



- *Tribute to John Lamb*
- *The Pool at Windsor*
- *Sizing Key & Passing the Baton*



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Front Cover Story

The Aqua Club at The Headland Hotel. Completion by Aqua Platinum Projects.



A luxurious swimming and wellbeing centre on the Cornish coast, near Fistral Beach, Newquay.



We are extremely proud to share with you the greatly anticipated Aqua Club at The Headland Hotel, the Southwest's most luxurious swimming and wellbeing centre.

Aqua Platinum Projects have designed and built the multi-million-pound project that includes a total of six pools, including a 25-metre lap pool, an indoor vitality pool, children's pool complete with jets, air pads and water mushroom, a traditional sauna with a curved

glass front, outdoor vitality pool and sunset spa pool, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

This facility marks the completion of a further phase in an ambitious programme of development at The Headland, which is celebrating 40 years under the ownership of John and Carolyn Armstrong.

Framing the gorgeous Cornish waterfront

Aqua Platinum Projects have worked closely with architects Lilly Lewarne for the past four years, to design and build these world-class facilities for the hotel. It has been an important factor to incorporate the gorgeous Cornish waterfront throughout the design and we have done so by including a 'wavy' wall in the lap pool and a beautiful, hybrid, heated edge pool that circles the sunset spa pool that frames the idyllic waterfront. Whilst the outdoor vitality pool is complete with a Cornish granite menhir, this will enable guests to immerse themselves in the beautiful

surroundings and relax while taking in the stunning Atlantic views.



The Aqua Club is located on land between The Headland Hotel and its cottages. Building of the 2,215 square metre club started in October 2017 and is now open to hotel guests.

The plantroom is over 260 square metres and includes state-of-the-art filtration equipment. The six swimming pools boast the highest specification filtration and water treatment available including pumps and filters from our trusted supplier Waterco and UV water treatment from Triogen.

1000's of man-hours and continued commitment from the team have resulted in the successful delivery of this project. We would like to thank every single member of the team who helped to deliver this project, all our valued suppliers, and JE Stacey, who have been a pleasure to work with and we look forward to working together on future projects.

For further details contact:

Aqua Platinum Projects

www.aquaplatinumprojects.co.uk
enquiries@aquaplatinumprojects.co.uk
01489 896 438

Editorial

Whilst there have undoubtedly been some signs of things getting back to normal, as far as the Covid-19 pandemic goes, things are far from certain and the Government advice is still being changed on an almost daily basis.

Although we understand that business meetings may resume from 1st October (correct as I type this) the Institute Council have made the decision that it would not be a good idea to present any ISPE face-to-face training events this side of Christmas. With the localised lockdowns still in place, and new outbreaks of the virus constantly in the news, it is felt that it would not be responsible to hold seminars etc., at this time. A further decision will be made in due course and notified on the ISPE website and elsewhere.

The AGM will take place on-line via Web-Ex on Thursday 22nd October and all paid-up Members and Fellows will be invited to attend. This will be followed by the 2020 on-line awards and there will be more about the results of that in the next issue in January 2021.

Following on from this, and subject to social distancing requirements, we are planning to hold the ever-popular 'hands-on' ISPE Filtration Workshop in February or March 2021 together with the (free to ISPE Students) Back-to-Basics/Revision Seminar, probably in February. Do contact us for further details and to register your interest.

In the meantime, keep busy!

Ross Alcock - September 2020

Obituary

John Lamb, Hon. FISPE



Just as this issue was going to press we were very sad to hear that ISPE Past-President, John Lamb died on Friday 4th September. John had been suffering with 'mixed dementia' in a care home for some years. A full tribute will appear in the next issue.

John joined the Institute in 1981 and was elected to the Council of Management in 1986. He served a two-year term of office as Institute President between taking the Chain of Office from Jim Johnson in 1990 before passing it to Selwyn Mindel in 1992. John retired from the Council in 2006 due to ill health after his considerable contribution to the Institute's success through his knowledge and commitment to Institute activities.

John was a huge influence on the Institute during his time as a member and in addition to writing technical papers and giving numerous presentations, he set the seeds for the ISPE CPD scheme, later launched by John Cheek as President, and the 'ISPE-Endorsed Training Programme', later taken on and augmented by Allen Wilson, and it was John who noticed a gap in the training that was available at the time, for those in smaller commercial facilities and schools, for example. There was a term, 'semi-commercial' in those days which John said was ridiculous, likening it to being 'semi-pregnant', this being shortly before the generally accepted recognition that if a pool was not private, it was commercial.

John's technical knowledge was well known and respected and for a number of years he was the ISPE Chemicals tutor for the ISPE Home Study Course.

In my early days working for the Institute I enjoyed quite a few drinks with John in the evenings at various SPATEX shows and he was very much the life and soul of the party when he was off duty. Happy memories!

On behalf of the Institute Council and all those ISPE members who knew John, I would like to offer sincere condolences to John's family.

Ross Alcock - September 2020

Passing on the Baton

From ISPE President, Colin Day, FISPE



It hardly seems possible but at the AGM in October, my reign as President comes to an end. It has been an honour to be your President for the past two years and I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity. I would also to add my thanks to Ross and the ISPE Council members for their support.

So how have I found my two years of being President and what have I been up to? The role of the President is varied but here are a few of the duties I have undertaken in the last couple of years.

About three times a year we hold Council meetings which the President chairs. These are to discuss the day-to-day running of the Institute and plan events such as the seminars. There is usually some interesting and lively discussions and it is not always easy to keep the meetings moving along. These meetings are usually held face-to-face but recently we have had the pleasure of holding them by Web-Ex, which gave the meetings a new twist.

Talking of the seminars again, as President, I have had the pleasure of hosting these and introducing speakers, etc. These are always a good opportunity to meet members, put faces to names, chat and exchange ideas. We try to vary the topics of the seminars to make them appealing to members and I always find them beneficial. Although this year's seminars have been cancelled due to Covid-19, if you do get a chance to come along to one in the future, I am sure you will find it very worthwhile. I hope that they will be back sometime during 2021.

