

A Brief History of the

**JEFFERSON
SWIM LEAGUE**

The First Forty-Two Years

Researched and Written By:

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2008 Update

PREFACE

The early history of the Jefferson Swim League was recorded by Jim Bear and it was his work which served as the inspiration for this sequel originally written in 1992. During the 1992 expansion of the League, it was thought that 1992 was the 25th Anniversary of the League. This was based on a statement in Jim's history that the JSL started in 1967. However, more recent information established the first year of the JSL as 1966. Thus we are celebrating the 41st Anniversary in 2007 (our 42nd season).

Jim's "Competitive Swimming in Charlottesville-Albemarle County" was written about 1972 and recorded the beginnings of competitive swimming in this area as well as the first five or six years of the League. All information prior to 1973 was taken with permission and great appreciation from his original article. The years 1973 to 2007 have been researched by the author using minutes, memos, and records which have been passed down from President to President. The information from some years is very incomplete and often not clear, so that it is possible that certain important names and events have been omitted.

JEFFERSON SWIM LEAGUE AT 42 YEARS - BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER

"Children have been swimming in this community long before Thomas Jefferson took his first dip in the Rivanna River." However, competitive swimming began about 1960 when Barbara Westmoreland organized the area's first team at Fry's Spring Beach Club under the direction of Russell Dettor. Miss Westmoreland coached Fry's Spring to an undefeated season but had to give up coaching in 1962 to concentrate on her studies. Her successor, Ralph Law, was a first year coach of the University of Virginia Swim Team and was destined to make his mark on local swimming.

Coach Law organized the area's first league, the Piedmont Swim League, which was composed of Fry's Spring, the Crozet Premiers, Country Town Swim Club of Orange, Louisa, and Madison. Fry's Spring generally dominated the League but received stiff competition from Crozet and Orange. Coach Law left Fry's Spring and joined the newly organized Fairview Swim Club as its pool manager. His retirement as coach was short-lived, as he soon organized a team at the new club. Fry's Spring and Fairview started a competitive rivalry which continued for years.

The Jefferson Swim League replaced the defunct Piedmont League in 1966 and was made up of Crozet, Fairview, Fry's Spring, Orange, and Waynesboro. They were soon joined by Keswick and Farmington Country Club. Fry's Spring dominated the early years of the new League, but it would not be long before other clubs challenged the Springers number one position. In 1971 Orange left the League, but Boars Head Swim and Racquet Club and Four Seasons Swim and Racquet Club entered. Unfortunately, Keswick left the League in 1972. It must be noted that one of the League's longest standing records (33 years) was set in 1972 by Jim Umdenstock (FSBC) in the Intermediate Boys 50 yard Butterfly at 25.00 seconds and finally broken in 2005.

At that time the League was tailored to give summer swimmers a chance to compete on a reasonably equal basis with the more serious swimmers. The meets were held during the week to avoid AAU conflicts, and no event went past 50 yards or meters. Age groups were patterned after the AAU's plan that ranged from 8-and-under mites to the 17 year old seniors. About 500 swimmers were involved in the League at that time.

The first five Championships were won by Fairview before being edged out by Farmington by 9 points in 1971. Fairview recaptured the Championship in 1972.

1973 SEASON

In 1973 the League was composed of Boars Head, Fairview, Farmington, Four Seasons, Fry's Spring, Crozet Village Club, Greene Hills, and Orange Country-Town. It appears that this was the first year for the Championship to be held at Onesty Hall rather than at a League member pool. The League spent \$574.06 during the summer for printing and awards and had about 600 swimmers.

1974 SEASON

During 1974 it seems that the Waynesboro YMCA rejoined the League after being absent for a year or more. The League's President was Dr. Jerry Mandell and the Secretary-Treasurer was Elna Kirkland. The clubs were asked to consider including 18 year old swimmers in the League, but the suggestion was not adopted. Each club was requested to give an additional \$10.00 to meet the expenses of the Championship. Swimmers were limited to 3 individual events and two relays in the Championship and scoring was through eighth place. Each club was to provide four timers, four judges, and three table workers for the Championship (those were the days!). Total League expenses rose to \$1,028.26 for the season.

1975 SEASON

Wally Downs presided over the 1975 season and Elna Kirkland continued as Secretary-Treasurer. The 1975 season saw the Charlottesville YMCA joining the League making a total of ten teams and 854 swimmers. Fairview was the largest team. At the July Board meeting a letter was read complaining about Coach Ralph Law's whistling to swimmers during the meet. (Certainly this was not the same Coach Law who helped start the League!) At this time mites were not disqualified until the Championship. At its September meeting, the Board tabled a request from the Shenandoah Valley Aquatic Club to join the League, but voted favorably to accept a request from Key West to join. Suggestions at that meeting included a "B" meet for "B" swimmers and to have younger swimmers swim in the morning of the Championship and the older swimmers in the afternoon. League expenses increased to \$1,279.27 for the year with a \$2.00 fee per swimmer.

1976 SEASON

The officers for 1976 included Wally Downs as President and Elna Kirkland as Secretary-Treasurer (for the third year!). At its April meeting, the Board approved 3 groups of teams with a trophy to be awarded the top team in each group. (any of this look familiar?)

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|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| A) Fairview | B) Fry's Spring | (C) Greene Hills |
| Four Seasons | Boars Head | Crozet Village Club |
| Farmington | Waynesboro YMCA | Charlottesville YMCA |
| | Orange | Key West |

Key West notified the President that they were unable to get a team together for the 1976 season and would have to drop out. In June the minutes reported a total of ten teams with 888 swimmers. At its July, meeting the Board received a complaint about the way meets were run, and it was suggested that a committee be appointed. Jimmy May, the Fairview coach, pointed out the need for the Stroke-and-Turn Judges to inform the child or coach of a disqualification. He also pointed out the need to have coaches kept from behind the starting blocks.

