

FAQs - we'd like to make it bigger and better with your help!
Need some answers about Purley Rotary's Swimathon 2018?

You have definitely come to the right place!

What is a Swimathon?

A Swimathon involves a Team swimming continuously for 55 minutes with only one member of the Team being in the water at a time. A Swimathon is not a marathon; it is a FUN event!

Who organises the Purley Rotary Swimathon?

Purley Rotary (Registered Charity Number 803700) organises the annual Swimathon. This is Purley Rotary's biggest annual fundraising event that brings people from Purley and surrounding communities together.

Who can take part?

Teams can include swimmers of all ages, abilities and competence. Swimmers taking part in the past have ranged from the age of 6 – 80+.

What about Risk Assessment and Safeguarding at this event?

Purley Rotary has been organising the Swimathon since 1988. A thorough Risk Assessment is done for this event by our Compliance Officer, Tony Farrell. All Volunteer helpers, undertaking duties that involve interaction with adults and children, are vetted. They have to hold a clean, valid enhanced DBS report both for children and adults.

Does Purley Rotary have adequate insurance to cover incidents and accidents at this event?

Yes, Purley Rotary has adequate Public Liability Insurance for the Swimathon 2018 and all other events. We are covered further by Purley Leisure Centre's insurance.

Are there any rules of the Swimathon?

- All swimmers taking part in the Swimathon must be able swimmers!
- Teams and Individuals do not swim against each other.
- The aim is to swim as many lengths (25 metres) as possible for 55 minutes.
- There are no hard and fast rules about how a Team organises itself.
- Most swim a length in turn; others might want to split the time between them.
- There are no prizes for the Team completing the most lengths.
- Each Team member receives a certificate to commemorate their participation.
- The aim is to have fun and raise money for charities.

What is the minimum and maximum Team size?

Each Team MUST have at least 5 members, but no more than 10.

Where does the Swimathon take place?

The Swimathon is held at the Purley Leisure Centre, 50 High Street, Purley, CR8 2AA

How often does the Swimathon take place?

Purley Rotary's Swimathon takes place two days in a year – usually on a Saturday and Thursday evening.

When is the 2018 Swimathon taking place?

The 2018 Swimathon is taking place on Saturday, 24th February 2018 (3.00 pm – 9.00 pm) and Thursday, 1st March 2018 (6.00 pm – 9.00 pm).

How do I enter?

Simple fill in the Entry Form ([click here](#) to download) and e-mail it back to our Swimathon organiser, Nina Guha, by the end of October 2017.

Can I encourage new Teams to join Purley Rotary's Swimathon?

Of course you can. Previous Teams are Swimathon ambassadors for Purley Rotary. Do spread the word around about our work and encourage new Teams to join in our best community event.

I don't want to take part in the Swimathon; can I still support Purley Rotary by making a donation?

Of course you can! To donate, please visit

<http://mydonate.bt.com/events/purleyswimathon2018/449156>

When do I have to join by?

We would like all Teams to return their entry forms to our Swimathon organiser, Nina Guha, by the 31st of October 2017. Having entries on time does help us plan this event better. We have limited lanes available (Thursday = 18; Saturday = 36; Total = 54) which will be allocated on a 'first-come-first-served-basis'.

Are late entries allowed to join the Swimathon?

If there are unfilled lanes after the 31st of October 2017, we would be happy to allow Teams to join us.

Can I enter as an Individual?

No, you cannot enter as an Individual. You have to form a Team or find a Team that is already taking part.

How do I enter a Team?

If you have a group of people who enjoy swimming, you can form your own Team and enter them as a group.

How many Teams can each organisation enter?

To encourage wider community participation, we usually limit entries to four Teams only per organisation. However, if we are unable to fill our available slots, we would be happy to allow each organisation to enter more Teams. The decision to allow more than four Teams per organisation rests with Purley Rotary's Swimathon Committee.