One of the highlights of the year for the President is to present the ISPE awards to the top students. We are also invited to re-present them at the industry gala dinner held during SPATEX week, which gives us the chance to let the whole of the pool industry see a little of what the Institute does.

The last six months of my presidency has been rather a strange time as we all adapt to meet the changes caused by the lockdown, including pool closures and re-openings and the requirements of social distancing. It has been a challenging time for our industry but I am sure we will all come out stronger on the other side.

At the AGM, which will also be different this year, I pass the President's baton on to Phil Barlow, FISPE, with my best wishes and hope he enjoys his time as President as much as I have.

Once again thanks to all members and I look forward to meeting more of you over the next few years. Stay well and keep safe.

**Colin Day, FISPE, ISPE President.
September 2020**

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SPATEX 2021 set to ride the wave

No one can pretend that 2020 hasn't been a very difficult and challenging year for all, and it's certainly one that nobody wants to repeat but for most in the industry it has also been a boom year which saw companies stepping up to the plate and responding to an unprecedented consumer demand.



As the proverb goes: It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good, and thankfully for the UK water leisure industry, times have never been so good. With weeks in lockdown, the British population has been forced to examine life in its own backyard and many people have found it wanting. With foreign travel severely impeded, #everydaycation became the watchword. As a consequence of these unforeseen circumstances, the phones started to ring and online purchases started pouring in. Order books for all types of domestic swimming pools, spas and hot tubs very quickly became full for 2020 and well into 2021.

As we enter the last quarter of the year, things have rarely looked so rosy. It is this success and momentum which the industry's

only dedicated water leisure exhibition, SPATEX 2021, will build on and grow. Headlining at Coventry's Ricoh Arena from Tuesday 2nd to Thursday February 4th, the show is now set to be the first European show of the season following the postponement this year of Piscine Global Europe in Lyon and Aquanale in Cologne.

SPATEX Organiser, Michele Bridle says: "We naturally extend our heartfelt sympathy to the organisers of both exhibitions and we look forward to visiting their rescheduled shows in 2021."

Michele adds: "Fortunately for SPATEX, the industry has responded well to the timing of our UK show in early February and we have been rewarded with almost 75 per cent of exhibition space already sold. It reveals the fabulous level of optimism in the industry, the value of our annual Show and the inclusive, unifying opportunity it presents... not just to the UK market but Europe and beyond. Work is currently underway between my team and the Ricoh Arena to ensure the systems are in place to make SPATEX the safest show possible. We are totally confident of achieving that aim. At the time of going to press, the government is due to shortly make an announcement about exhibitions and the Ricoh and SPATEX will be at the forefront of implementing all its recommendations."

SPATEX 2021 promises to be a very special event: not only will it provide the global industry with the

first opportunity to come together as one, and draw a line under a year we all want to forget, it is also a celebration. It marks SPATEX's 25th anniversary as well as SPATA's 60th and BISHTA's 20th. The team will be releasing details shortly of some extra special events to set this edition apart from all that has gone before.

No SPATEX would be complete without ISPE, which will once again be presenting an exciting and comprehensive programme of workshops, featuring a range of old and new topics (more details soon).

**SPATEX 2021 Tuesday 2
February to Thursday 4 February
at the Ericsson Exhibition Hall,
Ricoh Arena, Coventry - easy-to-
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Would you like to be part of the ISPE Technical Workshop programme at SPATEX 2021?

The ISPE organises a series of free-to-enter technical presentations over the three days of the show on behalf of SPATEX Ltd.

The presentations are mostly 20 or 30 minutes and we aim to cover a huge range of topics, including tips, advice, 'green' themes (how to save money, energy and resources), servicing and maintenance procedures and lots more, and may focus on chemicals, water testing and other forms of pool and spa water treatment, heating

and environment control, construction, filtration, pumps, ancillary equipment or anything else related to pools and spas.

Speakers are usually from exhibiting companies and/or a Member of the ISPE but other speakers are invited and encouraged to participate, particularly on specialist subjects.

Presentations can be aimed at those newer to the pool and spa industry or towards those with more experience. There's always something of interest across the broad spectrum of topics on offer.

All presentations must be generic and certainly not sales pitches but the speaker's name and company name is included on the final programme (publicised by SPATEX, ISPE and throughout the trade press) so it's good (free) publicity for the speaker and their company.



Phil Barlow, FISPE, presents a video as part of his ISPE Workshop on Leak Detection during SPATEX.

If you would like to participate please let us know by contacting ross@ispe.co.uk for more details, outlining the subject area your proposed presentation could cover.

All offers to participate will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis as the programme does get full very quickly.

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The Day I Pressed the Queen's Buttons and Had My Car Blown Up By The Security Services (nearly!)

By Malcolm Sharp, Hon. FISPE (ISPE Past-President)

In the afternoon of 7th April 1987, Windsor Leisure Pool, as it was then known, was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. At the time I was in effect the Plant Engineer for the Leisure Department of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and had a lot of involvement with ensuring that everything went to plan on the day.

Some two weeks before the big day, the security services came to the site, and thoroughly checked that everything was safe and secure for the Queen's visit, and as part of this site survey, noticed that there was an access cover located near to the foot of the ladder which gave access to the control platform, from which the various features, such as

the wave machine, water cannon and the spa pools could be operated. They then placed seals on the cover of this, and other access covers throughout the building.

This access cover provided access to the wet well into which the spa pools drained, and was extremely heavy, being concrete with a tiled finish, and was extremely difficult to lift, but the security services insisted that the cover be lifted to let them check it, and proceeded to note its location.

Because the access to the control platform was actually a vertical ladder, going up approximately 3m, it was later decided by the powers that be that the Queen could not be expected to climb this ladder, so it was decided that a temporary wooden staircase would be constructed, which, when suitably draped with regal coverings, would be used to provide a suitable access for the Queen.

