

# WHAT IS PEANUTS LEAGUE?

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You may have heard other parents talking about something called Peanuts and wondered what they were talking about?!

This is an annual interclub league competition run during May-July each year by the Hertfordshire Swimming League for younger swimmers across our county. BSSC entered teams for the 2022, 2023 and 2024 events, swimming in the Premier Division.

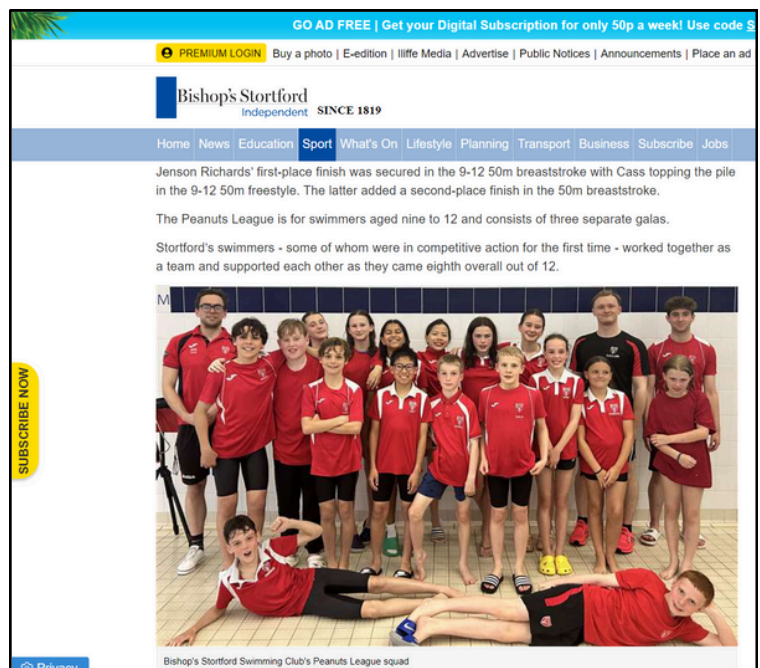
For many swimmers, this will be the first team swimming event they have entered.



*The 2024 Peanuts League team*

During the first part of each year our BSSC coaches will select a team of swimmers to represent our club in the Peanuts League and our volunteer Team Managers will be in touch via email with information on selections, dates and locations.

The swimmers will be 9 to 12 (based on their age on the day of the final gala - normally around end-June to early-July) and they will compete in a series of age group individual events and relays over three separate galas (or rounds). The selected team may vary across each round due to swimmer availability.



*The team featured in the Bishop's Stortford Independent*

The league is made up of 3 Divisions with around 12 teams per Division (the bigger clubs may send more than one team) and each Division competes over 3 Rounds:

- **Round 1:** teams from a Division are placed at random into the two different gala locations. Winning teams at each location receive 6 points, 2nd place 5 points and so on.
- **Round 2:** teams with odd placing (first, third etc) in Round 1 will meet teams with even placings from Round 1 in the Round 2 galas. Points are again assigned based on position within the galas.
- **Round 3:** the results after Round 2 split the Division, with the top six competing in the Winners gala and the rest of the teams in the Consolation gala

At the end of Round 3, Pennants are awarded to the top six teams in each Division, the bottom two teams in Divisions 1 & 2 are demoted and the top two teams in Divisions 2 & 3 are promoted ready to do it all again in May-July the next year.

Sometimes as a parent it can seem a long way to go and a lot of time to invest when all your swimmer may do is "*just one length in a single relay*", but the Peanuts league is such a great opportunity to swim as part of a team in a sport which is mainly self focussed and the evenings are exciting and great fun to be at (unless you end up sat next to someone with an air horn or cow bell!). Many of our older swimmers and their parents would look back fondly at the nights they spent at Peanuts.

Congratulations and good luck to all those who are selected this season! There's no restriction on which swim suits you wear, but if you have club tops and hats please wear them and be proud to represent your club.

