Saffron Seal proposal: Amendment to Essex Swimming League format
The proposal below has been submitted for consideration at the 2018 AGM. All clubs are requested to discuss this with your club's committee and make comments available to the AGM please.

Currently you are put in a league and then face the same clubs over 4 galas and each night the result is pretty similar. To introduce some variety we have a couple of suggestions. Both rely on the galas being the same night and assume similar number of teams as currently.

1. Rotate bottom / top clubs after each gala (First 3 galas only). Final gala is based on league position. The rotation could be 1 club or 2 clubs.

- There would be in essence 1 league but clubs would be ranked as if there were the current 2 leagues. New / returning clubs join at the bottom of the league.
- First gala therefore as currently with 2 events (say A and B).
- Second gala would see the top 1 / 2 teams from B swap with the bottom 1 / 2 from A.
- Same happens at end of 2nd gala.
- Points are scored from 1 up to number of teams in total (last season 11). So winner of event B gets 5 points, bottom of event A 6 points.
- Final gala is top 6 teams by points in Event A and bottom 5 in Event B.
- The benefit is that the top teams compete against each other and league mis-matches are quickly corrected leading to more competitive swims for more swimmers. Drawback is it is more complicated and some clubs won't know exactly which event they are until after the previous gala.

2. Select the galas using a basis similar to that for Essex Mini League (I say similar as I don't know how they do that and if it is fully appropriate for ESL). So again we are all in 1 league and we have a chance over 4 galas of swimming against multiple teams. The advantage is there is more variety and you can draw the galas ahead of time, the drawback is the elite teams may have a totally uncompetitive gala. This issue could be fixed with seeding/ pots but that adds complexity.

10th September 2018