

Friday, October 31, 2025

Julian Critchlow to Receive the 2026 Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award



FORT LAUDERDALE – The International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) will recognize Julian Critchlow for his extensive contributions to the administration of open water swimming with the 2026 Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award. The award will be presented to Julian during the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) Induction and Award Ceremony in San Diego on Saturday May 16th, 2026.

The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award is presented annually by the International Swimming Hall of Fame to the individual who has contributed the most to the administration of open water swimming.

This year's award recognizes Julian Critchlow, an open water swimming administrator from Great Britain. Since 2004, Julian Critchlow has compiled and updated the list of English Channel solo swimmers to ensure that there would be a single reliable source of information – and later adding a database of relay swimmers. The English Channel generates the most publicity for the sport and this database gives swimmers/writers a factual basis for tens of thousands of future stories.

This task was much more than combing the lists of the two ratification organizations. He went back 150 years and identified legitimate, documented swims such as the Daily Mail/Butlin's Cross Channel Races. He has had to assemble accurate start times and dates to confirm the order of swims, as well as biographical information on each

swimmer such as gender, age, country, known physical disabilities and honours such as IMSHOF Induction, Triple Crown, Pond & Peak etc.

It enables swimmers to know for the first time: “How many individuals have swum the English Channel before me?” or to sort the database by all its elements to answer more complex questions like: “How many female swimmers older than me from Spain have completed the English Channel?”

It enables researchers to use the open source database to analyse the history and success criteria for English Channel swims – with results and commentary published on his blog site (<https://tinyurl.com/channel-facts>).

The database can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/relay-channel-database> and <https://tinyurl.com/solo-channel->

Julian himself is an accomplished marathon swimmer, completing the English Channel four times 2004, 2014, 2017 and 2019 swimming – and raised over US \$200,000 for charity. He was inducted into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame in 2021.

For additional information, please call Ned Denison in Ireland at (+353) 87-987-1573 or ISHOF at (+1954) 462-6536, or visit <http://www.ishof.org>