On the morning of the royal opening, the security services came back to site, to recheck that all of the potential danger spots noticed on their original visit were still secure, and in effect, had a 'blue fit', when they found that the temporary staircase was actually constructed over the top of the access cover. They wanted the staircase to be dismantled, so that they could check that there were no bombs etc., planted below the cover which could be exploded when the Queen was in the vicinity. As the staircase had taken several days to construct, and could not possibly be dismantled,

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then reconstructed in the time available, it was eventually, following prolonged discussion, decided that they would allow the staircase to remain in place, as, with some manoeuvring, it was possible to see that the seal had not been disturbed. Panic averted.

As an aside, because the pool is situated adjacent to the river Thames, the security services had a boat of some kind patrolling the river, to ensure there were no water-borne security breaches. There had been a lot of rain in the week or so before the opening, and on the day, the river was flowing very fast, and there was quite a strong wind blowing downstream adjacent to the pool, and the security services boat really struggled to make any headway upstream against the wind and current. It was quite funny to see the boat going flat out, and hardly moving.

As far as the actual royal opening went, various dignitaries were presented to the Queen, and she was then given a tour of the pool facilities by the Pool Manager, and then most of the other members of staff, who were lined up at the pool's edge, were also presented to the Queen.

Unfortunately, because many of the pool's features required a

period of "warm up", before being operational, it was decided that somebody would be designated to wait at the top of the control platform, and, when the Queen was approaching the staircase, press the various buttons to instigate the operation of the various features. The main feature was the wave machine, which had one button to start the enormous fan which actually powered the wave feature, then four further buttons which triggered various patterns of waves when they were pressed.

As the Plant Engineer, it fell to me to be the one who had to press the initial button, so that, a minute or so later, when the fan was up to full speed, the Queen could press the button(s) to trigger the wave pattern. After pressing the first button, I was supposed to step back, to allow access to the control panel for the Queen and the Centre Manager, who would then inform her which button(s) to press.

Unfortunately, because the waves, when they ran, caused the poolside walks to be submerged, it was decided that the wave machine etc., could not be tested immediately prior to the Queen's visit, so it had been several hours since the features had been tested. By the time various features were selected



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by the Queen, a fault had developed, and neither the waves or the water cannon would operate from the remote control panel.

Fortunately, the pool plant installation engineer, Brian Worthington, MISPE, reacted to the situation with great alacrity, and ran down to the plantroom, and operated the various valves which operated the various features manually. Crisis averted. It later turned out that there was a faulty connection in the remote control panel, which caused the problems. (We subsequently found that due to the very high humidity often found within the pool hall, particularly when the water cannon were operated, that faults frequently developed due to moisture getting into the remote control panel, and causing problems.)

Unbeknown to me, the security services had decreed that all cars which were parked in the staff car park at the pool, had to display a security permit, but unfortunately, probably because I was working across multiple sites, I was unaware of this requirement to display the security permit, and when, after going home and getting suitably suited and booted, I arrived back at the pool, in the early afternoon, I parked as usual in the staff car park.

Back in the late 1980s, it was possible to purchase new cars in various countries considerably cheaper than buying them in this country, and since my wife's brother lived just outside Dublin, I had, several months before the opening, travelled over to Ireland and purchased a new car there. This had the benefit of killing two birds with one stone, my wife was able to visit her brother, and I was able to save approximately £2000 over the cost of the same car in Britain.

When, prior to the Queen's arrival, the security services checked the vehicles in the staff car park, there was my car, not displaying a security permit, and when they checked, they found that the car had been imported from Ireland. You have to remember, that this was at a time when there were huge problems with Irish Nationalists, and there had been many instances of car bombs being detonated in various locations.

There were radio messages flying round about this car, and they were definitely considering carrying out a controlled explosion, when luckily, I overheard one of the security men discussing this, and I actually overheard my car registration number coming over the radio, and was able to defuse, pun



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intended, the situation, before they actually blew up my car.

Exactly ten years on from this dramatic, but memorable day, on 7th April 1997, the extension to Windsor Leisure Pool (which after the extension was built, was renamed Windsor Leisure Centre) was opened by HRH, Prince Phillip the Duke of Edinburgh, and on this occasion, as I was still in effect the Plant Engineer for the Leisure Department, I was one of a group of dignitaries to be presented to His Royal Highness, primarily I am sure, because at the time, I had the great privilege of being President of the Institute of Swimming Pool Engineers, and I have a photograph of His Royal Highness actually holding, and examining, my Chain of Office.

This photograph was subsequently featured in the ISPE Magazine.



Picture taken from ISPE Magazine -
Vol. 8, No. 2, June 1997

**Malcolm Sharp, Hon. FISPE
(ISPE Past-President)**

New Members and Students

We extend a very warm welcome to all those who have recently joined or re-joined the Institute. Please contact ross@ispe.co.uk if you would like details about the ISPE.

Bailey, R.
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Ciobanu, C.
Davies, M.
Day, P.
Ellson, P.
Gaffey, A.
Hallas, S.
Harrison, D.
Isbell, W.
Johnson, S.
Jones, G.
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Nedyalkov, T.T.
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Is UV the Answer?

ISPE Member, Glynn Lewis from Surrey has posed an interesting question, namely, is UV the answer to the Covid-19 pandemic? We all know that UV has been used for years in the treatment of swimming pool water and UV is used, too, in hospital operating theatres. Why then can UV not be installed in planes, trains, cruise ships, on buses, in waiting rooms for doctors and dentists, schools, libraries and other places? Is it purely a cost issue or are there other reasons why this wouldn't work and help to kill bacteria and viruses?