At the September Board meeting, Wally stated that the Championship Meet went well and that there was "no damage done to the facility". However the medals did not arrive in time for the meet. Ralph Law felt that the larger teams were at a disadvantage in the Championship because of the limit of three entries per event. He suggested having Divisional Meets during the last week of the season with five teams in each division. The Board voted to try the two five-team divisions. In addition, Wally suggested that the By-laws should have a cut-off time for meets such as 10PM. League expenses were \$1,804.77

1977 SEASON

The 1977 League was served by Molly Hill as President, Betsy Runkle as Vice-President, and Thelma Bailey as Secretary-Treasurer demonstrating the early strength of the Women's Movement in local elections. Crozet Village Club apparently did not swim, leaving a total of nine teams with 839 swimmers. Now for an interesting bit of J-League trivia, the largest team for the 1977 season was none other than the Boars Head Sports Club with 120 swimmers. The oldest existing JSL record was set by the Four Seasons Midget Boys Medley Relay Team at 2:21.70.

It was determined that a one tier schedule would be adopted and that meets were to start at 6PM and end at 10PM or event 40. Mites could not swim Individual Medley but could be unofficial with midgets, and the Head Timer was responsible for relay take-offs. At one of the swim meets a Stroke-and-Turn judge was harassed by a coach, and all clubs were asked to make sure that this type of incident would not happen in the future. At its September meeting, the Board approved the addition of Mite 50 freestyle and approved disqualification of mites after July 15th. However, they turned down a motion for mites to swim in Individual Medley. The League expenses dropped to \$1,367.48 for the 1977 season.

1978 SEASON

At the April Board meeting, there were suggestions on how to spend some of the extra money in the treasury which had a balance of \$1,207.88. The May minutes contain the first mention of giving Jefferson Cups for first and second place high point awards in each age group at the Championship. At the June meeting a suggestion was discussed and tabled that the Championship Trophy be dedicated in memory of Ralph Law because of his many contributions to the League (including whistling during the meets!). In July, Barnaby's asked to donate a trophy to the League. The Board accepted and decided to give this trophy to a non-swimmer who had given outstanding service to the League. This trophy "will be in memory of Ralph Law". (It must be noted thankfully that coach Law had not passed away.) There were still nine teams in the League and a total of 752 swimmers. The League expenses amounted to \$1,526.97.

1979 SEASON

Steve Runkle served as President, Buddy Dulaney as Vice-President, and Nancy Rosse as Secretary-Treasurer for 1979. A request from the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department to join the League was turned down due to the long driving distance and the number of teams in the League. The minutes also note the decision to keep using two lane judges per lane; however sweep judges were used on a trial basis at the Boars Head - Farmington meet. At its May meeting, the Board extended the age range to allow 18 year olds to swim (provided they have immediately finished high school). The League expenses amounted to \$1,370.2.

1980 SEASON

The officers for 1980 were Steve Runkle, President, Buddy Dulaney, Vice-President, and Frances Frederick, Secretary-Treasurer. Boars Head, Fairview, Farmington, Fry's Spring, Four Seasons (YMCA), Greene Hills, Orange, and Waynesboro made up the League with 633 swimmers for 1980. Approximately 50 swimmers participated in an all-night swim-a-thon held at Four Seasons Pool to benefit Camp Holiday Trails. The July minutes noted difficulty in getting meet results printed by the Daily Progress. The by-laws were four pages long, and Championship guidelines added an additional page-and-one-half.

It was noted that there was difficulty with the UVa timing system at the Championship and that the same parents seem to do the work year after year. Coach Cos DiFazio complained about poor sportsmanship at the Championship, but this problem was not noted by others. Cos also requested that the Board consider longer events, but this was tabled until 1981.

1980 SEASON (continued)

Richard Senfield and two other representatives from the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Swim Club attended the September meeting to present their team for possible admission to the League. Again, the main concern of the Board was the distance to travel for a swim meet and their request was tabled until 1981. The registration fee was now \$3.00 per child and expenditures rose to \$1,894.26.

1981 SEASON

Buddy Delaney served as President with Jim Keenan as Vice-President and Frances Frederick as Secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. Perez from the Harrisonburg Club was present at the March meeting to reconfirm their desire to join the League; however, the vote to accept them was not taken until April. Another interesting event at the April meeting was a 3-3 vote with 1 abstaining to allow Coach DiFazio to vote as the CAST representative, as he was the only one present from his club. President Dulaney broke the tie in favor of allowing him to vote for this one meeting. In addition, the 100 (50 for mites) Long Freestyle event was added on an 8-1 vote, but a suggestion to stop disqualifying mites was turned down 7-2.

At the May meeting the event order was approved as Medley Relay, Long Free, Fly, Back, Breast, Short Free, Individual Medley, and Free Relay. A motion was approved to require 75% approval of all representatives for future by-law changes. In addition a new by-law was added to prohibit coaches from being a voting representative.

The June meeting was mainly concerned with administrative functions, but the July meeting appears to have been more exciting. All teams were represented plus "a dozen or so parents of CAST swimmers". The meeting started with President Dulaney announcing that the League had joined USA Swimming (formerly AAU), so that records set in meets could be used for state records. A decision was made to switch to plaque team awards, partly because Coach Law reported that the Fairview reverse bowl trophies had been stolen. Two more items on the July agenda must have caused lively discussion. One team had been late sending in their registration roster and, after discussion, it was unanimously decided that the meets swum so far would not count towards their Championship eligibility, but the scoring and awards for an unfinished meet would remain. The second controversy surrounded "the Jones Letter" which was previously mailed to all representatives questioning the methods that Coach Cos DiFazio had used in getting his winter swimmers to leave their summer clubs to swim for CAST. Cos said that he was not the JSL coach for CAST and had suggested that his AAU swimmers not swim in the JSL. The CAST parents spoke in support of Cos indicating that the swimmers were not forced to change clubs and that Cos had not done anything unethical. On the other side, there were those Representatives who felt that Cos needed to separate AAU from JSL and that the purpose of the League would be destroyed if one team could corner all of the talent. Another point raised by "the Jones Letter" questioned the right of a representative to serve one club when his child was swimming for another club.

