

**Help needed please!**

 **We are looking to recruit parents to train as officials**

**From Ann Thorp** - As you will be aware we are always asking for volunteers to be poolside helpers at events we attend as well as officials to help us with competition points and to generate income for the club.   For those who do not know for the club to enter a competition Caradon must provide one official for every ten children that enter.  If we do not supply officials we are penalised from competition points.  Due to changes in the ASA rules if we run our own events unless they are licensed, which needs officials, the swimmers times’ cannot be used in their rankings and allow them to qualify for progression.

As a parent I didn't understand what was required until I went to one of Lynne’s sessions to find out more…  and now 5 months later I have just passed my J1 official training.

This has been a great experience. I have met lots of new people, worked poolside and now understand a lot more of the strokes and techniques that swimmers are judged on during competitions.  This is knowledge that I can share with my daughter and other swimmers to help them on their swimming journey.   Now I am **qualified** I can claim travel to any competition that I officiate at and normally there is a lovely lunch included!

I used to sit poolside for days on end watching, now I feel more involved and have a great opportunity to meet swimmers from a variety of clubs and enjoy being part of their day.

We still need more officials to share the commitment that Caradon has, to support the club and our swimmers in their competitions.  This is not a huge commitment and is a great experience.

We are planning to run our own events, and by inviting other clubs we can all important funds for Caradon.  We would hope to include our own galas as part of our competition calendar. However, we need more officials to make this possible. Caradon has 5 officials as well as 2 other kind volunteers who are affiliated to our club.  We would love more support to share the club requirements.

Please come and talk to Lynne, myself or any of the committee if you are interested in finding out more about this great opportunity to be involved in Caradon swimming club. My email address should you wish to find out more is mrsthorpy125@hotmail.com.

**More info from Keith** - Entry to County Championships and for all level 1, 2 and 3 Open Meets require swimmers to have times achieved in a licensed competition and for the times to be shown on the British Rankings database.

Whilst we can often get swimmers into meets with times achieved in training or with split times achieved in other races, this is only because the high number of entrants does not allow meet organisers to verify all submitted times.

Because of this need to have times achieved in licensed competition, it is very pressing that we are once again able to license Caradon Club Championships as a level 4 meet. In order to do this we **MUST** have more parents training as officials so that we can meet the licensing requirements from amongst our own membership.

We are also obliged to provide officials at Open Meets, especially where we attend with a significant number of swimmers. If competitions cannot meet the number of officials required then times achieved may not be accepted by British Swimming for entry into the rankings database. It is also a courtesy to those clubs who host events to be able to assist with the need for officials.

Parents who do train as officials do not need to officiate in every session of a competition or even at every competition we attend, however it would be a huge asset to the club to have more parents involved in this area. It might also be a little more interesting for parents than spending the entire weekend sat on a balcony.

**We would love to see parents taking up this opportunity of supporting the swimmers and the club.**