

Motivation Letter:

I will be honest with you: I am one of those guys who usually prefer to observe things from a distance. I think a lot, say less, and actually *do* things even less often. But sometimes there is that realisation, that things are not going to do themselves, and there is not as many people willing to put some effort into them as is needed to achieve a goal. So here I am, offering my time to fill some of that void, and simply try to help.

I was never a huge fan of what I call a "standard memory competitions", because it's something that looks scary, the entrance barrier for new competitors is very high (and we need new competitors, a lot of them), and it isn't really that fun to watch or follow the results. I understand its value, and definitely wouldn't want to remove it (I think it should stay as the "real" competition and ultimate goal for every memory athlete, but first we need to have those memory athletes), but I believe that we, as a community, should definitely put more effort into the whole memory league idea first, in order to give more people a real chance of becoming one of us. I am happy that it exists, because after all those years, it finally gave me hope that sport can grow, and it gave something that I can recommend to people that want to try memory sports, without needing to convince them that it's not as scary as it looks like, because it doesn't look scary at all. Few changes, like changing the pricing model and putting there basic tutorials in different languages, and we have something that can definitely help with increasing our numbers way faster. Three attempts per day for newcomers that want to try what is this about, from my experience of recommending it, can easily discourage people that could potentially stay there and actually pay for it (because it isn't expensive), if only they could try it for longer before hitting the wall. From what I understand about IAM's vision and goal, I believe we should aim into finding another solution for memory league's maintenance, so both the memory league creators, and potential newcomers, would be happy. I expect the solution for this problem to not be so simple, but I really believe we should try and make better use of this incredible tool we have, even if it isn't the integral part of the IAM itself (but maybe we can find a way to change it too?).

Main problem which I see here, is that it needs too much effort from newcomers to become a memory athlete. You really need to want it very badly in order for it to happen, while hitting more and more walls in the process. I want to make this process easier. The main secret behind speedcubing's success (12k registered competitors in the end of 2010, 115k registered right now, 1152 official competitions in 2018 alone, and the year isn't even finished yet) is how easy it is to buy a cube and find free and detailed tutorials for all methods you want, in any language you want, and that you are not expected to compete in all 18 events, making entrance barrier very low. We need to make it easier to become a memory athlete, and it alone will help us a lot. We. It won't change itself. And then we can think about having more competitions, because right now there is not enough people to make those competitions for.