President Dulaney sent a letter to the Director of each swim club asking that they each provide a representative to the JSL Review Committee to evaluate the objectives of the Jefferson Swim League, to review the current JSL By-laws and to recommend to the JSL Board changes and additions to those by-laws. A committee was appointed at the Board's September meeting. In a presentation dated November 18, 1981, the Committee submitted recommendations and a finished set of by-laws to the Board. Those recommendations and by-laws formed the basis for how the JSL operates at the present time.

The League now consisted of Boars Head Sports Club (BHSC), Charlottesville Y (CAST) which was formerly Four-Seasons, Farmington (FCC), Fairview (FV), Fry's Spring (FSBC), Greene Hills (GHG), Orange (OCT), Harrisonburg (HRSC), and Waynesboro (WAM). The total number of swimmers was 728. League expenses jumped to \$3,028.42 with the majority going for Championship trophies and expenses.

1982 SEASON

The JSL was served by Frances Frederick as President, Jim Kennan as Vice-President, and Fran Carter as Secretary-Treasurer. At the March meeting a suggestion was made and approved that the new by-laws be made available and posted at each club. In April, Alec Thomson announced that the Waynesboro team may be pulling out of the League. Coach J.J. Bean suggested that a third copy of all meet results be made at dual meets and given to the President.

In May, Waynesboro withdrew from the League and a revised schedule was adopted. Doug Tarring, coach of the Key West team, requested meets with JSL teams. The previous suggestion regarding a third copy of the meet results was accepted with the provision that these results were not to be made available to the coaches.

The reader will note the mention of a Barnaby's award in 1978, but it is unclear if this award was ever given to a non-swimmer. At its June meeting the Board voted to accept Barnaby's offer to provide High Point Jefferson Cups for the Championship. Thus began the Barnaby's High Point awards. In September a committee was appointed to re-vamp the Championship instructions.

With the withdrawal of Waynesboro, the League consisted of eight teams and 674 swimmers. Expenses retreated to \$2,763.39.

1983 SEASON

Ralph Allen served as President, Frances Frederick as Vice-President, and Fran Carter as Secretary-Treasurer of the 1983 JSL Board. A discussion was held at the March meeting regarding sweep judging, and it was decided to continue this procedure for 1983. In April it was mentioned that CAST had not decided whether to continue to be a part of the League. A motion was made and carried to change the order of events to what we use today: Individual Medley, Medley Relay, Short Free, Fly, Back, Breast, Long Free, and Free Relay and to allow unlimited heats in the mite and midget short free for dual meets only. Allen Beckenstein and two other representatives from CAST and the YMCA informed the Board at its June meeting that CAST had decided not to swim with the JSL for 1983. He pointed out the League did not meet the needs of their National Level swimmers, but that any of their swimmers could swim in the League through other member clubs.

In July Linda Hawkins asked for uniformity in table work and suggested that a sub-committee be formed to write a uniform procedure manual. In a moment of incredible naiveté, Bob Garland offered to write this manual with assistance from those who understood swim meet procedures. It was obvious that Bob was clueless as to the amount of time this would consume in the coming years. Also at the July meeting, the order of events for the Championship was left unchanged from previous years even after the dual meet order had been changed. It was noted that many parents felt the meets were running too long and were unhappy about swimming past 10:00PM.

At the September meeting, it was noted that several swimmers swam in the Championship who were not listed on team rosters. A suggestion was made to draft a by-law to address this problem. It was also noted that persons working the Championship should have no past involvement in controversies in previous meets. A committee of Tom Muncaster, Ken Raines, and Bob Garland agreed to re-write the procedures for the Championship.

Several problems were noted in League files regarding a team practicing before the Championship in the Natatorium and a concern for dental erosion among swimmers at a member club's pool. With the withdrawal of CAST, the number of teams dropped to seven and the number of swimmers was recorded as 644 with the first mention of a \$4.00 registration fee. The expenses of the League were listed as \$2,147.45.

1984 SEASON

The League was served by Tom Muncaster (FSBC) as President, Frances Frederick (FCC) as Vice-President, and Pat Snipes (OCT) as Secretary-Treasurer. At the March meeting, Bob Garland submitted a Procedures Committee Report for comments prior to the final manual being printed. During the April meeting, a motion was made and carried to require Stroke-and-Turn judges to be US Swim certified or attend a JSL clinic. A motion was made, but resulted in a tie vote to adopt the new US Swim rule which allowed no false starts. Another motion was made and passed unanimously to change the order of events for the Championship to be the same as the order used in dual meets during the 1983 season.

At the May meeting, it was announced that patches as well as heat sheets would be sold at the Championship as a means of raising money for the League. In addition a suggestion was made that all teams sell heat sheet ads and split the proceeds 50-50 with the League. An important vote was taken to depart from the new US Swim rule and allow JSL swimmers one false start as in the past. The long-awaited procedure manuals were handed out and accepted as presented. The Championship Manual was written by Tom Muncaster and the JSL Procedure Manual was written by Bob Garland. In addition, most forms used by the League were redesigned by Bob and standardized for all clubs to use. In June it was decided to accept a swimmer's US Swim time for seeding in the Championship if meet results were provided. However, at the September Board meeting, this policy was changed to only allow times in the current JSL season to be accepted for Championship seeding. Also the By-laws were changed to allow swimmers to move up one or more age groups to swim relays. At the close of the meeting, President Muncaster reported receiving a letter of complaint from a member club regarding the conduct of a coach of another club. About 600 swimmers were originally registered, but it was not clear how many swimmers ultimately swam in 1984. There were still seven teams in the League and expenses amounted to \$1,753.69.

