

RT SWIMMING POOL SERVICES

PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL SWIMMING POOL AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES SINCE 1970

AUTUMN 2022 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our Autumn 2022 Newsletter. I hope you all managed to make good use of your pool and/or spa during the long hot summer?

With autumn now upon us, for those with outdoor pools it is time to give thought to winterising your pool and equipment. In our Autumn 2020 Newsletter <https://rtswimmingpoolservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/RT-Swimming-Pools-Newsletter-Autumn-2020.pdf> we highlighted an alternate approach to winterising pools known as active or semi winterisation. Rather than a complete shutdown of the filtration system and other equipment (passive or complete winterisation) a frost thermostat is installed which activates the pump where the air/water temperature falls below a certain level. This approach has many advantages and is proving popular with increasing numbers of our clients. Please remember, with passive/complete winterisation, we are unable to apply the long-life winter algacide until the water temperature falls consistently below 10 degrees centigrade. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact either Glyn or myself.



On 23rd February, Glyn Richards (Senior General Manager) and Andrew Donner (Finance Director) attended a meet and greet event, organised by Corporate Livewire for the South West Prestige Awards winners at the Solent Hotel and Spa, Southampton. Above you will see Glyn (centre) and Andrew (left) receiving our Award for “Swimming Pool Contractors of the Year – Dorset 2021/22” in the Corporate Livewire South England Prestige Awards.

On behalf of RT Swimming Pool Services Limited (RTSPSL), we are proud to support Knighton Heath Golf Club, where our Finance Director, Andrew is an active member. Please see a link to Knighton Heath Golf Club's brochure promoting their wonderful course and facilities https://ibrochure.group/KnightonHeath_Brochure/flipbook/?page=8

I would like to once again thank you all for your custom and wish you a safe autumn and winter.

Richard



POOL DESIGN, BUILD & REFRUBISHMENT



MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS



POOL/SPA OPENING/CLOSING



RENOVATIONS & REPAIRS



POOL/SPA EQUIPMENT/CHEMICALS



GENERAL POOL/SPA CLEANING



Richard Tyrrell MISPE
Managing Director

As I mentioned in the spring 2022 Newsletter, my passion in previous roles was to provide exceptional water quality and facilities along with exemplary customer service. I also said that I was hoping to meet as many clients as possible over the summer of 2022 and beyond.

As regards water quality, each Service Engineer has now been provided with the latest Pallintest Water Testing Kit and our procedures now include monthly full chemical checks and associated water balancing where the results dictate. Monthly testing covers total chlorine, free chlorine, pH, total alkalinity, cyanuric acid, total dissolved solids and calcium hardness. Chlorine and pH are tested on each visit.

I am pleased to have met so many of you, but with an ever-increasing base now approaching 200 clients it will take a while to meet you all.

The cost of living crisis is taking its toll on everyone so in this article I am sharing some ideas for reducing the running costs of your pool and/or spa.

Make your own chlorine - in the UK, as well as elsewhere, chlorine is in short supply which is inflating the cost of obtaining the chemical. In our "Pool Doctor" section which follows we explain how you can reduce the need for chlorine based products by way of electro chlorination.

Upgrade to an air source heat pump – also in the "Pool Doctor" section, in conjunction with one of our clients we have reviewed the energy saving potential resulting from installing an air source heat pump.

Reduce the temperature of your pool - increasing the water temperature of your pool by 1 degree centigrade can add 10% - 30% to your energy consumption depending on air temperature. Make an energy saving immediately by lowering your pool temperature by 1 degree centigrade.

Reduce water consumption - continually needing to add water to your pool could indicate there is a leak. Water loss increases the need for heating and chemicals and of course increases your water bill.

We are highly experienced in leak detection and repair, so please do not hesitate to contact me should you feel your pool may be leaking water:



Reduce the energy consumption of your pool pump – following the cost of heating pool/spa water, running your pool/spa pump is the next energy hungry part of running a pool/spa. In order to save some energy, it may be possible to run your pump through a modulating system which following programming, reduces the



Glyn Richards
Senior General Manager

power the pump uses. Reducing the running speed of the pump by 50% reduces the power consumption by an equivalent amount and can additionally increase the pumps life. Alternatively, you may wish to consider upgrading to a variable speed pump.

Pool cover - a tight fitting pool cover in a good state of repair will prevent water evaporation by up to 98%, the leading form of heat loss in a pool. It also reduces debris entering the pool which in turn reduces the consumption of chemicals. Sunlight breaks down chlorine increasing consumption, so to save on consumption when the pool is not in use, ensure your cover is in place.

Pool lighting - ensure you have LED bulbs fitted. LEDs require less than 50 watts of power to operate versus the 300 watts required by incandescent bulbs.

Service intervals on equipment - ensuring all equipment is running efficiently. Heat pumps and gas boilers should be serviced at manufactures recommended intervals, to ensure they are working at optimum efficiency. If you feel your heating equipment requires servicing, we can organise this for you by engaging one of our preferred specialist contractors.

Over the past 14 months, we have been pleased to provide professional pool and spa services to Harbour Escapes, one of the areas premier holiday rental companies.

Whether your short-term holiday rental is a studio apartment overlooking Poole Harbour, a 10-bedroom house in Sandbanks or a shepherd's hut along the river Hamble, you can be confident that it's in safe hands with Harbour Escapes.

