

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sunderland invests in excellence

Sunderland City Council is to invest in a new permanent position aimed at delivering a quality assured, aquatics programme. The council, in partnership with Sport England, the ASA & ASA North East Region has created a new position as Beacon Programme Head Swimming Coach, based at the new Sunderland Aquatic Centre.

Sunderland's Aquatic Centre is a 10-lane 50m swimming pool with diving and Wellness facilities. The job is to lead the development of the ASA Beacon Programme, for the ASA North East region. The Beacon Programme is an exciting new initiative targeted at delivering a quality assured, aquatics programme from Learn to Swim through to excellence. Additionally, the Beacon Programme will provide enhanced mentor support to identified groups of swimmers and coaches, in the North East region. This will take the form of athlete support services, co-ordinating the North East region coaching sessions and assisting in workforce development for coaches.

Ireland launches new spa categories

Ireland's national tourism development authority, Fáilte Ireland, has a new system for its health and wellness sectors.

It four main categories – hotel spas, destination spas, resort spas and specialised retreats and is aimed at reflecting the importance of spas to the Irish Tourist industry.

It was developed by Fáilte Ireland in consultation with an industry steering group following extensive research. Paul Keeley, director of business development and investment at Fáilte Ireland, said: "The explosion in the quality and quantity of spa offerings throughout Ireland has fuelled an increase in demand both domestically and internationally."

Seventy two Irish properties have been categorised under the new system, which is intended to aid both existing and potential spa customers to better understand the range of health and wellness offerings available to them. A brochure and website have also been released to support the launch.

Record carbon reduction drive by the Heat Project

All swimming pool owners in the UK have been contacted as a result of a direct mail campaign intended to increase take up of grants available for energy efficiency measures through the Heat Project. The contact is a result of increased funding by utility companies under the Government led initiative, CERT (Carbon Emissions Reduction Target), and an effort to capitalise on the emergent green conscience as a result of greater media coverage and awareness of the environment and global warming issues.

The direct mail drive is a proactive attempt by the company

to reinforce the issue of energy efficiency in swimming pools and the ease in which we can all owners can make a significant improvement to the UK's carbon emissions and carbon footprints

Directly influential on the success and scope of the Heat Project campaign, the government's CERT initiative has increased the availability of funding to such insulation schemes, resulting in greater marketing capabilities and ultimately take up of the grants on offer, ensuring the UK endeavours to meet its carbon emissions reduction target of 20% by 2010, and 60% by 2050.



HEAT PROJECT
www.heatproject.co.uk

HEATSAVR CUTS GAS CONSUMPTION FOR WREXHAM BY 33%

Saving energy and reducing CO2 emissions is high on the agenda of most pool operators, but anyone who wants to find out more about one of the simplest and most cost effective energy saving measures available might like to have a word with Greg Ryan at Wrexham County Council's Waterworld, one of the latest local authority pool complexes to adopt the Heatsavr Liquid Pool Cover system.

When Greg was given the task of trialling Heatsavr he was a little sceptical about how effective it would be but after the first full months trial he was more than convinced. Greg says, "I must say that I'm quite impressed - we've always had to maintain the air temperature 24 hours a day to control humidity but after introducing Heatsavr the reduced evaporation from the pool has meant that we have been able to cut back the air temperature when the pool is closed, without any detrimental effect or rise in humidity. So far we've been experimenting with a temperature set back of around 6 deg. C although I feel

confident that this can be increased".

Even though the set back temperature was not implemented on all days the net result was that in the first month of use they experienced a 33% reduction in gas consumption when compared to the same period the previous year, which also took into account any variation in weather condition by degree day adjustment.

Wrexham are now looking at other control measures that can be used in conjunction with Heatsavr to further improve their savings.

Heatsavr, a bio-degradable liquid which automatically doses into the pool on a daily basis, forms a transparent monomolecular layer over the surface of the pool whenever it is calm. This layer significantly reduces evaporation, which not only saves on water heating but more importantly, with indoor pools can significantly reduce the cost of humidity control and air heating requirements. An automatic dosing system ensures that the correct dose of Heatsavr is added at the same time each day.

Unlike a conventional cover, which has to be removed before swimming, Heatsavr breaks apart when the water is disturbed but reforms when the water becomes calmer. As Heatsavr is available 24 hours a day and adjusts perfectly to pool activity, potential savings over 24 hours can actually be greater than with a conventional cover.

Bob White of Heatsavr, the UK and Western European Distributors for Heatsavr, stresses that contrary to a common misconception Heatsavr IS effective on deck level pools. Because the Heatsavr molecular layer forms so quickly and because Heatsavr is being constantly circulated through the filtration system, any drawn off from the perimeter surface is constantly being replaced. Indeed Heatsavr is being very successfully used on many level deck pools, Wrexham Waterworld being a case in point.

HEATSAVR
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