1985 SEASON

Bob Garland (BHSC) served as President, Ken Raines (HRST) as Vice-President, and Nancy Malone (OCT) as Secretary-Treasurer for 1985. The two representatives from the clubs involved in a dispute during 1984 reported that differences had been resolved at a meeting with Bob in February and that the problem could be put behind us. A by-law was added which addressed unsportsmanlike conduct at League meets, and many new suggestions were made to improve the League. At the April meeting, it was decided that each club should have access to all meet results through the President. In addition all teams were now required to have a visiting Team Meet Director. In May the following changes were made: a standard formula for converting meters to yards was adopted, the regular season champion team trophy was added, pre-season coaches meetings were started for the first time, FCC clerk-of-course procedures were adopted, US Swim results from the current year were allowed as seeding times for the Championship, and rained-out meets were to be considered complete after event 40.

The June meeting included the first mention of trying to accommodate children with disabilities by making officials aware of their special needs. The Relay scoring was changed to 5 for first and 2 for second from 7-0. In July, it was noted that the Fairview pool was actually 25 meters + about 25cm (apx.10 inches), but would be considered a 25 meter pool for time purposes. A complaint from Greene Hills was received regarding problems at a dual meet because of the lack of a thunder and lightning policy. The winner of the Regular Season Championship was Fairview followed by Farmington and Harrisonburg. Bob Garland agreed to serve a second term as President for 1986 only if the By-laws were changed to make the Vice-President position be President-Elect for the following year.

There were a total of 758 swimmers on the seven teams in the League and expenses increased dramatically to \$4,167.16. This occurred mostly as a result of the League assuming all costs of printing forms, manuals, etc. However, because of increased fund raising, the League's balance sheet actually improved.

1986 SEASON

As noted above, Bob Garland (BHSC) served a second year as President with Locke Boyer (FCC) as Vice-President and Carol Keeney as Secretary-Treasurer. At the March meeting the Board changed relay scoring to 8 for first and 4 for second and discussed including a 6-and-under event. In April, no By-law changes could be made due to a lack of 75% of Representatives present. However, the Board adopted a thunder and lightning policy under the Meet Director job description. In addition, a Freestyle event for 6-and-under was approved for a one year trial basis.

At its May meeting, the Board elected Locke Boyer as Vice-President and approved the addition of the Regular Season Trophy on a permanent basis. In June the Board was informed that Cos DiFazio's computer and program would be rented for seeding and to run the Championship. In the interest of safety, a new By-law was added designating sprint lanes and lap lanes during warm-ups. In September, the officer elections were tied to the Championship rotation schedule. The seven team League had 825 swimmers participating and expenditures amounted to \$4,972.06. League revenues were greatly supplemented by increased heat sheet ad revenue under the direction of Waugh Crigler. Waugh would continue this valuable service to the League over the next several Years.

1987 SEASON

The League was served by Locke Boyer (FCC) as President, Bob Otto (OCT) as Vice-President, and Steve Clark (FCC) as Secretary-Treasurer for the 1987 season. A suggestion was made at the March meeting to pay for software design or buy existing software to assist in Championship seeding and operation of the Championship Meet. Also a standardized registration form and a carbonless event sheet were presented by Bob Garland for approval.

At the September meeting, the Board agreed to a request from Orange for a one year leave of absence provided that Orange notify the League of their future intentions by September of 1988. Because it was Orange's turn to supply the President and Secretary-Treasurer, Locke and Steve agreed to serve second terms for 1988. As usual the season and Championship went well and the League became more computerized under Locke's leadership. There were about 735 swimmers on the seven League teams and expenditures rose to \$6,906.86. All of this was more than offset by increased ad, heat sheet, and T-shirt sales and the League ended 1987 in a secure financial position.

1988 SEASON

As noted above, Locke Boyer (FCC) continued as President, John Davis was added as Vice-President, and Steve Clark (FCC) continued as Secretary-Treasurer for the 1988 season.

At the March meeting, Locke made the suggestion to allow each team to have 4 swimmers per event in the Championship rather than 3 as in the past. This was approved at the April Board meeting. Another big improvement for the League was made in April with the Board's approval to purchase 3 CTS Start Systems to be rotated among the clubs. In June the Board approved unlimited heats for Junior Short Freestyle events 25 and 26.

Because of the absence of Orange, the League dropped to six teams, but the number of swimmers declined only slightly to 704. However, League expenditures increased to \$7,560.47 as a result of the purchase of 3 CTS Start Systems for use by the clubs. As in the past, this increase was more than offset by increased revenues. Although it is not recorded, apparently Orange made a decision to permanently drop out of the League for the future.

1989 SEASON

The 1989 League was served by John Davis as President, Kate Gaston (FSBC) as Vice-President, and Leslie Davis as Secretary-Treasurer. At the March meeting, a motion was made, but rejected, to require swimmers to swim in 3 dual meets to qualify for the Championship. In April, the Board approved the purchase of 3 more CTS Start Systems so that each club would have their own. In a surprise move, the Board voted to allow no false starts for the 1989 season, but this vote was reversed at the June meeting to allow one false start as in the past.

In July a problem was reported that a coach had entered swimmers in individual age groups above their own age group. This prompted an addition to the By-laws which prohibits this practice. The Board expanded unlimited heats to include all age groups in the Short Freestyle.

The Regular Season Champion was Fry's Spring, with Fairview listed as Runner-Up. The six teams had a total of about 730 swimmers and the League spent \$9049.69 for the season, but only suffered a slight drop in ending balance for the year.

1990 SEASON

For 1990, Kate Gaston (FSBC) served as President, Buffy Ostlund (HRSC) as Vice-President, and Deborah Lignon (FSBC) as Secretary-Treasurer. Supplemental speakers were ordered for the CTS Start Systems. Deck passes appeared for the first time to aid in crowd control on the pool deck at the Championship.

Due to interest in the League from an outside swim club and rumors that another small team might withdraw from the League, a committee was appointed to address some real and perceived problems of the League related to smaller teams. Because of the importance of this issue, a motion was made and passed to allow the current officers and representatives to continue to serve until January 1, 1991. The committee met in October and made several recommendations which were adopted by the full Board in a special November meeting. These included a change of scoring to allow individual ribbons and points (5-3-2-1) through fourth place and relay ribbons and points (5-1) through second place. A time limit of 10PM (10:30PM for weather delay) was also approved.