Do we need a Team Captain?

Yes, every Team needs a Team Captain who is willing to take responsibility of their Team swimmers. They are also the person responsible for collecting sponsorship forms and money from Team members after the event is over. Each Team Captain is also the sole point of contact for Swimathon organiser, Nina Guha.

What else does the Team Captain have to do?

The Team Captain is encouraged to keep their respective Teams informed of all communication, updates and instructions sent by Swimathon organiser, Nina Guha.

Which day / time slot can I have?

On your entry form, we ask you to list two choices in order of preference. Dates and timings are allocated to Teams on a 'first-come-first-served' basis so the sooner you return your completed entry forms, the more likely you are to get the slots you request.

Can I choose any lane/s I want for my Team/s?

For health and safety reasons, some lanes are reserved for Teams with special needs. The rest of the lane allocation happens on a 'first-come-first-served-basis.' If you want a specific lane, please do let us know well in advance rather than at the last minute.

Will someone log the number of lengths swum by each Team?

Purley Rotary Members will be logging the total number of lengths swum by each Team; they WILL NOT log number of lengths swum by individuals. A copy of the log sheet will be given to each Team Captain at the end of their swim.

How many Teams are likely to take part?

In previous years, the total number of Teams have ranged between 35 – 45 with around 400+ swimmers taking part over two days.

Which Teams have taken part in the past?

A list of Charities, Churches, Schools, Clubs, Organisations, Guides, Scouts & Youth Groups who have taken part in previous years is listed on the General Information form. Please [click here](#) for a list.

How much sponsorship money does each swimmer and/or Team have to raise?

There is no fixed recommended amount per swimmer and/or Team. We do encourage everyone to do their best to help Rotary in their biggest annual fundraising event. We need your funds to help our community!

Who receives our Team sponsorship money?

60% of sponsorship obtained by your Team will go to the charity or organisation chosen by you. 40% of sponsorship obtained will be kept by Purley Rotary to distribute to various local and International charities. You may also donate your entire sponsorship money to Purley Rotary if you wish.

How much money do we receive?

Your chosen organisation will receive 60% of the total sponsorship money raised (minus any credit / debit card charges imposed by the BT mydonate Team.)

How do I collect sponsorship money?

Keeping our environment in mind, Rotary would like you to stay green wherever possible. We encourage you to obtain sponsorship online via your mydonate page. Apart from being the easiest and quickest way of raising money, this also saves you the hassle of having to chase up money afterwards. Where unavoidable, you can accept donations by cash or cheque. Cash and cheque donations have to be logged on individual sponsorship forms. Please [click here](#) for a sponsorship form.

Can we use Purley Rotary's marketing and publicity material to attract swimmers for our Team?

Yes, you can. As a participant, you are very welcome to share all / any publicity material that

is posted on our Social media pages and also on our website. Please follow and like our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Will this event get any publicity in the local press?

Our PR person tries to get press coverage for the Swimathon every year. Whilst we make every effort for local coverage, we cannot guarantee publicity in the local press.

How do I set up a mydonate page for my Team?

It is very easy to set-up a mydonate page for each Team taking part in the Swimathon 2018. Please [click here](#) for further instruction on how to set up your mydonate page.

We have never taken part in a Swimathon before. Can we attend a Trial session?

Yes, you can. Some of our new Teams have booked a lane at the Purley Leisure Centre for an hour to organise a trial Swimathon months before the actual event. Lanes are available to book on Thursdays at the Purley Leisure Centre between 6.00 pm – 8.30 pm at £19 per lane per hour. Please contact Purley Leisure Centre directly on 020 8668 7251 to make a booking. For more info, please visit <http://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/purley-leisure-centre/>

Can I use public Transport to reach the Purley Leisure Centre?

Yes, you can. Purley Leisure Centre is well connected both by Train and by bus. Train: Purley Rail Station. Buses: 60, 127, 166, 405, 407, 412, 434, 455, 466, 289 and 612 stop with 1 - 5 minutes walking distance of the pool.

