

My Lane – Nick Keith

1. What Club did you start your swimming career?

I joined Windsor Swim Club in 2008 after my younger brother had been swimming with the club for a couple of years.

2. What Club are you with now?

I've remained at Windsor Swim Club since joining.

3. What was your first TO credential and what year did you attain that credential?

As with many officials, my first credential was Timekeeper and I achieved it in 2008. My second credential however was the now rare Finish Judge, as at that time my club always used a Finish Judge at club nights.

4. Why did you become an official?

After going to club night a few times to support my brother, my mum suggested I try timekeeping. Some of the people who I'd already been talking to were timekeeping as well, so it was just a different place to spend the club night. A few months later I was timekeeping regularly, so I did the theory course with about ten other club members and then got assessed to become official.

5. Why do you still officiate?

I continue officiating for several reasons. The biggest draw to me is the socialising and friendships. No matter which meet I'm at, there are different people to talk to. I also just enjoy the volunteering aspect of officiating, it feels good to give to the community in some way. I've also been a part of my club and area committees for some time now as another way to stay involved. Officiating has also given me the opportunity to travel, which I've enjoyed more than I expected I would. Most importantly, I continue to officiate because it's fun!

6. What is the highest credential received? (i.e. Starter Level 1, Referee Level 3, JOS, etc)

Referee Level 2.

7. What is your goal(s)?

I've always been going one step at a time, so my current goal is Referee Level 3 and, more specifically, the path towards it.



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8. What is the highest-level meet at which you have officiated? (e.g. Area, State, National, Pan Pacs etc).

I was lucky enough to be appointed to the 2018 Commonwealth Games.



9. With respect to your answer to Question 6, can you please pass on some of the strategies/tips you used to help you achieve your appointment?

It's important to not just do the job well, but to also look like you're doing the job well. I've tried to remember the rules as well as I can, but I always have them in my bag in case I need to check something. Where possible, I think about what I'm going to do before doing it for any role around the pool. With the help of my mentor and many other officials I've improved my stance and posture on pool deck.

Consider nominating for higher level meets. Even if you don't think you will get appointed, it at least helps to get your name known.

Be willing to ask questions of other officials to understand better. Also, be willing to answer questions.

When you have downtime, watch higher level officials to see what they do to be so good, and even think about whether you would be doing the exact same.