Harbour Escapes offer:

- * Flexible management packages to suit your requirements
- * Property set up * Marketing and sales
- * Enquiry management * Guest services
- * Property management * Housekeeping

So, if you have ever considered generating additional income from your property whether it be for a few weeks a year or a few months, give Harbour Escapes a call. You will be in safe hands. Contact them directly on tel 03337 001500 or email: enquiries@harbourescapes.co.uk

Glyn

The POOL DOCTOR



La La La -
In and around my
semi-retirement hole
in the ground!

CAN I PRODUCE MY OWN CHLORINE?....

As you may be aware, there is currently a world-wide shortage of chlorine, both liquid (sodium hypochlorite) and in granular form (stabilised (dichloroisocyanurate) and unstabilised (calcium hypochlorite)). The shortages have been attributed to a backlog in supply from China due to Covid-19, worldwide transportation issues and a major fire in a US chemical plant in late 2020. The Ukraine-Russia war and Brexit border checks have also contributed to the crisis.

This has had a major impact on chlorine prices. As at April 2021, according to figures from CNBC, chlorine prices were up 72% compared to January 2019. These increases have continued through 2022. To some extent, we have been able to limit the increase to our clients by buying in large quantities from our suppliers and reducing margins by just passing on the actual increase in costs to us.

One solution to the chlorine crisis is make yourself self-sufficient by adding salt into your pool and installing a Salt Chlorinator. The principle here is as water passes through electrically charged constructed plates inside the Cell, a chemical reaction occurs which produces sodium hypochlorite (liquid chlorine) to sanitise the pool. This has the benefit of being a cheaper, safer, cleaner and more environmentally friendly way to sanitise your pool.



Control Unit



Salt Cell

Salt is safe with no hazardous storage or waste disposal and many of the systems can be monitored live from a smart phone via an app. It is simple for our team to install and straight away, your pool could be generating its own chlorine. Our clients with salt water pools have said the water has a much more silky smooth feel to it and is slightly more buoyant even though the salt concentration is much lower than sea water.

It is necessary to do a survey to check that the heating systems and the type of pump used are comparable to salt water application.

A funny thing happened at work today...

Our "Pool Doctor", Richard recalls another amusing incident from his 52 plus years in the pool's industry...

"Out on a farm, in the middle of nowhere, I was constructing a new pool to replace an old fibreglass one that was past its sell by date. The lovely elderly gentleman of the house who was dressed in full riding gear came over to see me to check on progress. Upon finishing the very amicable conversation, rather than heading over to the stable to take his horse out for a gallop as was his original intention he headed off in a totally different direction.

He had decided to have a last go on his beloved old motor mower that was being replaced that afternoon by his son with a shiny new one. The next thing I saw was him charging across the vast lawn riding crop in one hand riding the mower at full speed.

Unfortunately, he got a bit carried away, forgetting to stop as he approached a vast hedge. He drove straight into the hedge. A cloud of smoke appeared as the branches of the hedge stopped the motor mower abruptly throwing the gentleman over the top of the mower into the hedge. A few moments later he appeared, retrieved his riding hat and crop, only to look back at his mower in disgust before walking onto the stables.

I shouldn't have, but collapsed into hysterical fits of laughter. We still look after that pool today and for the same family although the lovely gentleman has long since passed.

ENERGY SAVING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

Increasing numbers of pool owners are turning to air source heat pumps to heat their swimming pools. An air source heat pump absorbs heat from the air and transfers it to the pool water. In very simple terms it's like a fridge but working in reverse by passing warm air through a compressor and evaporator and transferring that heat through a heat exchanger into the pool water. The latest generation of inverter type heat pumps are incredibly efficient making them cheaper to run and kinder to the environment.

One such pool owner is Mr C from Broadstone. After trying a number of pool contractors in the locality Mr C has been using the services of RTSPSL to service and maintain his 10m by 4.7m indoor pool for the past 6 years.

Many thanks Mr C for taking the time to contribute to our Newsletter. Why did you consider installing an air source heat pump?

"It was April 2022 and I was coming out of a fixed term tariff with my energy supplier. All the noise was on energy prices rising and Russia invading Ukraine so I decided to research energy saving options to substitute my gas boiler which was the current source for heating my pool and which I am now keeping as reserve."

What level of research did you undertake?

"I did all the usual online research which concluded air source heat pumps were good for pools if not so much for domestic heating. I consulted family and friends (both my brothers are Engineers), and I know a fellow dog walker, who happens to be an expert in pumps, and they all supported the change."

Why did you use RTSPSL and what was your experience of the installation?

"I have been working with RTSPSL for a number of years. Their pricing was reasonable. The installation was slick and professional. There were one or two teething issues, but Glyn and the team persevered and we got there."

So, what about the all-important running costs Mr C?

"I have figures for the month of July 2021 to compare against July 2022. My domestic usage was pretty similar over both periods, including heating my pool to the same temperature. As would be expected my Electricity usage increased, but my Gas usage drastically decreased. My calculations are that on my old energy tariff the net saving would have been around £100 per month, but on my current energy tariff the monthly saving is around £300. Should I heat my pool constantly throughout the year in line with July (which I don't) then you would be looking at a repayment period of as little as 18 months to 2 years, but either way you look at it, the net result is a saving and an eventual return on investment.

My advice would be, if you have a spa or pool, and you want to heat it even just during the warmer months, then definitely consider an air source heat pump, especially if you have the space to do so. Long term it's a no-brainer."



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Please contact us to discuss your swimming pool requirements!

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