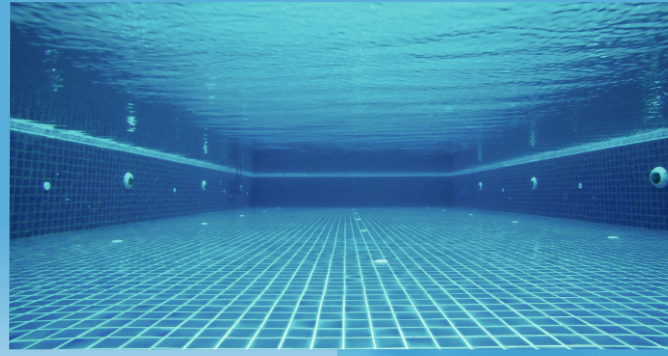


RT SWIMMING POOL SERVICES

PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL SWIMMING POOL AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES SINCE 1970

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our Spring 2021 Newsletter. In these unusual times, I hope that you and yours have managed to stay safe and well over the very difficult winter period.

I am pleased to share with you some good news that we received shortly after the Christmas break which brightened up our January: we have been named "Best in Swimming Pool Maintenance" in the Corporate Livewire South West England Prestige Awards 2020/21.

Corporate Livewire have been running this awards programme for 16 years to recognise independent businesses that are "extremely successful and hardworking on a local level". An awards ceremony is scheduled to take place later this year if COVID-19 measures permit.

To support our growing business while ensuring we are able to maintain personal attention at all times, I am pleased to advise that Robert Coombs, TnISPE has been assisting us as a sub contractor and Zack Roseworn will be joining as a full-time engineer on 1st April.

Robert is a highly experienced pool engineer with over 16 years' experience running his own maintenance business for pools in London. He assists on projects and provides additional resource as required.

Zack previously worked for a swimming pool maintenance company in Sydney,



Zack Roseworn
Technical Engineer

Australia and will assist me on day-to-day administration so that I can start to ease back a little after 51 years in the pool business. Zack will also provide additional resource on service, maintenance and repairs.

We are excited to be expanding but this does come with increased operating costs which means that after having kept it unchanged for 3 years, our hourly labour charge will increase by around 5% from April 2021. We were planning to introduce this increase last April but felt it inappropriate to do so at a time when the pandemic was just beginning to take hold of our lives.

Where we open your pool, David and the team will be in touch very shortly to arrange a mutually convenient time to commence the process. In the meantime, thank you for your continued custom and I wish you a long, enjoyable and safe swimming season.

Richard



POOL DESIGN, BUILD & REFURBISHMENT



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POOL EQUIPMENT/CHEMICALS



GENERAL POOL CLEANING



Richard Tyrrell MISPE
Managing Director



Andrew Donner
Finance Director

In our Autumn Newsletter we advised that we had signed up as a Trade Champion to support the Wave 105 “Cash for Kids” charity. To raise as much money as possible we identified ways you could improve your facilities and confirmed that should you take up any of these ideas, we would make further donations to the charity.

So, with your help the result is that, at the time of writing, we are the leading “Trade Champion” having raised and donated £805. We are glad that this money will help improve the lives of up to 23 disadvantaged children in the south who are affected by poverty, illness, neglect or have additional needs.

If you so wish you can review our efforts and donate via

<https://www.cashforkidsgive.co.uk/campaign/wave-105-everyday-trade-champion/>

Andrew

During December 2020, the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) issued Technical Note 60 on the active free chlorine content of the free chlorine test given the potential presence of COVID-19. It agreed with similar bodies worldwide on requirements for chlorine disinfection of swimming pools. In consultation with Public Health England and the National Incident Co-ordination Centre, PWTAG concluded that the disinfection range should be increased to 1.5 to 3.0 ppm and the pH should be decreased to 7 to 7.4 to ensure the maximum efficiency of the chlorination process.