There's lots about this on the internet at the moment, increasingly, so maybe Glynn has a good point. Various websites tell us that research is being carried out jointly at the University of St Andrews and Ninewells Hospital in Dundee and, *"UVC light from special germicidal lamps with wavelengths in the range 200nm to 280nm kills germs such as bacteria and viruses and this has been used as a means of disinfecting hospital wards and operating theatres for decades. However, the wards must be empty of people because the germicidal lamps operate mainly at a wavelength of 254nm that can penetrate the eyes and skin, causing inflammation and pain. Far-UVC lamps that emit at wavelengths around 222nm may be safer because proteins in the skin efficiently absorb this light and provide a natural protective barrier"*.

If somebody would like to drop us an email to say if this is a good or bad idea or tell us more, we would be most grateful and remember,

Glynn Lewis, MISPE, deserves his share of the riches one of you may make from his idea!

Annual Subscriptions

Thank you to all ISPE members who have paid their annual subscriptions so promptly this year. There was no increase in cost for 2020/21 and the invoices were sent with the June ISPE Magazine in late June. Thanks, too, to all the companies who pay ISPE subscriptions on behalf of their employees.

The ISPE Sponsor Board

The ISPE Sponsor Board is proudly displayed at every ISPE seminar during the year (and at SPATEX on the ISPE Stand). This year, due to the Government restrictions on meetings as a result of the Covid outbreak it has not been possible to present any ISPE seminars, but to help mitigate this we are reproducing the 2020 ISPE Sponsor Board in the centre pages of this issue and would like to thank all the participating companies for their understanding. One bonus is that all participating companies have their full details (not just their names) included in the ISPE information booklet, too, (and study courses) and during the lockdown, and since, we have had a much larger number of enquiries for these than in normal times. If anyone would like their company included for 2021 please email ross@ispe.co.uk for full details.

Next Issue

The next ISPE Magazine will be in late January, and the copy date for articles is 23rd December, please.



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A Square Peg Through a Round Hole (Sizing is Key)

By Jimmy Lamb, TnISPE(Cert.)

When it comes to installing a domestic swimming pool filtration system, why is it that so often I'm seeing 1½" (d50mm) diameter pipe throughout? Sometimes I see a 2" (d63mm) pipe on the suction if I'm lucky!

A pool pump needs the correct size diameter pipe fitted on the suction side and should always be a larger diameter to that on the delivery side. This is important to prevent cavitation of the pump. A swimming pool pump cannot suck water as efficiently as it can push it through a pipe. Care should also be taken to ensure a straight length of pipe at least 10 times the diameter is provided up to the pump suction connection, again to help prevent cavitation and irregular turbulence inside the pump. I realise that this is not always possible due to a lack of space provided in the plant room. In this situation, an even larger pipe diameter will help.

It seems to me that not much thought is given to calculating the correct size of pipe. Come to think of it, it seems that not much thought is given to calculating the correct size swimming pool pump and filter too. Is there a case of Chinese whispers going on here? Because we used a ¾ horse power pump and 24" (610mm) filter on the last job we need the same here? Or Bob told us that we need this pump and that filter on this pool. We always put a ¾ horse and 24" filter on every pool we build!

First off, the pump should be sized by using the performance curves specific to that pump and not by horse power (hp). These performance curve graphs should be provided by the pump manufacturer. The performance of pool pumps vary by manufacturer but, they could come with the same hp rating. For example, our ¾ hp budget PPG Pump has a performance of delivering 10m³/h at a head loss of 10m. The Euroswim 75M ¾ hp has a performance of 14m³/h at the same 10m head loss.

In line with SPATA standards, high rate filtration is between 25 – 50m/h. In my opinion, sizing a filter at 50m/h is too fast. This is something that PWTAG appear to agree with as they state, **'High-rate filters do not handle particles and colloids as effectively as medium-rate filters. Such materials tend to pass through the sand bed. PWTAG research has shown that a high-rate filter with a sand depth of 300mm might remove as little as 10% of turbidity particles in one pass'**. Now, that to me doesn't sound like a very good filter for use on any swimming pool!

The difference in filtration velocity between 10m³/h and 14m³/h through a 24" filter tank is 34m/h (m³/m²/h) to 47m/h respectively. This is significant if you consider filtration performance is reduced the quicker the filtration velocity. If you reduce the filtration velocity by half you improve filtration performance by a factor of 4!

In this example, if the filter size is reduced to a 20" (508mm) diameter the ¾ hp pump delivering 10m³/h will provide filtration at a velocity of 49m/h still within standard, but the ¾ hp pump delivering 14m³/h will be filtering at almost

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70m/h. This is well over the maximum recommended by any manufacturer or standards. The pool will struggle with water quality and damage may occur to the filter. Most likely the filter media will channel (i.e. form a 'V' funnel shape profile) where the water will take the path of least resistance, taking debris with it and back into the pool.

Of course, it's cheaper to put a 20" filter on a pool than it is a 24" filter but, does it really blow the budget to size a pump and filter that will provide the customer with less problematic and better water quality? In my experience, when these benefits are explained to the client, they are more than happy to make the investment.

At Pollet Pool Group, we work with many pool installers who size the filtration plant at a filtration velocity of 30m/h during 'Filtration Mode' (whilst the pool is in use) and slow it down to 20-25m/h in 'Eco Mode' (e.g. overnight). Now this is only possible with the use of inverters and variable speed pumps. As a result, we have seen the sales of VS pumps surpass the sales of single speed pumps by a long shot over the last few years. **Note:** when considering the installation of a variable speed swimming pool pump, careful thought must always be given to all other equipment that may be installed such as; heat pumps, automated dosing equipment etc, as these most likely require a minimum flow to operate correctly.

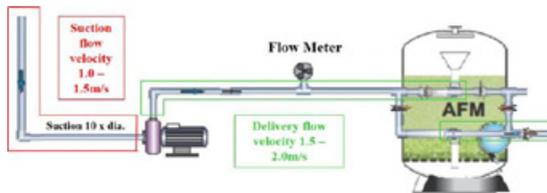
This is all very well, but how do you know if the pump you have installed really is delivering on the flow that you have calculated? You can carry out all the head loss calculations in the world but until you install a flow meter, you can never be sure that you are achieving the correct flow to the design criteria. For me a flow meter is an essential component to any pool plant installation, especially with VS pumps. You need to be able to calibrate the speed of the VS pump to the flow meter otherwise it's like driving a car without a speedometer!



