



Kent v Sussex Challenge Cup

William Long, Sussex

Kent v Sussex Challenge Cup

- Aims
 - To be inclusive and maximise participation
 - To allow masters to swim as a team
 - To allow masters of different ages to swim together
 - To offer a different form of competition
 - To provide a short format competition
 - To build relationships between the two Counties

The Programme



The Programme

- Based on a programme used for the Frank Rider Cup held at Erith & District SC devised by Mark Russell
- Organisers – William Long, Glen Isaacs and Trixie Nisbet
- 2 hour competition – starting at 6.00pm and finishing at 8.00pm followed by drinks
- Involved 45 events involving a mix of relays and individual events swum by 2 swimmers of different ages – for example:
 - 4 x 25m Butterfly – Mixed 60+ 60+ 40+ 30+
 - 75m + 25m Backstroke – Male 18+ 60+
 - 50m + 50m Breaststroke – Female 18+ 50+
 - 75m + 25m Freestyle – Male 18+ 60+

The Programme

2. Draw of the Lanes – Kent and Sussex Captains to Draw Lanes – 5.45pm

3. Start of Events – 6.00pm

| No. | Event | M/F/Mixed and Age Groups |
|-----|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 4 x 25m Butterfly | Mixed 60+ 60+ 40+ 30+ ¹ |
| 2 | 4 x 50m Butterfly | Male 18+ 30+ 40+ 50+ |
| 3 | 4 x 50m Butterfly | Female 18+ 30+ 40+ 50+ |
| 4 | 4 x 50m Freestyle | Male 18+ 30+ 40+ 50+ |
| 5 | 4 x 50m Freestyle | Female 18+ 30+ 40+ 50+ |
| 6 | 75m+25m Backstroke | Male 18+ 60+ |
| 7 | 75m+25m Backstroke | Female 18+ 60+ |
| 8 | 50m+50m Breaststroke | Male 30+ 40+ |
| 9 | 50m+50m Breaststroke | Female 30+ 40+ |
| 10 | 50m+50m Butterfly | Male 18+ 50+ |
| 11 | 50m+50m Butterfly | Female 18+ 50+ |
| 12 | 50m+50m Freestyle | Mixed 18+ 18+ |
| 13 | 4 x 25m Breaststroke | Mixed 60+ 60+ 40+ 30+ |
| 14 | 4 x 50m Breaststroke | Male 18+ 30+ 40+ 50+ |
| 15 | 4 x 50m Breaststroke | Female 18+ 30+ 40+ 50+ |
| 16 | 75m+25m Freestyle | Male 18+ 60+ |
| 17 | 75m+25m Freestyle | Female 18+ 60+ |
| 18 | 50m+50m Backstroke | Male 30+ 40+ |
| 19 | 50m+50m Backstroke | Female 30+ 40+ |

¹ Note – for Kent Green v Sussex Blue the Age groups in Event 1, 13, 23 and 33 - will be 60+ 50+ 40+ 30+

The Programme

- 4 lanes used with 2 Kent teams and 2 Sussex teams
- Kent White v Sussex Gold competing for the Sussex Curran Gimson Shield
- Kent Green v Sussex Blue competing for the Kent Robinson Meek Shield
- 2 points for 1st place and 1 point for 2nd place
- Scoreboards showed points after every race



Vera Curran (nee Tanner) at 1928 Olympics

The Programme

- Approximately 60 swimmers from each County from ages 18 to 80+
- Officials drawn from Kent and Sussex
- Referee, Starter, 3 Judges, 4 Timekeepers and Scorer
- Emphasis on using Young Volunteers
- Novel timing system without electronic timing
 - timekeepers take split times
 - two laptops enter data
 - combined into data table uploaded to cloud after 5 events
 - final results available within 10 minutes of finish
 - link available to swimmers to access results via their phones
- Total cost £450 split 50/50 – £225 per County

The Results

- A great success – enjoyed by all those taking part
- Feedback forms obtained from many swimmers
- 75% rated the competition as Excellent
- What did competitors like about the competition:
 - “wonderful friendly atmosphere”
 - “relay races gets swimmers to interact”



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- “I liked swimming as part of a team”
- “enjoyed the teamsmanship with Sussex”

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- “I was made to feel very welcome”
- “I loved the comradery of the team”

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- “swimming with enthusiastic young swimmers”
- “relay format was good and made great racing”

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- “I liked the team spirit”
- “excellent event and fun schedule”