

WRAP UP FOR INSULATION NEWS EARLY IN 2009

Chris Hayes gives an update on activities affecting members of SPATA and BISHTA.



Chris Hayes gives an update on BSPF news.

2009	
February 1	SPATA Awards & Gala Dinner Dance
February 1-3	SPATEX
March 10	SPATA Technical Committee
March 17-20	Swimming Pool & Spa International Conference
March 25	PIP Committee BISHTA Committee
March 26	SPATA National Council BSPF Board



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The BSPF has been taking a proactive role with heightened interest in how we build and insulate swimming pools.

A consultation document is expected to be released early this year by specialist consultants Faber Maunsell who are working on behalf of the government.

Following this consultation with the industry, there will be some proposals for changes to be made on how we build and insulate indoor swimming pools.

It is very difficult to confirm what changes are going to be made, but at this stage it would appear possible that during 2010, all indoor pools could fall under the legislation of Building Regulations Part L.

If this legislation does cover indoor pools then it is likely that the pool shell will need to have an agreed minimum thermal efficiency (u value) to reduce carbon emissions.

Outdoor pools are currently unlikely to be included in the Building Regulations in 2010, although it is believed that the government may try and include outdoor pools in future revisions of Part L, which are likely to be due in 2013 and 2016. There may be lots of speculation within the industry and SPATA (along with BSPF) will continue to discuss this issue with the relevant authorities and will then endeavour to provide concise and timely information to its members and the wider industry so that everyone in the industry is ready for any changes from 2010 onwards. It is very important to note that some insulation products used in homes will not be appropriate in a swimming pool environment as some materials are not meant to be used below the damp proof course.

Brighton Beckons

I am looking forward to attending my first full SPATEX show, since joining the BSPF in April last year. I went to SPATEX for the first time in 2008 and was really impressed with many aspects of the show. Interestingly, I did not have much awareness of the good work going on at SPATEX and the BSPF, so one of the challenges that we face is to ensure that more of our commercial work is recognised and understood by a wider audience. The range of the services and products available within the industry is

very important to promote and the innovation for new ideas needs to be nurtured. The industry will face many challenges in 2009 and I hope that you are able to spare some time to come to Brighton to see what is new and to meet old friends.

Awards Night

The SPATA Awards and Gala Dinner is taking shape and the headline entertainment is being provided by ABBA Vision (an ABBA tribute band) and Martin Sanderson, The Magic Circle's Close-up Magician of the Year. This is a great chance for SPATA members to show off the quality of their work and to gain some valuable publicity to generate new business. The individual ticket price for the event is now £83.20 as we have been able to make a small saving due to the reduced VAT charges recently introduced by the government! I am very much looking forward to this important event in the industry calendar, good luck to any SPATA members if you have entered any of the awards.

Technical Merits

The need to ensure that both SPATA and BISHTA members work to high standards is very important for me and knowing that there has been previous correspondence in the industry press about this subject I am keen to ensure that we have a robust inspection system.

An initial small team of SPATA inspectors will be trained in March 2009 to ensure that there are regular inspections and that members can feedback on issues relating to SPATA. In terms of BISHTA, a specific Technical Committee has been set up under Howard Gosling's chairmanship and he will be liaising with members to provide feedback on items such as a BISHTA inspection, covering items such as water testing and evidence of risk assessments.

Last but by no means least, development discussions continue with a range of experienced organisations.

The key is to ensure that we get the right type of qualifications for the industry. It is likely that we will need a balance of training courses and formal qualifications to satisfy the wide demands from both the pool and hot tub industry.