The Regular Season Champion was Fry's Spring and the Runner-up was Fairview. There were 702 swimmers in the six team League and expenditures fell slightly to \$8,936.86.

1991 SEASON

The President for 1991 was Bob Fellows (HRSC) with Bob Garland (BHSC) serving as Vice-President and Richard Senfield (HRSC) as Secretary-Treasurer. The March Board meeting opened with a discussion of possible League expansion. There were now two outside teams with an interest in joining the League at some point in the future. Andy Thomson presented more information on the dangers of lightning and possible revisions to the League's current policy. In April it was determined that no new teams would be joining for the 1991 season and, in an unusual development, a member of Boars Head management spoke to the Board and firmly denied persistent rumors that Boars Head was not going to have a swim team for 1991.

In May a procedure was adopted by the Board to provide for dual confirmation of relay take-offs in dual meets and a decision was made to have an unofficial timers card for unofficial swimmers. Also the Board voted in favor of allowing mites to take off from the starting blocs in 25 yard events in the Championship. In June the Board voted to allow all bona fide coaches on deck at the Championship. Stroke-and-Turn clinics were held as usual, but questions continued throughout the season concerning USS interpretation of the backstroke turn. The new 10PM time limit rule was in effect, but teams could still agree to start a meet early.

There were 675 swimmers on the six teams in the League and expenditures amounted to \$5,336.36.

1992 SEASON

The League was served by Bob Garland (BHSC) as President, Andy Thomson (FCC) as Vice-President, and Linda Capps (BHSC) as Secretary-Treasurer. The year started normally enough, but a series of events occurred which led to changes that would continue to shape the Jefferson Swim League for the future. The CAST year-round swim program had already undergone a defection of parents and swimmers into the STAR organization and, in late 1991; there was a final defection of the remaining members into the CSI group. Based on the apparent demise of CAST, there was interest expressed by several CASTL League teams to have a presentation made by JSL at a CASTL meeting early in the year. Bob appointed a JSL committee consisting of himself, Andy Thomson, Linda Capps, and Locke Boyer to look at this issue on January 10th, 1992 and a presentation to the CASTL League was made by Bob later in the month. This was followed by a series of presentations by invitation to the individual clubs.

Six of the CASTL League clubs (Crozet Gators Swim Team, Elks, Forest Lakes Swim Team, Hollymead, Key West Club, and Lake Monticello Swim Team) subsequently applied for membership in the JSL. Bob called a special open Board meeting for February 20th to consider these applications and to allow general discussion of this important issue. After lengthy discussion, the Board voted unanimously to accept all six teams into the JSL. A later application was received and approved to accept ACAC into the League at the April Board meeting, but it was learned that Lake Monticello would not be able to organize a team for 1992.

There were many changes adopted by the Board but only the most important are listed: the twelve team League was divided into three divisions of 4 teams with regular season champions and runner-ups in each division; 6-and-under mixed Free Relay and 6-and-under Backstroke were added; dual meet ribboning was expanded to eighth place; a JSL logo was designed, ribbons were standardized, three new CTS Start Systems were purchased (and one was donated); the Championship was expanded to include a Friday night session; Championship scoring was increased to twelfth with a limit of 3 places per team; and Championship entry was limited to four events (2 individual and 2 relay or 3 individual and one relay) per swimmer. All of this took hours of work by many people and resulted in 20 of 50 By-laws being changed.

During the 1992 Season, twelve teams ACAC, Boars Head Sports Club (BHSC), Crozet Gators (CGST), ELKS, Fairview (FV), Farmington Country Club (FCC), Forest Lakes (FLST), Gordonsville (GVG), Greene Hills (GHG), Hollymead (HM), and Key West (KWC)] and 1,187 swimmers swam in the League. Expenditures dramatically increased to \$19,118.37.

1993 SEASON

The 1993 League was served by Locke Boyer (FCC) as President, Jann Balmer (FV) as Vice-President, Margaret Keller (KWC) as Secretary, and Jeff North (GHG) as Treasurer. A committee was appointed at the March meeting to investigate A/B/C scoring. New team applications were received from the Gordonsville Gators (GVG) and the City of Charlottesville Swim Team (CITY) and were accepted unanimously by the Board. It was noted that GVG would be a very small team and that Tri-meets should be considered. Lake Monticello (LMST) was able to organize a team for 1993.

At its April meeting, the Board adopted a three-tier schedule which included Tri-meets for GVG. A/B/C scoring was rejected for the full League, but passed for Division II as a trial for 1992. Additional starting systems were purchased and the League fee was increased to \$7.00. Scoring was changed to accommodate Tri-meets and a formula was devised for seeding the teams into tiers. In May, "Super Swimmer" ribbons were ordered by the League to be given to swimmers for good effort or as the teams see fit. Scoring for the Championship was expanded to 15th place.

At its September meeting, the League authorized a \$340 donation to the Salvation Army for flood relief and imposed restrictions on "unofficial" swimmers. At the end of the 1993 season, VAST (formerly HRSC) submitted a letter of resignation to the League in order to devote its efforts to improving as a US Swim Team. There were 1441 swimmers in the 15 team League and expenditures totaled \$20,260.15.

1994 SEASON

Jann Balmer (FV) was President, Jeff North (GHG) was Vice-President, John Scott (FLST) was Secretary, and Ann Williamson was Treasurer for the 1994 season. It was noted at the March meeting that a long-time JSL tradition was coming to an end with the closing of "Barnabys". "Barnabys" Pizza served as the informal gathering spot after Wednesday night swim meets and would surely be missed as an important social part of the League. In addition, "Barnabys" had for years served as sponsor of the Championship High Point awards.

The Board asked each team to purchase Hy-Tek's "Team Manager" software and the League purchased "Commlink" to facilitate Championship Meet entry. A new "DQ" card was adopted which helped alleviate much of the writing done by stroke-and-turn judges. The Championship host rotation was modified to include three teams as co-hosts, rather than two. Liberty Fabrics became the new sponsor of the Championship High Point awards, but no location could be found to replace "Barnabys" as the Wednesday night "hot spot" for JSL swimmers and parents.