Now back to that 1½" (d50mm) pipe diameter. This size is ok to use if the flow rate is no more than 11.5m³/h. For a domestic lightly used pool with a turnover of say 6 hours (I would prefer 4 hours), this means a total pool volume of just 69m³ (just over 15,000 gallons in old money). The speed or velocity at which the water is flowing through this size pipe on the delivery side of the pump will be 2.5m/s (metres per second). PWTAG recommend this velocity should be 2 – 2.5m/s. I prefer not to exceed 2.0m/s.

The velocity on the suction side of the pump should not exceed 1.5m/s. If we continue with 1½" (d50mm) on the suction at 11.5m³/h the velocity would be the same as the delivery at 2.5m/s. This pipe is too small. A 2" (d63mm) suction slows down the velocity to about 1.6m/s which is better but, still slightly over the recommended maximum 1.5m/s. The harder the pump has to work to draw up or drive the water through a small pipe the higher the energy consumption will be, the shorter the pump life will be and we have a potential risk of cavitation on the suction side of the pump. A 2½" (d75mm) diameter pipe would be better here, bringing the velocity right down to just under 1m/s. This is beneficial for

when we consider what flow rate we need to effect a productive backwash. If we want filtration at 30m/h with a flowrate of 11.5m³/h we will need a filter with a surface area of 0.383m² (11.5 ÷ 30). A filter with a dia. of 700mm (ø = 2 x √(0.383 / π)) will provide the required surface area.



To backwash a filter at the same velocity that we are filtering may not always bring the desired results. For example, if we are filtering at 30m/h a backwash at the same speed may not fluidise the media bed enough to release trapped debris. For an effective backwash, the media bed needs to be fluidised with a bed expansion of between 15-20%. This will be somewhere near if we're filtering at 50m/h with a single speed pump but, we've already established the drawbacks of filtering so quickly! Like with the absence of a flow meter, a sight glass on the side of a filter is rarely present. A sight glass is not just to see when the water runs clear on a backwash, it should be there to observe media bed fluidisation during a backwash. Without a sight glass it is impossible to witness if this is the case.

If only he'd used Jolly Gel!

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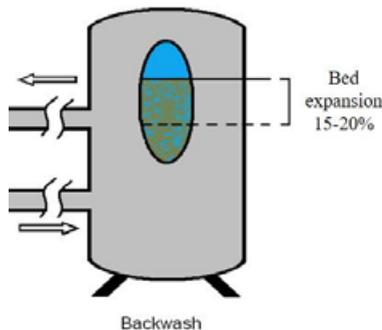
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German DIN standards dictate that a backwash velocity through the filter to achieve adequate fluidisation of the sand media bed should be in the region of 50-60 m/h. PWTAG do not state a bed expansion percentage, they simply state **'The backwash flowrate should be fast enough to fluidise the bed.....'** and that **'30m/h has been effective for many years.....'** On another page in their publication 'Swimming Pool Water' they show a graph of bed expansion with water at varying temperatures. The graph line with a temperature of 30°C shows a bed expansion of only about 6% at 30m/h. If we want to backwash the 700mm diameter filter in the example above at a velocity to achieve the required 15-20% fluidisation, we're going to need a flow rate of circa 21m³/h for a backwash velocity of 55m/h. Now the pipe velocity at 2½" (d75mm) diameter on suction is 1.75m/s. This is satisfactory for the short time that the pump will run for on a backwash cycle. However, if we remain at 1½" diameter on delivery at 20m³/h for backwash, the pipe velocity is now up to 4.4m/s, creating a lot of resistance for the pump to overcome. If we increase the pipe diameter on the delivery side to 2" (d63mm) we would have a pipe velocity of 3m/s in Backwash Mode and 1.6m/s in Filtration Mode. A lot more energy efficient but, what is the size of the filter connections and internal pipework?



Of course increasing pipe and filter diameters, adding in a flow meter and specifying a VS pump over a single speed pump comes at a cost but, at the end of the day, it all makes for a much better energy efficient system for the end user and when explained and 'sold' to the customer there should be no argument as to why one quotation is more expensive when compared to that of a competitor's quotation.

With thanks to Jimmy Lamb - National Sales Manager - Pollet Pool Group.

The ISPE Filtration Workshop and Back-to-Basics (Revision) Seminar

We are very much hoping that these events will go ahead, in February or March 2021. For further details and to register your interest please email ross@ispe.co.uk and we will let you know as soon as dates are fixed. The Filtration workshop (held near Hastings, E. Sussex) cost is £60 for ISPE members and £80 to non-members and the Back-to-Basics seminar (held in Herts.) is free to ISPE Students, £25 to ISPE members and £30 to non-members.

Celebrating 30 Years in the Swimming Pool Industry

Lee Campbell, MISPE - Neptune Swimming Pools

Neptune Swimming Pools is a family business based in Chandlers Ford, Hampshire. The business was originally bought by Bob Campbell in 1983. It continues to prosper to this day, specialising in high quality swimming pool renovations and new swimming pool installations. The business also has retail and e-commerce shops and continues to thrive under the management of brother and sister partnership Lee and Lisa. We are grateful to Lisa who provided this article.

"We have both worked incredibly hard to ensure that as a business we offer the best service that we possibly can. We are immensely proud that a great deal of our business comes from 'word of mouth' and that means that all our hard work is paying off. We have built up a great name for ourselves in the local area by using only quality products at reasonable prices and we pride ourselves on our amazing customer and back up services which are second to none!

