

Press release

Training pool opening

Boston Amateur Swimming Club was devastated when the Boston Bypass Party decided to shut the Training Pool in June 2009. As a result of this decision Boston saw its biggest protest march from the park to the council offices in West Street to hand over a 10,000 signature petition to councilors, even this did not see the Training Pool re-open just talk and promises which never materialized. After the recent election it was a breath of fresh air when the newly elected party contacted the Swimming Club with a view to re-opening the training pool, but with less cost to the council.

The Swimming Club has always had a good relationship with Haven High Technology College, indeed Adrian Reed's children have been involved in the Swimming Club for fifteen years. When the pool closed in 2009 a discussion was held between the School and the Club with a view to possibly buying the pool, hence the headline in the paper "Buy the Pool for £1", but nothing became of this at the time. However, over the past few months the Swimming Club and the Witham Schools Federation have sat down with Phil Drury from the council to discuss the re-opening of the training pool. It has been agreed that we form a three-way partnership. As a result of this the Swimming Club has agreed to pay increased pool hire – which amounts to over 50% of the running costs. On top of this the Swimming Club will offer Swimming Teachers to the council to cut down on their costs. Local schools will once again have a dedicated pool in which to learn to swim, with the Witham Schools Federation offering a Swimming Teacher for this purpose. The Federation will also help with cost of repairs and maintenance of the training pool.

The Club has dreamed of returning to the Training Pool ever since it was shut and it is thanks to the continuing support of our committee, members, other pool users and friends that this is at last happening. The Councilors have been very supportive of this partnership, so the Club would like to thank them and also say a big "thank you" to Adrian Reed (Executive Headmaster of the Witham Schools Federation) and his Governors for making this possible.

Everybody will gain from this. The Schools once more will have a safe environment for their lessons, the Swimming Club will have more pool space in which to train instead of the two/three lanes they currently have, and the public will have more of the pool to swim in with more sessions being made available to them.