A/B/C scoring discussions continued to dominate several meetings and committees, but failed to garner the required 75% support for adoption by the entire League. However, a compromise was reached to allow individual divisions to vote by majority to swim dual meets under these new scoring rules which became known as Gold/Silver (B/C) scoring. Division III voted to use this scoring for their dual meets. In addition, for 1994 any two teams could swim under Gold/Silver scoring if both Meet Directors agreed.

The first "Bob Garland Volunteer Award" ("BGVA") was presented to Bob Garland in recognition of his service to the League. This annual award will be presented in the future to those individuals who devote an exceptional amount of time and service to the League. The Board moved to purchase its own computer for use at the Championship and for other data entry.

The League continued to grow with 1557 swimmers registered and \$15,813.02 in expenses.

1995 SEASON

The 1995 League was served by Jeff North (GHG) as President, John Scott (FLST) Vice-President, and Sam Short (ELKS) as Treasurer. A request from Wintergreen was accepted to join the League, but they were never able to form a team and withdrew. In an attempt to shorten dual meets, the Board voted to alternate eliminating Individual Medley and Long Free from the event list. Because of safety concerns, the League sponsored a coach's safety course given by J.J. Bean.

Meet results were taken to Kinkos and made available for all teams to copy, thus relieving the President of this responsibility. Jann Balmer and Locke Boyer, both ex-presidents and long time volunteers, received the "BGVA" at the Championship. The League expenditures amounted to \$20,835.51 and swimmers held steady at 1553.

1996 SEASON

During this 30th Anniversary Year of the JSL, John Scott (FLST) served as President, Charles Friend (LMST) as Vice-President, Shirley Irving (GVG) as Secretary, and Sam Short (ELKS) as Treasurer. It is interesting to note that this year's President, John Scott, swam in the first JSL Championship in 1966 with last year's President, Jeff North, and both placed in Midget Boys Backstroke for the first Championship winner, Fairview. Also, as evidence of growing unity, all of the officers for 1996 come from new teams joining the League during the 1992 expansion.

Planning began late in 1995 for moving the Championship from Onesty Hall to the new pool at UVa's Aquatic & Fitness Center. Moving to the new pool offered many advantages and disadvantages, but it was decided that the Thirtieth Anniversary JSL Championship would be the first swim meet in UVa's new facility.

1996 SEASON (continued)

Other changes accomplished by the Board mostly included making further organizational changes to strengthen the League and its Board. An Executive Committee was defined and added to the Board as well as an officer position of Past-President. Due to restrictions placed by the Lake Monticello Board, their team was not able to hold home meets. The Board voted to try the 2-copy USS "DQ" card for 1996 and evaluate it at the end of the season. Event P1 was changed from "Mixed" free relay to "Boys, Girls, and/or Mixed" Free Relay. Jeff North, long time JSL volunteer, ex-president, and Board member was given the "BGVA" at the Championship.

1997 SEASON

During the 1997 Season of the JSL, Charles Friend (LMST) served as President, Pam Davis (FLST) as Vice-President, Stuart Prather (ELKS) as Secretary, and Jeff North (GHG) as Treasurer. Glenmore Country Club (GCC) formed a team and joined the League bringing the total to 15 teams. The Board acted to hire a registrar to assist in data entry of swimmers and meet results. In the interest of safety, the Board required at least one coach from each team to have a current Red Cross Coaches Safety Certification and all teams to provide proof of liability insurance. The officer's terms were clarified as beginning on January 1st for one year and a bylaw was added requiring the President and Treasurer to jointly review all financial records at the end of each year before presenting a jointly signed statement to the full Board for approval.

Gold and silver awards were introduced for the first time during the 1997 Championship on a trial basis. The League ended the year with 1599 swimmers and the Championship alone cost the league about \$19,000 with about \$16,000 covered by advertisements and heat sheet & T-shirt sales. Chip Grobmyer and Stu Prather shared the "BGVA" for their hard work in computerizing the Championship.

1998 SEASON

Pam Davis (FLST) served as President, Paul Boucher (ACAC) as Vice-President, Dell Hanley (HM) as Secretary, and Jeff North (GHG) as Treasurer. The Board approved Gold/Silver awards as a permanent part of the Championship with gold qualifying times to be established by the Board on an annual basis. Pam Davis proposed that the first week practice meets and season tri-meets should not be scored. The Board agreed.

It was announced that Liberty Fabrics would become the first corporate sponsor for the Championship and Championship entry was expanded to allow all swimmers to swim in a least two events. Charles Friend, Past-President was given the "BGVA" for his service to the League. The Board awarded \$500 to a Hollymead swimmer to help cover her travel expenses to the Disability World Championships. Championship expenses of over \$22,000 were offset by revenues of over \$20,000. The League expanded to 1702 swimmers.

1999 SEASON

The League was served by Paul Boucher (ACAC) as President, C.T. Pace (CGST) as Vice-President, Mike Holmes (LMST) as Secretary, and Jeff North (GHG) as Treasurer. In a continuing effort to improve safety, the Board required all coaches to have the Red Cross Coaches Safety Training Certificate. Several advancements ushered the League into the computer age. President Boucher developed and unveiled the new web page (www.jsl.org) to much excitement and enthusiasm. Communication to the Board by email began. In addition, all teams were provided Hy-Tek software and encouraged to start computerizing dual meets and results. The League purchased a new computer. Non-scored dual meet and tri-meet rules and events were adopted by the Board and the registration fee was raised to \$8.00 to cover increased expenses.

Pam Davis (for her long service to the JSL) and Jessica Simons (for continually sharing her knowledge of Hy-Tek software) were given the "BGVA" for service to the League. The League held steady at 1700 swimmers and 15 teams.

