

# Lifeguard links

Issue 11

Approved Training Centre Newsletter

Spring 2009

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[www.lifeguardsireland.com](http://www.lifeguardsireland.com)

## International Swimming Pool Conference



International forum on the treatment and quality of water in pools and spas, including health implications

Senior trainers from IQL Ireland attended the recent "International Swimming Pool and Spa Conference", held at the Royal College of Physicians in London. This was the third such conference and comes at an important time for swimming, with debates about the varying standards of pool water treatment in different countries, health effects such as the link between disinfection byproducts and childhood asthma, Cryptosporidium and Legionella, products and processes which are promoted claiming to short-circuit some of the traditional challenges in running healthy pools.

The World Health Organisation has produced guidelines in this area – but it is not clear how well they are used by operators and regulatory agencies worldwide.

An international panel of speakers presented the latest research on swimming pool water quality management, and each session concluded with an open forum where delegates were able to put questions to the experts.

The conference covered four main streams

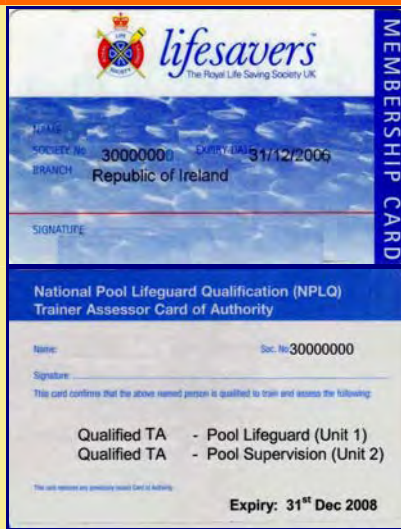
- Infections associated with swimming pools and spas
- Water Treatment
- Risk Management & Technical Management
- Health Impact of disinfectant by-Products.

Seminars included reports of research on the effectiveness of swim nappies on the prevention of cryptosporidium release into pools, a review of cleaning issues associated with pool inflatables, and an overview of the water treatment processes for the pools for the 2012 Olympics.

The focal point of the conference was the launch of the new Swimming Pool Water manual, published by the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group. This manual has been the "bible" of pool water treatment for many years and has been revised to take into account the many new developments in the swimming and spa pool industry over the last decade. All delegates received a free copy of the new manual.

Full details of how to order this essential publication are on page 4.

## Membership and Qualifications for Trainer-Assessors >>>



**MEMBERSHIP CARD**

**lifesavers**  
The Royal Life Saving Society UK

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
SOCIETY No: 30000000 EXPIRY DATE: 31/12/2006  
BRANCH: Republic of Ireland

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ)  
Trainer Assessor Card of Authority**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Soc. No: 30000000  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

This card confirms that the above named person is qualified to train and assess the following:

Qualified TA - Pool Lifeguard (Unit 1)  
Qualified TA - Pool Supervision (Unit 2)

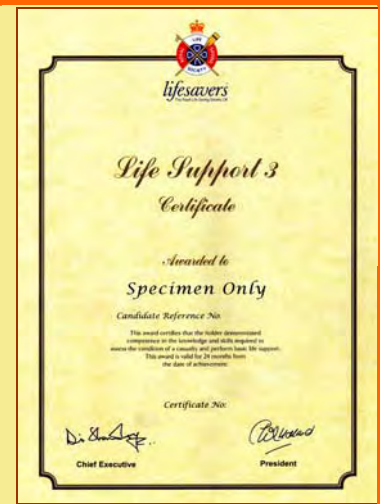
The card requires an annually issued Card of Authority.

Expiry: 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2008

Please ensure that all Trainers and Assessors for your courses hold a current National Pool or Beach Lifeguard Qualification or a Life Support 3 Award. Should it emerge that a trainer or assessor did not hold a relevant qualification at the time of training or assessment, the assessment report forms will be returned by IQL headquarters, and the candidates will have to be assessed again.

The qualification held doesn't have to be specific to the discipline, e.g. a pool trainer could hold a beach qualification. Of course, all TAs must hold a current membership card and Card of Authority (such as those shown on the left)

To check whether a Trainer-Assessor is current, please telephone RLSS Headquarters in England at 0044-1789-773994.



## Holiday Water Safety >>>



Irish families holiday abroad more than most EU citizens. Every year a number of holidaymakers drown, often within a short time of arriving at their destination. The following advice from the Irish Lifesaving Foundation is offered to help prevent some of these tragic deaths.

Families booking holidays in private villas will have to lifeguard their own children - **all day every day**. Do not assume that the pool was built with safety in mind.

Water toys should always be put away after use as they may attract children to an unguarded pool. You should check if the pool area is fenced off as this is the biggest single proven safety feature.

## Drowned boy's parents seek hotel probe

Children should be subject to **touch supervision**. The ADULT (16yrs+) supervising them should be a strong swimmer, have not drunk alcohol and be close enough to the children to touch them.



## Tourist died 'after going into shock' in pool plunge

Child drowning reports regularly mention that the child was out of sight for only a very short time and that the immersion was silent with no splashing, screams or calls for help.

### DANGEROUS ASSUMPTIONS

- Being able to swim protects you from drowning. - :: -
- His older brother is minding him. - :: -
- It is safe to leave her by herself in the pool. - :: -
- We don't have to supervise—there is a lifeguard. - :: -
- There is a diving board – it is safe to dive. - :: -
- She'll be fine – I can see her from the bar. - :: -
- He is wearing a wetsuit so he cannot drown. - :: -
- There are enforced laws to make water sports safe.

A copy of the full leaflet can be downloaded free from the following websites

[www.lifesavingfoundation.ie](http://www.lifesavingfoundation.ie)

[www.lifeguardsireland.com](http://www.lifeguardsireland.com)



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*(subject to availability)*

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