Lee joined the company officially in 1990 having studied graphic design at Southampton Tech College. He originally set out for a career as a quantity surveyor. But as a young boy Lee had spent many weekends and summer holidays cleaning swimming pools with his Dad and getting a feel for life as a 'swimming pool engineer'. Bob tried his hardest to put Lee off by giving him all the rubbish jobs, cleaning tools as well as pools,

sweeping up and making sure that all the plantrooms were left immaculate! Unfortunately, it did not work and when the choice came down to going to university or joining the family business, he opted for the latter and is still there 30 years later!

Lee prides himself on his expert knowledge of all things swimming pool. He can talk for hours about the latest pump, filter, heat pump or safety cover and I mean hours!!!! Many a rep that has visited the shop can tell you that, lol! Lee was finally given his ISPE membership status in July 2003



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and his certificate takes pride of place displayed on the wall in our shop. He leads by example and would never ask any of his engineers to undertake anything that he would not do or has not done himself. He also takes the time to make sure that all his staff are well cared for and have the best equipment available. But God help the engineers if they do not keep their vans clean and tidy or the office staff leave items on their desk for more than a day!

Outside of work Lee's great love is his family. He married his childhood sweetheart Lanacheri and they have now been together over 30 years. They are both proud parents to teenage son Alfie. Other passions, apart from the business, are his beloved garden which shows his eye for perfection and is

simply stunning. Lee spends many a weekend in his garden stood at his bbq cooking for family and friends. He also loves football. Be it going to the pub for a few beers before watching a Southampton FC match or coaching his Under 16s football team.

Lee gives everything to all that he puts his hand to and I (his sister Lisa) would like to say a personal thank you for all his hard work in continuing to make his Dad (who has finally hung up his swimming pool engineer boots at the grand age of 78) proud in partnering me to successfully keeping Neptune Swimming Pools not only going but continuing to grow."

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The Institute would like to offer many congratulations to Lee.

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WATER TREATMENT FOR LIFE

Accurate Testing and Good Water Chemistry Is Now More Important Than Ever

By Colin Day, FISPE

The last few months have shown us how important it is to control hygiene in all areas of life. This is also essential for swimming pool water. Although no one is certain how Covid-19 is affected by chlorine, it is generally thought that proving levels of free chlorine are sufficient and pH value is correct then the virus is rapidly inactivated.

Therefore, what does this mean with regard to water chemistry and the levels you should be running in your pool? Generally, the advice is to run free chlorine at the upper limit of your desired range and the pH as low as possible to ensure the chlorine is running at maximum efficiency. Above all, keep free chlorine and pH levels tested and correct.

You must remember though that if you do decide to lower your pH value then this in turn could have an effect on your balanced water. Other parameters such as total alkalinity and calcium hardness should be measured to make sure your water has not become aggressive.

To ensure the levels are correct it is imperative that testing is:

- Carried out regularly
- Carried out correctly
- The system you are using should be suitable for your application
- The correct tests are being carried out

Remember, good water is essential, and you only know you have this if testing regularly.

With the increased risk and need for improved hygiene it is also essential that people know what they are doing. They should have knowledge of why they are testing, how to carry out the test, interpreting and reacting to the readings and what to do if things are not correct. ISPE is able to offer training and advice to all members.

Whichever pool you run, service or look after at this time of uncertainty remember good water chemistry and good, accurate testing is now more essential than ever.

**Keep Testing, Keep Control,
Keep Safe**

Colin Day, FISPE -
Lovibond Tintometer.

What Do You Do All Day? - Results

In the last issue, for the purposes of assessing workshops and seminars that are of best use to the membership, we asked if members could help us establish the spread of works they undertake. There were various tick boxes that described work that you are responsible for in your company and about which informative presentations would be of interest.

Unfortunately, as I omitted to include the tick box "Sit around all day doing nothing due to being furloughed because of the world pandemic", we received no responses whatsoever. We hope to reproduce the table in the next issue!

My Personal Memories of Allen Wilson

By Geoff Stafford, MISPE

After reading the many tributes to Allen in the June Magazine it occurred to me that I had probably known him longer than most. I first met Allen in the late 1970s on a IBRM course at Matthew Boulton College in Birmingham. We quickly realized that we both came from the same area in Gloucestershire and began to car share to college. Allen was the plant engineer at Gloucester Leisure Centre and I was a lifeguard at Stratford Park Leisure Centre in Stroud. Allen was confident enough to challenge the lecturers in his humorous style and all on the course quickly began to realize he was something special. He could easily have become a stand up comedian, albeit a very knowledgeable one. I once asked him to travel on my motorbike to college. I will leave you to imagine his non-PC reply.

Allen told me he was into any water sport, and bought a jet ski. To supplement my income I also worked as a RYA sailing instructor and invited Allen for a weekend's sailing. Now Allen was always a big lad and found it difficult to move quickly in a 16ft boat. After several capsizes he said 'not for me' (with a few expletives) and swam back to shore. We met later in the pub. He then told me that he had problems, due to rugby injuries, getting back on his jet ski.

John Lamb (Jimmy's dad) was appointed as technical manager at Stratford Park. He became aware of my interest in plant issues and asked me to manage the outside pool May

to Sept. The plant was of uncertain vintage. I had great difficulty in getting the ancient pump to prime despite its below pool level location. I asked John if I could bring over my friend Allen to give his opinion. I think that was John's first meeting with Allen and the rest is history. Allen suggested putting new air release valves in the filters as he thought the old valves were corroded and blocked. This worked and John was very impressed with Allen's common sense approach. As Allen frequently said, why is common sense so uncommon?

Allen moved on to become the great lecturer we all knew and I moved to management. Firstly, Handy Cross Leisure Centre, High Wycombe then the Quarry Swimming Pool, Shrewsbury and finally The Water Place, Bolton. Allen visited The Water Place when lecturing in Gt. Manchester. We were having difficulty with air handling plant, particularly the humidity. Allen pointed out that the aluminium insulated roof was attached to the steel construction with ferrous pins and predicted future problems. The £7 million building was less than a year old and still under warranty. This was reported but had not been spotted or was ignored by various project managers.