2000 SEASON

Locke Boyer (FCC) as President, Jann Balmer (FV) as Vice-President, Mike Holmes (LMST) as Secretary, and Jeff North (GHG) as Treasurer led the League into the "New Millennium". A Sportsmanship form and award were developed to encourage good sportsmanship among the teams. Brent Wilson organized a Championship corporate sponsorship committee and procedure and greatly improved income for the League. More teams began computerizing dual meets and communication via email became the standard. Teams began making registrations through email and data transfer disks. Use of the Web page (www.jsl.org) exploded as more information and pictures were added.

Divisional Champion Awards were added to the Championship. The Championship expenses swelled to over \$31,000 but were offset by increased revenues of over \$32,000 from corporate sponsorships, ad sales, and heat sheet/T-shirt sales. Paul Boucher (for development of the web page) and Brent Wilson (for developing corporate sponsorships) shared the "BGVA" for service to the League. The number of swimmers in the League jumped to 1899. The 15 teams included ACAC, Boars Head Sports Club (BHSC), City of Charlottesville (CITY), Crozet Gators (CGST), ELKS, Fairview (FV), Farmington Country Club (FCC), Forest Lakes (FLST), Glenmore Country Club (GCC), Gordonsville (GVG), Greene Hills (GHG), Hollymead (HM), Key West (KWC), and Lake Monticello (LMST).

2001 SEASON

The League was served during its 35th Anniversary by Jann Balmer (FV) President, "Buzz" White (FSBC) as Vice-President, Nancy Bowen (CITY) as Secretary, and Jeff North (GHG) as Treasurer. In order to encourage complete computerization of the League, the Board voted to partially underwrite the cost of purchasing laptop computers and printers for each team and Jessica Simons wrote a comprehensive procedure manual for the new JSL computers. Because of liability issues, swimmers were no longer allowed to swim one meet without formally registering by the 24-hour deadline.

For the first time, the Championship was run as a 10-lane event and sweep judging was dropped from the Championship. The Championship was also video-taped and tapes made available for a modest fee. Bob Garland was awarded the "BGVA" for his continued work on behalf of JSL. The League raised the registration fee to \$9.00 and registrations climbed slightly to 1,911. The League size remained at 15 teams.

2002 SEASON

"Buzz" White (FSBC) served as President, Jennie Vines (ACAC) as Vice-President, Nancy Bowen (CITY) as Secretary, and Jeff North continued (GHG) as Treasurer. Brent Wilson (GHG) worked hard obtaining corporate sponsors to partially offset the costs of the League Championship. His work paid off when the 2002 Season saw lots of excitement for JSL. Speedo provided Olympic swimmer Kristy Kowal for a new kick-off event at Downtown Athletic and Mutual of Omaha provided Olympic swimmer Jeff Rouse for an autograph session at the Championship. In addition, the 15 teams registered a record 2025 swimmers for the 2002 season!

The Championship continued as a ten-lane event and swimmers were required to wear color-coded ID bracelets to gain admission to the deck for their events. Howard Craddock, "Voice of the JSL" and Pam Grobmyer (for her continued work on behalf of JSL) shared the "BGVA".

2003 SEASON

The League was served by Jennie Vines (ACAC) as President, Steven Miller (CITY) as Vice-President, Liz Hesperheide (ELKS) as Secretary, and Jeff North served his seventh consecutive season as Treasurer. Bob Garland, Jessica Simons, Brent Wilson, Locke Boyer, Paul Boucher, and Jann Balmer continued to share their talents as advisors to the Board.

A committee made of Division I Representatives presented a series of changes to address excessive meet length. This was adopted on a trial basis for one season for Division I teams only. A change in the order of events was adopted for the entire League which moved the breaststroke before the backstroke because it would be easier to fairly judge breaststroke earlier in the evening. The League also entered into an agreement with the teams to share the purchase of new CTS starting systems for all teams. Silver awards were eliminated from the Championship, but were replaced by expanding gold scoring to 30th place.

The League continued its growth to include 2079 swimmers. Paul Boucher received the "BGVA" for his continuing work for JSL in spite of severe injuries received in a preseason automobile accident.

2004 SEASON

Steven Miller (CITY) served as President with Joe Phillips (FV) as Vice-President, Liz Hesperheide (ELKS) as Secretary, and Jeff North as Treasurer. The Board was assisted by Bob Garland, Jessica Simons, Locke Boyer, Paul Boucher, and Jann Balmer serving as advisors.

A committee consisting of one Representative from each Division, Kathi Gruss (ACAC, Division I), Joann Walker (GCC, Division II), and David Harding (ELKS, Division III) along with President Steven Miller and Advisor Bob Garland met during the previous winter to revise, update, and clarify the JSL Bylaws for the 2004 season. Their efforts resulted in 56 of 78 (72%) Bylaws being changed. In addition, a new position of Meet Marshal was added to the dual meet job descriptions.

A significant USA swimming rule change resulted in diving not being allowed at the shallow end of most member pools. It also prompted the Board to review all of USA Swimming's facilities standards and grant exceptions to member pools provided that safety was not compromised.

The Board voted to provide well-tested stop watches to all teams at no charge. The watches were imprinted with the JSL logo and helped standardize timing procedures at all team pools. This was yet another example in a long list of equipment that the League has purchased or partially purchased for its member teams.

For the first time in memory, the Daily Progress ran a large very complimentary pre-season article on the JSL and followed it with weekly detailed reporting on dual meet results. In addition, the Championship received great publicity. All of this was well received by JSL swimmers and parents.

The League had its most successful year in history with 2,233 swimmers participating. Susan Turner (GCC) received the "BGVA" award for helping organize the many volunteers at the Championship meet. Chris Taylor, coach from GHG, was recognized at the Championship on the 25th anniversary of his five JSL records set while he was a swimmer for GHG in 1979.

2005 SEASON

Joe Phillips (FV) served as President with Joann Walker (GCC) as Vice-President, Inger Pettygrove (FSBC) as Secretary, and Jeff North as Treasurer. The Board continued to be assisted by Bob Garland, Jessica Simons, Locke Boyer, Paul Boucher, and Jann Balmer serving as advisors.

