Sussex Swimming League

Reply to Secretary

Briansmithbsc@gmail.com

Attending
Chris Hobbs, Brian Smith, Dean Baker, Karen Sparling, Stefan Hekman, Rachel Graeme Edwards, Lee Hammond James Nock , Julia Bell, Chris Leusley
Apologies for absence from John Dulieu, Andy Lobley

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were agreed as circulated. There were no matters arising.
The Secretary/Treasurers report had been circulated to clubs and there were no questions arising.

Chris Hobbs was re-elected as Chair & Brian Smith as Secretary/Treasurer.

It was confirmed that Mid Sussex Marlins B were withdrawing from the league and as we are all aware, this would require an adjustment of the format of the league.

Clubs would advise the secretary of any changes in their representatives and emails.

The items for discussion were all based around the alteration of the league format.

The various changes suggested by clubs had all been circulated and the overwhelming decision was to move to a single day competition.

The possible formats of this single day gala were discussed and the final decisions were:-

a) The day would be run as 2 separate galas split as Division 2 & Division 1.
(In this format, Chichester have indicated that they would be willing to accept a spare place in Division 2 so making 8 teams in Division 1 & 7 teams in Division 2.)

b) Each division would have a maximum of 8 teams, this meant that although Brighton & Hove B would be relegated on this years results, Hailsham would not be able to be promoted. Worthing had mentioned that they may be willing to drop to Division 2 which would allow Hailsham to be promoted. This would need to be fully discussed by Worthing and their decision would be given to the secretary in plenty of time for the competition.

c) Division 2 would be held in the morning with clubs swimming in a reduced format of 1 individual swimmer per event & 1 relay team per event and would be licensed at Level 4.
Division 1 would swim in the Afternoon and would retain the current format of 2 individual teams and 2 relay teams per event and would be licensed at Level 3.

d) The promotion & relegation between divisions would be retained but it would not be compulsory for the Division 2 winner to accept that promotion if they felt unable to compete in the higher division. The runner up in Division 2 would then be approached to take that place if they wished. If neither team wished to accept promotion then all teams would remain in the same divisions.

e) The league would retain its current name for SE registration & insurance but the meet would be renamed, as The Sussex Team Gala.

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A new trophy would be required for Division 1 as the existing one has suffered age related damage.
The Secretary would look into this.

For this 1st year, teams would be asked to contribute £100 each in advance of the gala, to allow for enough finance to hire a pool and start the new competition off.
Spectators would not be asked to pay any more than the current £5 entry fee. This will go towards financing the competition and although a small balance would be retained by the league towards future pool hire costs any excess profit from these 2 forms of income could be returned equally to each team. Whatever happens, this would result in substantially less costs than in the last 5 years.

The gala would initially be planned to be held on Sunday 7th June 2026 at Horsham. If this date should not be available then an alternative would be arranged (maybe 14th) and published to clubs in good time.

All of these changes would be fully discussed at the 2026 AGM with any required changes to the format being decided for the following year.

The meeting closed at 3.05pm.

Further information subsequent to the meeting

The date has now been confirmed as Sunday 7th June at Horsham with Division 2 having a provisional warm up time of 9.00 in the morning.

Division 1 would follow in the afternoon with a provisional warm up time of 12.00 to 12.15

Please hold this date in your calendar and further details will follow nearer the date

Competing teams are confirmed as

Division 1
Arun, Atlantis, Brighton & Hove A, Crawley, Eastbourne, Hastings, Mid Sussex Marlins, Worthing

Division 2
Beacon, Brighton & Hove B, Chichester, East Grinstead, Hailsham, Lewes, 1066.

This leaves 1 place free, so should any club wish to enter another team in the division 2 gala please contact me.

Brian Smith
Sussex League Secretary.