought in additional light
7. Students from Stroud college collaborated with a volunteer from Friends of the lido and SDC officers to improve seating, painting, and general aesthetics of the facility
8. Positive comments from swimmers
9. Staff morale good

The low points

1. Despite running free lifeguard courses, the intake was poor, and recruitment of lifeguards proved to be difficult (this is not unique to the Lido in Stroud and reflects the current staff shortages across the country for the leisure industry)
2. The contractor could not maximise on the hot weather as they did not have enough staff to increase the occupancy levels

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3. There was a national chemical shortage at the start of the season which added to the pressures of keeping the pool open
4. The old pipe work, poor preseason maintenance of the drains and plant caused issues with the cleanliness of the pool floor
5. Poor customer satisfaction levels due to cleanliness (this has been addressed with the contractor)
6. A lack of volunteers resulted in painting works not being progressed as planned

The Lido closed as per contract on the 5th of September. On the last day, a Triathlon event took place in the morning prior to the last public swimming sessions. This was organised by an independent company.

Looking forward

The pool tank, pipework and plant are crucial to keeping the lido open and come before any cosmetic updates.

A conditions survey and investigative work on the following elements will take place in The Autumn/Winter of 2022.

1. The pool tank
2. The pipework and drainage
3. The filter

Work on the above is essential for the longevity of the facility.

The friends of the Lido in collaboration with SDC and SGS college will take on some painting of the changing facilities in readiness for the 2023 season.

The task and finish group made up of councillors, Friends on the Lido, the manager of Stratford Park leisure centre and council officers will reconvene in January 2023 in preparation for the 2023 season.

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