Is there parking nearby on the day of the Swimathon?

Yes, there is plenty of parking available near the Purley Leisure Centre. You can park at Purley Tesco for free for up to three hours. There is also paid parking on the multi-story car park 2 minutes away from the Purley Leisure Centre. Limited off-street parking is also available near the pool.

What does the swimmer have to bring with them on the day of the Swimathon?

Each swimmer has to bring their swimming kits, towels, a drink, snacks and a few 20p coins (non-refundable) for a locker.

When do swimmers taking part have to arrive?

Swimmers are encouraged to be at the Purley Leisure Centre 30 minutes before their start time e.g. if your Team swim starts at 7.00 pm, please arrive at the pool by 6.30 pm.

When are swimmers likely to finish?

The Purley Rotary Swimathon runs like clockwork and will finish exactly 1 hour after you start swimming. It often takes between 15 – 30 minutes after the swim to get showered and changed.

Can our friends and family watch our Team/s swim?

Yes, there is a viewing gallery at the pool. Friends and family are very welcome to watch and cheer their Team swimmers. Banners to cheer Teams are very welcome too!

Can we take pictures of our Team swimming?

Due to safeguarding issues, not everyone is allowed to take pictures on the day. Purley Rotary will have an official photographer who will be taking pictures on the day. Anyone who wants to take pictures on the day must sign a form in advance. Please [click here](#) to

download the consent form. This needs to be handed in to our Swimathon organiser, Nina Guha, before the event.

Can we help Purley Rotary in any other way on the day of the Swimathon?

The Swimathon is a large scale event and we do rely on an army of Volunteer helpers on the day to run this event smoothly. We are always looking for lane counters and anyone who has an enhanced DBS (both for children and adults) can help with our changing room inspections. Please do get in touch with our Swimathon organiser, Nina Guha, if you can help.

Do we have to bring our sponsorship forms with us on the day of our Swimathon?

No, you don't. Please come to the Swimathon with your swimming kit, friends, family and enthusiasm. Your Swimathon sponsorship forms will be collected from you once you have received all your sponsorship money.

What does one have to do for Gift Aid to be claimed on donations made by cash or cheque?

Please ensure that the person making a cash or cheque donation ticks the box titled 'Gift Aid'. They must also write down their full name, address including post code and be a tax payer. For every pound donated, Purley Rotary can claim a further 25p from HMRC if the donor signs the gift aid box properly.

When does Purley Rotary want our sponsorship forms and money back?

We would like all sponsorship forms and money to be returned to our Treasurer, Chris Wright, or our Swimathon organiser, Nina Guha, by the 30th of April 2018.

Who should the cheque/s be made payable to?

All Swimathon sponsorship cheques should be made payable to the 'Rotary Club of Purley Trust Fund' and handed over either to Purley Rotary's Treasurer, Chris Wright or to our Swimathon Organiser, Nina Guha, along with your completed Swimathon sponsorship forms.

Who do I hand over cash donations to?

All cash donations can be handed over to Purley Rotary's Treasurer, Chris Wright or to our Swimathon Organiser, Nina Guha, along with your completed Swimathon sponsorship forms.

What else does Purley Rotary need from each Team and Team Captain?

Chasing up Swimathon sponsorship forms has been a real challenge in previous years. If there is one thing all Teams and Team Captains can help with, it is returning the completed sponsorship forms along with collected money / cheques to Purley Rotary by the 30th of April 2018 latest.

When will we receive our certificates and 60% sponsorship money?

We will send back a cheque to your chosen organisation within 2 weeks of receiving your Teams completed Swimathon sponsorship forms and money,

Who can we contact if we have any queries not listed above?

Please contact Nina Guha, our Swimathon organiser, if you have any further queries that are not listed above. *Thank you!*