

# BANSP - the British Association for natural swimming pools

Beginning of June 2010 the BANSP was founded in Great Britain. One of its members of the board is Mr. Tim Evans. Which are the main aims of your organization?

The main aims are:

- To raise awareness of and confidence in natural swimming pools and swimming ponds among the UK domestic, commercial, and public sectors.
- To create standards for natural swimming pool designers and builders.
- To disseminate information on natural swimming pools and ponds by producing information literature and putting on events.
- To collect and share knowledge and experience between UK members on UK-specific conditions, and on general swimming pond issues between international members of the IOB.



- To provide resources or independent mediation or arbitration if necessary.

**How many members do you have and how many can you expect to join your organization in the next months?**

We currently have 7 members and hope to increase this to 12-15 after the recent meeting.

**When people from the continent think about the British weather only few can imagine that there is a market for swimming ponds - so who are your clients?**

Well, it is sometimes hot here, occasionally.... And people do have conventional outdoor swimming pools. But important in the UK is the very strong gardening culture here, and people tend to want a swimming pond because it is as much a garden/landscape feature as a swimming facility. Very often people say "I want something to look beautiful, to fit into my garden, and I also want to be able to swim in it."

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Der IOB-newsletter wird herausgegeben vom Vorstand der Internationalen Organisation für naturnahe Badegewässer (IOB) und versteht sich als vorzugsweise monatlich erscheinendes Mitteilungsorgan des Vereins für eine Information der Einzelmitglieder in den Mitgliedsverbänden der IOB. Behandelt werden Themen rund um die Arbeit der IOB und seiner Mitglieder aus der internationalen Naturfreibäder-Branche. Der IOB-newsletter erscheint nach Möglichkeit monatlich in digitaler Form auf der homepage und wird über die Mitgliedsverbände der IOB an ihre Einzelmitglieder versandt. Beiträge mit namentlich gekennzeichnetem Autor geben nicht unbedingt die Meinung des Vorstandes der IOB wider. Kontakt: [www.iob-ev.eu](http://www.iob-ev.eu)

**Will there be a dialog with your national administration? I am thinking about subjects like "phosphates in public water system" or "public swimming ponds"?**

That's a good question and we haven't discussed the phosphate issue amongst ourselves. Phosphates can be very high in UK tap water, often over 1000 ug/L, and this is not helpful for our industry! About ten years ago all regulation on phosphate levels in tap water was removed, probably due to pressure from the water companies wanting phosphate to help to line their pipes so they didn't have to repair them.

With public swimming ponds we already have serious interest and cooperation from several national organizations - the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG), the British Swimming Pool Federation (BSPF), which is also connected to the main trade association for swimming pool companies, the Swimming Pool Allied and Trade Association (SPATA). We had representatives from all these groups at the mini-



conference we organized in September together with IOB and they were very interested in what we are doing.

**Are there any public swimming ponds in your country?**

No, not yet. There are some swimming ponds in hotels and country clubs, but none yet for the general public.

**How many swimming ponds will be built in 2010 in Great Britain and Ireland?**

It's still a small market - probably no more than 40 or 50.

**What do BANSP expect from IOB?**

I think knowledge-sharing and networking are the main benefits, and also getting advice and experience from people

who have been developing the industry for many years. At the mini-conference it was invaluable to have someone from IOB there for several reasons - to provide credibility to representatives of the conventional swimming pool industry, to help us to think of the industry more internationally rather than just locally, and of course each of us also benefitted from their knowledge and experience.

It always really helps to come together with each other and focus on the industry as a whole, which is different from our daily working life when we are focusing just on our own companies.

**Thank you and good luck to BANSP!**