

## **F stands for Official**

*In Masters we have the motto, "Fitness, Friendship and Fun".*

*But it's more than just a motto; it's the way our movement is run.*

*There's another one, yes another "F", that I've discovered comes into play;  
better in the background it comes out on competition days.*

The "F" stands for 'fficials", you'll see some out on the pool decks  
strutting around and lording it with those things around their necks.  
While others sit behind a desk giving discs to gals and chaps  
who've volunteered to get stripped down and swim for one or more laps.

*Others will tell you where to sit and when to get on your feet  
to go and stand behind a block to get ready for your heat.  
Others sit in a room somewhere keeping tallies of results  
which swimmers eagerly refer to as if they're missives from a cult.*

There are those who blow a whistle and wave their arm about  
and that other one with nothing to do but press starting buttons and shout.  
Some can seem a little strict and aren't slow to issue DQs  
(at least that's the way it seemed to me, has it ever seemed so to you?).

*But the message that I'm seeking to get across in this little ditty  
is not that your balladeer's clever, or even a little witty.  
It's to encourage you to take the plunge, take those steps initial,  
and put your hand up to do a course and become a Masters 'fficial.*

Being a 'fficial ain't that onerous, it's actually a lot of Fun  
and you have the pleasure of contributing to helping competitions run.  
With 'fficials from the other clubs you'll develop Friendships new  
and keep yourself rather Fit walking the poolside fro and to.

*In Masters we have the motto, "Fitness, Friendship and Fun".  
It describes the spirit in which we aim our movement to be run.  
We who are already 'fficials would welcome anyone who  
will help us to 'fficiate, and keep events going. Will you?*

*Des Seery*