# Sussex Swimming League

Reply to Secretary

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The original league objectives are from 1988 and are still in the rules as:-

1. **OBJECTIVES.**
   a) To provide a series of galas between Sussex clubs arranged in the manner described herein.
   b) To provide a competition that clubs with varying objectives can compete in to satisfy their individual needs and to produce Division One and Division Two champions.
   c) To provide a competition for young swimmers that they will both enjoy and find beneficial to their swimming development.

When the league was set up nearly 40 years ago in 1988, swimming was unrecognisable from where it is today.
Is there anyone still connected with club organisation who was involved in the formation and running of the early days of the league. I first became involved in 1994 so it was before my time!

County championships, Southern Counties (Pre SE Region) & Nationals had obviously been running for many years for those swimmers who were of that better standard.
Local competition development outside of clubs, comprised mainly of a few evening or Sunday afternoon junior invitation galas with 1 length and in exceptional circumstances 2 length races.
Most older pools were in Yards and other pools such as Hastings, Haywards Heath, Brighton, Eastbourne Crawley old pool etc, were being boomed from 33m pools to 25m.
No club in Sussex, that I am aware of, had full time professional coaches.

It took another 7 or 8 years before enough clubs joined the league to make it into a really competitive competition.
There were initially 2 length races in Division 1 and 1 length races in Division 2. All relays were 1 length.

In 1996 when the first name appears on the trophy, Hastings were the club to be reckoned with.
Full time coaches were becoming more common and swimming was slowly developing into a coherent sport nationally.
A few tweaks have been done to the league since then but it still remains in its 3 round, 3 club format.
In 2012 we progressed from the paper recording sheets (anyone remember those) to the electronic excel recording file. Team sheets were also added in 2013.
In 2014 the rules were altered to show events as 50 & 100m and relays became 50m per swimmer.
It was around that time that we changed to the current seeding format with the top 3 teams in both divisions competing together in a Final.
100m IMs were added but very little else has changed in the league since then although we now have progressed to Hy-Tek from the old excel system.

The current proposed changes for the 2025 AGM are coming around due to a lower number of teams in the league requiring the current format to be altered. Although this does move us away from a league format of 3 rounds it will allow clubs to free up weekends for other meets they wish to compete in.