We reported in our Autumn 2020 Newsletter that our routine service visits include checking to confirm that the chlorine level is within the recommended level of between 1.0 and 3.0 parts per million (ppm) with a target rate of between 2.0 and 3.0 ppm. Following PWTAG's guidance, this approach remains appropriate.



David Brown TnISPE (Cert)
Maintenance Director

With regard to pH, our routine monitoring provides for a level of between 7.2 and 7.6. However, in keeping with Technical Note 60, we have temporarily amended our procedures to provide for a pH range of between 7.2 and 7.4 (with a target of 7.4). Whilst our procedures reflect current worldwide health guidance, we will build in a margin of error to our water balancing to ensure levels do not drop below 7.2, even for a short period of time.

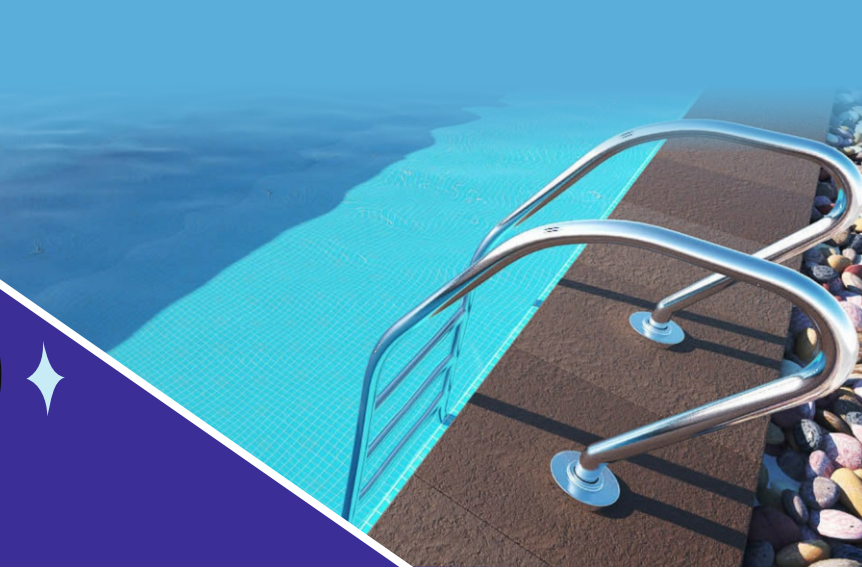
Our Pool Doctor Richard is very clear that we should add this note of caution, as a level of 7 or below is contrary to long-established industry practice and liner manufacturers guidance, where they generally recommend a minimum pH of 7.2. Such a high level of acidity can also damage stainless steel heat exchangers, pump seals, grout on tiled pools as well as plastic and other stainless steel fittings.

In order to ensure consistently accurate water testing we have invested in The Lumiso Pooltest 6 instrument which provides for comprehensive, effective pool testing for swimming pool engineers. The instrument does all the tests required for a water balance calculation covering: alkalinity, bromine, calcium hardness, chlorine, cyanuric acid and pH.

As Richard has mentioned, we will be in contact with you shortly about opening your pool for the season where we provide this service. In the meantime, should you have a specific date in mind, please let me know as soon as possible, particularly where you wish to have your pool open in time for the early Easter holiday weekend (2nd to 5th April).

David

The POOL DOCTOR



In our regular “Pool Doctor” section we cover how to know when it is time to replace a pool liner and give an overview of the Quantum Water Treatment Unit which uses nano crystal technology and water clarifiers for crystal clear pool water.

Pool Liners – how do I know when it is time to replace my pool liner?

We are often asked how long a pool liner should last and how to know when it is time to replace it.

Chemicals used in manufacturing the vinyl sheet are more controlled than before and many of the most effective plasticisers are now banned altogether. This combined with the fact that manufacturers now tend to prioritise low price rather than longevity and quality means that after 10 to 12 years a modern-day liner will be coming towards the end of its useful life, even with properly balanced pool water.

