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**Award\_nominated\_for** 7. Club of the Year

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**VOLUNTEER:**

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**Qualifications**

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Caradon Hockey Club was formed in 2007 when Saltash Essanians and Liskeard Looe Hockey Clubs merged. The principle reason behind this decision was to enable the future of hockey within East Cornwall to be successful and to encourage new players, young and old, back into the sport. We hold England Hockey's ClubsFirst Accreditation Scheme which is given to clubs who are recognised nationally as providing a 'Safe, effective and child friendly' club environment.

In 2015-16 a new committee was elected during the Annual General Meeting and this provided some renewed enthusiasm and fresh ideas. They have encouraged members to be part of the hockey family in East Cornwall.

In 2014 Caradon organised a 'Back to Hockey' training programme for a period of 8 weeks to see how this would be supported by the local community. The impact was incredible and it was decided that during the 2015-16 season the training would be formalised and embedded into the training programme. During the 8 weeks in which this training ran, from June 2016, there was an average turnout of 40 people from the local community who were well and truly enjoying getting 'Back-to-Hockey'.

**Nominee\_impact**

The increased participation over the past 12 months has enabled Caradon to field two Badgers teams - where these are made up from youngsters and also our 'Back-to-Hockey' members (or those who have never previously played hockey). Some of the 'Back-to-Hockey' players have even found a renewed vigour and put themselves forward to play league hockey.

Applications were applied (and awarded) for additional grant funding and this was used, in conjunction with our own internal drive on fundraising, to help continue the growth of Caradon Hockey Club. Last season, two members were supported in obtaining their coaching awards and are now part of the new Junior Coaching set-up which began in September 2016. A new Club Welfare Officer has also been put in place to ensure we are safeguarding all members of our club.

The 2015-16 season was a particularly successful one with both the Men's 1st XI and Ladies 2nd XI gaining promotion and remaining undefeated. The men's team scored 154 goals and only conceded 8 whilst the Ladies team scored 73 goals and only conceded 13 goals - an incredible

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achievement and a double celebration. The remainder of the ladies teams have also progressed with a top 4 finish for the 1st XI and the 3rd XI putting more points on the board than ever before. Caradon also have senior players representing the regional West Hockey at the O40's Masters Level.

Caradon has seen an increase in male participation which has enabled the setting up of the Men's 2nd XI within the local league structure. This has been part of a wider Development Plan for a number of years so to have this brought to reality is a satisfying achievement.

Over the summer period hockey has still remained high on the local agenda with two teams being entered into the Plymouth Mixed Summer League. Both did extremely well finishing 3rd in their respective leagues. In addition to this, friendly weekday evening games and junior events have been organised and well attended enabling members to continue playing the sport they love.

Further family social events were arranged for Summer 2016 including a visit to the local waterpark where great fun was had by the big, and little, kids of the club! In addition to this a full social programme has been organised for the rest of 2016. The long running successful Bingo night at Dobwalls is well attended by the wider community as well as friends and family of club members. There is also a Quiz Night organised within St Neot ( another nearby village) so Caradon Hockey Club are spreading their wings and reaching into the parishes surrounding Liskeard. All of this has led to a thriving hockey family spirit as we run up to the new league season.

Caradon have always had a good relationship with the local press and continue to use the local newspaper 'The Cornish Times' to help endorse the club. You will regularly see reports and pictures of all teams in the sports pages and further information on club organised events.

The club continues to promote themselves across the South West and this year have chosen to use social media to its fullest by embracing Twitter (@caradonhockey) to help promote themselves to the wider community. Their latest tweets have even been liked by the Olympic gold medallist GB Hockey Team members Alex Danson, Maddie Hinch and Susannah Townsend!

In short Caradon Hockey Club have the ability to provide hockey participation at every level; as just a fun sport in which to keep fit and make new friends or at a higher level to develop yourself with perhaps the opportunity to play for your Region at West Level should you wish to train hard and attend trials! It provides one of the best club environments in Cornwall giving a full experience of camaraderie and friendship.

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2.

In June 2016 we ran a very successful 8 week block of 'Back-to-Hockey' training sessions. This has significantly increased the numbers at this season's senior training. The new members have joined a club providing the opportunity to play Badgers non-league hockey where the emphasis is on having fun and making good friends.

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**Reasons3**

Training sessions for the new season have begun with a flourish! We have almost 100 senior members registered to play this season in 2 Men's teams, 3 Ladies teams and a Ladies Badgers team. It doesn't matter what your ability- there is a training session and team suitable for all wanting to play as part of Caradon Hockey Club!