**EXTENDED POOL HOURS**

By

David Casarsa, Vice President

The Annual General Meeting was held on 10 March 2022 at 7pm at the Clubhouse. At that meeting the topic of extended pool hours was raised by some members. The extension is from the time when the Jockey Club office closes until one half hour before sunset as is mandated by Sarasota County. Up until a few years ago, it was common practice to allow the pool to remain open after office hours allowing member swimming in the evening hours. It was based upon the honour system, in that, members would be individually responsible to follow published regulations and keep the pool area and washrooms in the same condition they found them, that is, neat and tidy.

Unfortunately, the honour system proved unreliable. Pool rules were broken, the pool gate was blocked open for any and all to enter, and there were many instances of members letting non-members into the pool. On several occasions the washrooms were vandalized, pool safety equipment broken, and debris thrown into the pool clogging the pump filters. All of these acts resulted in increased costs in cleaning and repair and the need for supervision.

I appreciate that many members would like the opportunity to go for a swim in the early evening hours after work or when the heat of the day is reduced. If the membership is interested in extended pool hours, it will have to take on the tasks of controlling access, monitoring cleanliness and reporting those not following regulations. This will take a Pool Committee comprised of at least ten persons who would establish a rotation to undertake the above tasks, one person per evening. The rotation would continue for as long as the Pool Committee, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, determines, perhaps from May to end October or six months. Specific duties and tasks would be developed once the Pool Committee is put in place. If you have an interest in evening swims, it is incumbent upon you to step forward and volunteer for the Pool Committee. Obviously, the more members there are, the reduced workload for all.

If you are interested in being part of the Pool Committee, contact the office and leave your name, email address and phone number. We will accept volunteers until the Board of Directors meeting on 09 May 22. At that meeting, the Board will decide whether to proceed with the formation of the Pool Committee, establishing its tasks and procedures, and extending pool hours. Again, this is another opportunity to support your fellow members and expand on the services currently provided. It’s your club, support it.