I retired from local government in 1992 to look after my youngest son, Mike, who was born with a medical condition, and the family moved back to Shrewsbury. My younger wife had a good career in retail and became

the main income earner. In 1996 the roof at The Water Place blew off in a storm and was never replaced. So Allen was proved right.

Mike recovered to full fitness by school age and played rugby and recently started competitive open water swimming. I must have done something right!

Allen PPO trained Jamie, my third son and frequently stayed at our house when working in the area. I started working with Allen's encouragement for the ISRM on a six month contract as a consultant and then for Studies in Work. Eventually I started my own consultancy and have provided the plant spec. in the last three years for several new builds. In recent years,

as Allen's health declined he asked me to provide PPO courses for him on a daily fee basis. Allen was generous and always asked if the fee was enough for travel and accommodation.

He once asked myself and my wife to judge the 'man of the match' at his local rugby club. Allen's comments when we could not agree was predictably non-PC. My wife forgave him and actually loved his humour and Gloucester accent. He was always my first point of reference with pool problems. Both Jamie and I were very saddened to hear of Allen's death. He will be greatly missed by all, especially his family, and is irreplaceable. Goodbye Allen.

Geoff Stafford, MISPE, ISRM Dip.

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Mystery Solved!

A few years ago during a SPATEX exhibition, long time ISPE Member, Barry Haythorne mentioned that many years previously, the ISPE had been given some money from 'The Northern Swimming Pool Institute' who had never received any thanks. I had absolutely no knowledge of this and asked one or two people but could not find anything out about it, how much was involved, who was concerned and why it had happened.

Over the years Barry has always visited the ISPE stand at SPATEX and the discussions have been light-hearted, numerous and various (we are glad the walls do not have ears, shall we say?) but from time-to-time this incident of the ISPE receiving some money for which thanks were never given has come up again and it's been quite a puzzle to me.

Both Chris Carr and John Asher were involved in the discussions over the years and in the last year or so we have discussed it again but none of us could shed any light on the turn of events that Barry had referred to.

For the last issue of the ISPE Magazine, Jimmy Lamb asked me the dates when his father (long-serving ISPE Fellow and former ISPE President) John Lamb, had joined the Institute, been elected to Council, been awarded a Fellowship and served as President, the sort of questions we can, normally, albeit, with a bit of digging, find an answer to.

I quite enjoy playing the detective for these types of questions and I keep a copy of every ISPE

Magazine to hand next to my desk; an excellent source of information for most 'history' questions, I find. I was able to find answers to some of Jimmy's questions by turning to the January and October 1990 ISPE Magazines but I had to go back to the March 'ISPE Newsletter' 1983 and the 1987 'ISPE Yearbook' for some of the information.

Of course, when I am thumbing through these old issues I always find something interesting to read and particularly so, when it is something from before my time (remember, I am the 'new boy', having started in July 1989).



ISPE's Newsletter
from October 1984

Imagine my surprise, to find, in the October 1984 ISPE Newsletter, a seminar report of the Institute's 8th One-Day Seminar from March 1984, (held at Burnham Beeches) and as part of the thanks being reported on the day, I read, as part of the President's report (Founder ISPE President, John Wilkins):

It was at this last Seminar, in March, that provided the object of what must surely be our biggest 'thank you' of all. The Northern Swimming Pool Institute, which had become (and I quote Gordon Lennox) defunct, passed on its funds of £931.29 to our Institute. This was a magnificent gesture, and to merely say 'thank you' seems most inadequate, but you all must know what I mean!

We have accepted six NSPI members into the Institute, free of entrance fee and first year subscription. We extend to them a very warm welcome indeed.

It reads: "It was at this last Seminar, in March, that provided the object of what must surely be our biggest 'thank you' of all. The Northern Swimming Pool Institute, which had become (and I quote Gordon Lennox) defunct, passed on its funds of £931.29 to our Institute. This was a magnificent gesture, and to merely say 'thank you' seems most inadequate, but you all know what I mean!

We have accepted six NSPI members into the Institute, free of

entrance fee and first year subscription. We extend to them a very warm welcome indeed."

I immediately sent this to Chris, John and Barry, of course. Mystery solved!

Whilst a few turnovers have passed through the filter since this kind gesture, now it has come to light, it's only right that we record, once again, the grateful thanks of the ISPE to all those concerned with regards to the amazing donation (especially considering this was 36 years ago) of £931.29.

I am sure there will be one or two ISPE Members who will remember the NSPI (not to be confused with the 'NSPI' that existed in the USA) and may be able to tell us a bit more about the organisation and who was involved.

Ross Alcock - September 2020

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Edited Highlights of 'The Life and Tales of William Hales' (Part 3)

Gazelle Swimming Pools.

I have had a fairly miraculous life regarding going from job to job, with hardly any time between jobs, and this would always be the case. The very night I left Gilliam's I had a phone call from an 'Eric Roberts' saying that he had heard that I had left Gilliam's, this would have been only a few hours later. I never found out who had contacted him.

Eric turned out to be the managing director of 'Gazelle Swimming Pools' and he was calling me from London Airport. He was waiting for a plane to go to America to visit Paragon pool equipment suppliers and had heard that I had left Gilliam's, and could I make a meeting the following Monday when he had returned.

Well, I had no idea what I was going to do so I just said 'yes' and again, my, by now good friend 'Lionel Thomas' took me over to the meeting, with, of course, lunch on the way back, and I started with The Gaze group on 10th November 1969. Although to start with I was mainly involved with design and drawing work I quite quickly got involved with sales, as the managing director was suddenly sacked by Douglas Gaze, the deputy chairman. Eric left and then started up Paragon Pools, which would become a great help to me later on, as we never fell out concerning the way he was removed, I was the new boy anyway.

I began to enjoy sales and quite quickly found that I was bringing in more work than all the rest of the

sales force at that time, but still had to do all the design drawings, and then Edward Collet suddenly left, and he was the best sales consultant they had.