A Meet Structure committee consisting of David Harding (ELKS), Amy Robbins (ACAC), David Berti (CGST), and Buzz White (FSBC) along with advisors Jessica Simons and Bob Garland met during the previous winter to consider many changes recommended by coaches and representatives. Their efforts, as well as suggestions from Steven Miller (Past-President), resulted in several Bylaw and procedure changes. The Executive Committee may now appoint a Parliamentarian to interpret rules and bylaws. In the interest of safety, non-handicap swimmers must be able to swim 25meters unassisted to be eligible for League Meets. Backstroke was moved back to its previous position to be run before breaststroke. In a change of procedure, swimmers' times are now the primary source for order of finish in dual meets and sweep judges are secondary. In addition, the League raised the registration fee to \$10.00, but also voted to set aside a \$500 financial assistance fund to be able to waive the fee for eligible swimmers.

Paul Boucher unveiled a major revision to the JSL web page (jsl.org) early in the season. The many improvements were appreciated by all who access jsl.org for information. The League continued to grow with 2,339 swimmers participating during the season. Kevin Hogan (FLST) and Karen & David Strider (FV) received the "BGVA" award for their long-time volunteering within the League.

2006 SEASON

JSL celebrated its 40th Anniversary with Joann Walker (GCC) serving as President with Walter Hartwell (LMST/FAST) as Vice-President, Inger Pettygrove (FSBC) as Secretary, and Jeff North as Treasurer. The Board continued to be assisted by Bob Garland, Jessica Simons, Locke Boyer, Paul Boucher, and Jann Balmer serving as consultants to the Board.

JSL welcomed the Fluvanna Aquatics Sports Team (FAST) to the League as its 16th team. A number of bylaws were changed and, for the first time, the League started scheduling Referees at all dual meets. JSL paid for new computers and printers for 12 of the 16 teams as well as paying for a new start system for FAST.

With projections for over 2,500 swimmers, the Championship Committee recommended that the Championship be expanded to four sessions with the addition of a 6 & under session for early Friday afternoon. Average team size in JSL stood at about 160 swimmers as compared to a little over 100 swimmers just 10 years ago.

The pre-season projections turned out to be correct as the League continued to grow to 2,559 swimmers participating during the season. Buzz White (FSBC) received the "BGVA" award for his long-time service to the League.

2007 SEASON

Joe Phillips (FV) "came out of retirement" to serve again as President because President-Elect Walter Hartwell (LMST/FAST) moved out of town. Farid Jazouli (BHSC) served as Vice-President, Susan Field (GHG) as Secretary, and Jeff North as Treasurer. The Board continued to be assisted by Bob Garland, Jessica Simons, Locke Boyer, Paul Boucher, and Jann Balmer serving as consultants to the Board. Chip Deale (CGST) was added as the Publicity Consultant.

As mentioned above, the average JSL team size is currently 160 swimmers. Several procedural and bylaw changes were made in an attempt to shorten the length of dual meets. Dive-over-starts were used for 9-and-over age groups, relay events were limited to one heat, and the minimum age limit for JSL was set at 5 years old. In addition, timers were issued two watches so that as one heat is finished another may begin on the second watch and times recorded while that heat is in the water.

There were other bylaw and procedural changes made including increasing the Championship Committee to four teams with a four year rotation. The team seedings for the following season are now determined solely by Championship finish position and teams wishing to join the League must have a pool available for hosting meets. Championship scoring was increased to thirtieth place.

2008 SEASON

Farid Jazouli (BHSC) served as President, Pat DeGregorio (GCC) as Vice-President, and Susan Field (GHG) continued as Secretary. Jeff North served his twelfth year as Treasurer! The Board continued to be assisted by Bob Garland, Jessica Simons, Locke Boyer, Paul Boucher, and Jann Balmer serving as consultants to the Board. It should be noted that, along with Jeff North, these fine people no longer have swimmers in the JSL. Their continued commitment to JSL personifies the volunteer spirit which makes JSL such a great organization.

All of the temporary bylaw and procedural changes mentioned above in 2007 were adopted as permanent changes. JSL enjoys growth from year to year and continually struggles to adapt to its increasing size while maintaining the spirit and purpose of "Bylaw #1".

JSL corporate sponsors continue as an important part of fund raising. As an example, this year Crutchfield Corporation donated National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios to assist teams in protecting swimmers from weather related events.

As I write this, the Championship has yet to begin, but I have confidence that it will proceed with the usual spirit, enthusiasm, and good sportsmanship which have characterized this League over its first 42 Years.

Good Swimming to All !!



Bob Garland, Jr.
June, 2008

The following authentic headlines report interesting events from the early history of the JSL. If you don't believe it, "you could look it up".

Before the JSL Was Formed

THE DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA.

Thursday Afternoon, August 3, 1965

Orange Wins Swimming Meet With Fairview

Will history repeat itself?

THE DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA.

Thursday Afternoon, August 10, 1965

Crozet Nips Fairview In Swimming Meet

An Early JSL Dual Meet

THE DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA.

Thursday Afternoon, July 7, 1966

Crozet Swimmers Overcome Keswick

The First JSL Championship Results

THE DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA.

Thursday Afternoon, August 18, 1966

Fairview Tankers Take Jefferson League Title

The Second JSL Championship Results

THE DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA.

Thursday Afternoon, August 10, 1967

Fairview Wins Swimming Title

The Fourth JSL Championship Results

THE DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA.

Thursday Afternoon, August 14, 1969

Fairview Wins Swimming Crown

The Fifth JSL Championship Results

THE DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA.

Thursday Afternoon, August 13, 1970

Fairview Keeps Swim League Title By Comfortable Score

The Sixth JSL Championship Results

THE DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA.

Thursday Afternoon, August 12, 1971

Farmington Wins Swim League Title by 9 Points

The Eighth JSL Championship Results

THE DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA.

Thursday Afternoon, August 16, 1973

Four Seasons Wins Jefferson Swim Title