10th July 2020

Official Statement

Dear Customer,

Thank you for your patience and support over the last four months. The government has now given the decision to allow the Leisure Sector to reopen facilities on the 25th July 2020. Unfortunately, a safe and financially viable re-opening of Tadcaster Pool is not achievable under the current government COVID guidelines.

As many of you will be aware, Tadcaster Swimming Pool Trust operates as a registered not for profit Charity and receives no government or local authority financial support or grants. The money raised through admissions, swimming lessons and fundraising is used to maintain the facility and cover our operational costs. The re-opening process presents a unique set of challenges but we are working with a number of National Governing bodies to help create a safe and workable phased re-opening.

The current government guidance and restrictions for our industry are very comprehensive and will significantly affect the number of customers we can safely welcome back to the facility per session. For everyone’s safety, social distancing must be maintained throughout the facility and this is very difficult to achieve in a building of our size and layout, especially in the changing rooms. Implementing the restrictions and running our normal timetable would mean a 75% reduction in attendances, which in turn would reduce our income and ability to cover our operating costs. In summary, we would be operating at a loss which would significantly affect the long term viability of the facility.

The safety of our customers, staff and volunteers is paramount. The Trust have therefore taken the very difficult decision at this point in time to not re-open the facility to the public on the 25th July 2020. We will do this once we are confident that we can provide a service that meets the current guidelines and is also financially viable, in order to protect the future of the facility.

**What Next?**

* We will continue to monitor government guidelines and consider options to our timetable that may allow us to re-open.
* We will act as quickly as possible once it is safe and financially viable to do so.
* We will be writing directly to our Direct Debit members and Swimming Lesson members with a further update shortly.
* Please follow our social media pages for further updates and news

**How can you help?**

Alongside the loss of four months’ income we have also had to cancel three of our key annual fundraising events - The Tadcaster Triathlon, York Dragon Boat Race and the Duck Race. These events would be expected to raise in excess of £5,000 and this money would ordinarily be spent directly on operating and improving the facility

We are determined to ensure that Tadcaster Community Swimming Pool remains a vibrant part of our local community. Although we have been unable to deliver these major fundraising events, should anyone be in a position to still make a donation, however large or small, we have set up a fundraising page where you can make a contribution to help secure the future of the Charity. To donate please visit our Virgin Money Giving page uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving and type in Tadcaster Swimming Pool Trust COVID19 in the “Do Something Amazing today section”.

We do understand that not everyone is in a position to donate as these are extremely challenging times for a lot of people. Your continued custom once we re-open and any support on our social media pages that you can give will be also be welcomed.

On behalf of everyone at Tadcaster Pool, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support and we hope that we are able to safely welcome you back in the not too distant future.

Yours faithfully

Chris Porter

Facility Manager