ACIDE

THE OFFICIAL MOUTHPIECE OF THE AQUAVIC IONISER USER'S GROUP

Quercus Magnae a Glandibus Crescant

PROUDLY MADE IN AUSTRALIA

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From the Director:

Having received the news that our website manager was about to embark on a cargo ship voyage (as a passenger, not crew) of many weeks duration to parts of the globe not usually visited by cruise liners – and that the ship has no phone, internet or email - we felt that we'd better get our skates on and get "*something*" out there before Christmas. And what better way to open the batting than to share with you an unsolicited but very welcome email we received recently. The lightly edited version is as follows:

"*We have been extremely pleased with our Aquavic "New Millennium" Series II ioniser as my wife, being an asthmatic, has always been troubled by salt chlorinated pools, and having to contend with sticky salt water on hot days. Happily, that is no longer the case. WE were both invited to a pool chemicals manufacturer's presentation recently and it was interesting to afterwards speak with other pool owners and tell them just how little we were spending on pool chemicals for our ionised pool. When asked for an opinion of ionisers, the presenter refused to acknowledge them at all declaring that "There were only two types of cleaners on the market and they were both (?) chlorine-based."*

Of interest was that whilst discussing ionisers privately over a few beers after the presentation, the presenter confided (in our correspondent) that ionisers were doing him out of chemical sales." *Enough said, eh?* (Name/address supplied).

Going Down:

As is our want at this time of the year, we've reviewed our prices across the board for 2012 and the good news is that, with several minor exceptions, most items - including electrodes - remain unchanged! If you've been watching the commodities markets you will have noticed that copper prices were heading upwards at an amazing rate, but that of silver was almost supersonic and a substantial price rise seemed unavoidable. Fortunately, both peaked and are now returning to earth. Still high, mind you, but low enough to allow us to carry some of the difference and keep electrode prices where they were for the immediate future. So if you've got any doubts about the longevity of yours, now is the time to buy. We've plenty in stock.

Plugged in:

This item was triggered by a visit to a pool that was being serviced by a local pool service provider who had inadvertently broken just about every rule in the book. It goes like this:

The ioniser's Piggy-back plug had been plugged straight into a standard non-timed power point, the pump's timer was then plugged into the ioniser's "piggy back" plug, and finally, the pump was plugged into the timer!!!

Think about that for a moment. The end result was that the ioniser was running 24/7, but the pump was only ever running whenever the timer told it to.

This item then is aimed at the owners of ionised pools everywhere, but more particularly to every pool serviceman who may be called to service an ionised pool, as one of the most common mistakes we come across is that of configuration ie "*what should be plugged into where.*" The 'Golden Rule' of ionising is that, irrespective of make or model, *the ioniser must never run on dead water! Never!* If the ioniser's on, so should be the pump. There are no exceptions to this rule. If you have any doubts about the configuration of your system, drop us a line, or better still, email me a picture, and we'll advise by return email.

Using our "*New Millennium*" Series 1 with its Piggy-back plug as an example, the pump plugs into the ioniser's piggy-back plug which is in turn plugged into either a timer or directly into a power point. And in the case of our "*New Millennium*" Series II, the controller is plugged into a standard power point (no timer required) and the pump is plugged into the controller's output which is clearly identified as "Pump". Under no circumstances should the pump be plugged into another power point.

My Last Word:
By now you will be very much aware of where I stand on the pros and cons of variable speed pumps. In spite of the fact that those previous editions of this newsletter have been read and downloaded many times, I'm still waiting to receive a counter-argument to my views that they are unlikely to make any difference to your power bill without sacrificing the quality and aesthetics of the water. Basically, my argument was that the laws governing centrifugal pumps are "set in stone" - you cannot change any one of the characteristics of the pump without affecting all the others. Even Blind Freddy can see that.

For those of you who might be contemplating installing a variable speed pool pump in the hope and expectation of reducing your power bill by, shall we say, a very interesting percentage, trot out to the pump house and gather the data from your existing pump and the pool, then trot out your calculators and check the numbers from the Pump Laws, which, for the purposes on this exercise are:

$$Q / Q_1 = N / N_1 \qquad H / H_1 = (N / N_1)^2 \qquad P / P_1 = (N / N_1)^3$$

Where:
Q = quantity of pool water passing through the pump in **litres per second.** (dictates the pool's turn-over rate).
H = Head or Height of a column of water supported by the pump, given as static pressure in **kPa**
N = is the speed of the pump's impeller given as **revs per second.** (Typically around 40 r/s)
P = Power required by the pool pump. It is given in **kW**. (most commonly around 1.2 kW).

And now for something completely different . . . . . !

Efficacy of Copper:
One question we're asked from time to time is, "*Is copper harmful*? And this is often asked by people who are quite happy to swim in chlorine-contaminated pool water and live in houses with all-copper plumbing, or in houses with all-copper mains pressure or storage hot water storage units, and who may work in industrial or commercial properties which, once again, have copper plumbing!

The short answer is that almost any chemical, including copper - *and the salt used in salt chlorinated pools* - if not used as directed and consumed in large quantities, will probably kill you or make you very ill! But the reality is that if common sense is applied and directions are followed, it is highly unlikely that you will suffer an adverse reaction. So, the next time you're feeling a tad peckish and tempted to start chewing on one of your 95% pure copper electrodes, remember to go easy with the salt.

And on that joyful note, from all the staff at Aquavic, may you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.


The Director