So all of a sudden I found myself looking for a new sales person, and knowing that when we found one it was pretty certain that I would be back in the teaching game again, and that is just what happened.

We took on a chap called John English who had been a director of the Bateman Cleaning Group (a commercial cleaning company) so he knew absolutely nothing about swimming pools, but he was a quick learner and was selling on his own in a few weeks. We became friends and he was to be my best man at my third wedding in August 1970.

That same year we won the gold and the silver medals in the NSPI international awards, both my designs, and a little later at the beginning of 1971 Douglas Gaze the deputy chairman of the group of 25 companies told me that I was to become a director, and a little while after that as we had been taken over by Higgs and Hill, I became by accident the Technical Director of a public company for a short while.

We had quite a list of well known people as clients and one of the last ones that I had a lot to do with was Sir Marcus Sieff the chairman of M&S at that time. John English had done most of the spade work on selling this one, and I had done the design drawings.

John was dealing with one of the M&S managers, but when it came to it Sir Marcus expected a director to manage the project and so he contacted Douglas Gaze.

As I had done all the design work I ended up making the visits to site every Friday for some months as that was when Sir Marcus was going to be at his home near Newbury.

Each meeting went on for some hours. It was quite a large contract as we had all the landscaping to do around quite a large pool and a number of buildings to construct as well.

I quite often didn't leave the site until well after 9.00pm, and most weeks ended up joining the client and his wife in his tasting sessions, that he did on Fridays, so as to chose the various Single Malts that M&S would offer in their stores.

As he said "I have to take on this onerous task as it would be quite unfair to expect anyone else to take on such a difficult task" I think that it may have been a joke?

Towards the end of the contract when he heard that I was going to leave Gazes he gave me a mini teach-in on how to run your own business, as he found out that I was going to start working on my own and be self employed. He was a very friendly chap, at least to me, and his wife always made us sandwiches to go with our Friday drinks.

One rather embarrassing sales call I made was to a property just outside Uxbridge where I spent some time explaining why 'Dry Pack' was the best form of swimming pool construction, I don't know if anyone uses it these days, but it was a bit like throwing mud up against the

excavation, but it did the job. Anyway, I left after an hour or so, and I could tell that the client was rather bored, although he listened quite patiently to my explanation, but I knew that he was not convinced. I later found out that he was the chief engineer for 'Cementation', probably the largest sprayed concrete company in the world at that time!

Some years later, I was the sales director under contract at 'Premier Gunite' (by which time Cementation had wound down their sprayed concrete division), and we did all their test spraying for some years, which Joe Smith always supervised personally on site.

Another contract that I ran at Gazelle was one for Captain Bill Bright who lived in Ascot. He had won the Air Race to New Zealand in the early 1970s. It was for a large swimming pool/summer house complex that I had designed and project managed all on my own. I have some quite good photos of that job, and to a large extent it was the project that made me more interested in the architectural side of pool building.

It was at about the time that we were changing from the Imperial to the metric systems and I suddenly found that you had to make sure you got it right, or run the risk of ending up with lots of spare material on site, or not enough, when ordering using square metres or square yards, you had to make a few mistakes before learning properly.

We are grateful to Bill for allowing us to publish extracts from his memoirs although space and potential legal restraints prevent us from reproducing the full unexpurgated version! Part 4 next time.

Final Notes to Note

Situations Vacant

For those looking for a change of direction or a new start, keep an eye on the Situations Vacant section of the ISPE website. Here's a summary of the latest vacancies. Please check the adverts for full details and bear in mind that vacancies do get filled quite quickly sometimes so certain positions may have been filled by the time this is printed.

Clear Water Revival Ltd.

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Office Location: University of West England W Block, Cold Harbour Lane, Bristol BS161QY

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Buckingham Swimming Pools Ltd.

are looking for a new member to join our sales team and are looking to recruit a full time Contracts Manager to join our existing team.

Trade Aid - Can you help?

Trade Aid is a charity formed 13 years ago by John Asher, Hon.FISPE, and has been supported by the pool and spa industry. The charity supplies boxes of new tools for 10 different trades and sends them all over the world. To date, one million pounds has been raised and used.

During the lockdown all our speaking engagements and money raising events have been cancelled

so a 'Go Fund Me' campaign has been put together to help our fund raising.

Anyone wanting to donate, go to Go Fund Me website:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/new-funds-for-trade-aid/widget/large>

There are now other trade aid organisations; ours is the one that mentions the Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven and has a spanner within the logo:



Alternatively, donations may be made via the website direct at: www.trade-aid.org

Each trade box costs £425 and that sum covers the box, new tools and flies it anywhere in the world.

Your help would be appreciated. Thank you.

John Asher, Hon. FISPE
ISPE Past President.

ISPE Logo

Please remember that the ISPE logo **may not** be used by any members in any circumstances, including adverts, websites, emails, on headed paper or on vehicles.

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OC-1

FILTRATION MEDIA

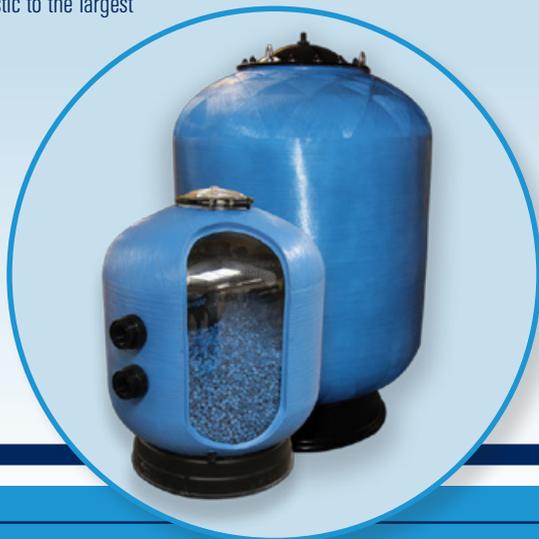


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