Ideally a pool liner should be replaced at this point and before there is damage done to any other part of the pool due to the failing liner.

It is important to remember that a pool liner is the only form of waterproofing a vinyl pool has, so replacement should be considered as soon as it becomes deficient in retaining water. It isn't just large rips or tears that are a problem, so are small punctures or holes that allow water to escape or where the liner is no longer able to fully attach to the corners of the pool.

All liners will fade with age due to the natural process of UV and constant chemical treatment. Heavy shocking can degrade the pattern and running the water at over 85F can reduce liner life and cause wrinkling. Also, living in an area with as much greenery as we have means that the free chlorine has to be maintained at a slightly higher level to fight off algae infections. This will also impact the lifespan of a liner.

Tell-tale signs of a failing liner in need of replacement:

- Wall damage
- Floor damage
- Liner slips out of coping track
- Fading liner colour
- Problems around return & skimmer flanges

There is always the temptation to get “that one more season” out of your pool liner; however this could prove to be more expensive in the long run.

Late spring through to summer is the time to replace liners. The air temperature needs to be over 50F otherwise the material will not stretch sufficiently during fitting, leading to wrinkles and creases as the pool water heats up the liner.

Should you feel that your liner is approaching the end of its useful life and are considering options, we would be very happy to discuss your requirements and offer our advice.

Quantum Water Treatment Unit – Nano Crystal technology

Quantum has been using its nano crystal technology in hospitals and drinking water purification for some time but now brings this technology to the swimming pool industry.

Nano crystal technology possesses the power to sterilise sewerage into drinking water without the use of chemicals. One of the many benefits of the Quantum is a significant reduction of residual chemicals such as chlorine or hydrogen peroxide.

The Quantum Water Treatment Unit can be installed easily into an existing set-up. Quantum completely eradicates all organisms and harmful residues present in any pool. It is completely safe and significantly more powerful than chlorine, hydrogen, UV or ozone. It provides for a toxic-free swimming sensation, eliminating undesirable side effects such as sore eyes, itchy dry skin, discoloured hair and strong odours, but it also makes crystal clear water and creates no risk to the lungs or health of bathers.

It includes a photo catalyst chamber. The catalyst walls are covered with a concentrated coating of anatase, silver and platinum nano crystals. UV light within the chamber triggers

a reaction as water passes through. This breaks down (oxidizes) all material within the chamber and only pure water and CO are emitted back into the pool. Photo catalytic oxidation is the most powerful disinfection currently known, more effective than active oxygen, chlorine or ozone.

Features of Quantum include:

- Completely destroys bacteria, microorganisms, pathogenic bio-films, oils, urea etc.
- Dramatically reduces the consumption of chemicals
- Instant and natural oxidation, leaving no residues
- Fully autonomous automatic system
- Long life span
- No impact on pH levels
- Compatible with all other treatments including salt electrolysis
- UV bulbs with 14,000-hour lamp life (replacement at only £75 plus fitting per bulb)
- Uses no chemistry to achieve sterilisation

The Pool Doctor first brought Quantum technology to clients' attention in a newsletter a couple of years ago. Since then we have installed many units and the results show they have proved extremely successful.

Don't hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss how your pool may benefit from Quantum technology.

Water Clarifiers – for crystal clear pool water

At RTSPSL we apply clarifier where needed to restore the sparkle to pool water; however before doing so we check the following:

- The water is correctly balanced
- The filtration is running for a minimum of 8 hours per day (ideally constant)
- That we have thoroughly backwashed the sand filter
- The pH is within the appropriate range
- The sanitiser is within the ideal range

After applying the appropriate quantity of clarifier for the volume of the pool we ensure the filter is on constantly for at least 24 hours and re-visit as soon as possible to clean the pool as well as re-check the chemical balance and pH as clarifiers often increase the Ph level.

The result crystal clear pool water with a sparkle!



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Please contact us to discuss your swimming pool requirements!

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