



**Val Parsons, Honor Administrator, Great Britain,  
1990**



Val with her husband IMSHOF Honoree Roger Parsons

Videos: [Interview 1](#)

**Val Parsons** was the honorary chairperson of the IMSHOF Honor Organization British Long Distance Swimming Association. Val assisted the Lake Windermere International 25 km swim held every four years. When FINA relaxed its rules on professionalism, Val and her husband IMSHOF Honoree Roger Parsons led the establishment of the International Marathon Swimming Federation (then renamed as Association) in 1991 to incorporate the two historic competing groups: World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation and International Long Distance Swimming Federation. This led to the establishments of the FINA World Series of Marathon Swimming.

Val was one of England's premier marathon swimmers: swam 43 races, female winner in 38 and beat all men in 17. She and Roger received The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award from the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2004 for their contribution to the administration of open water swimming.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)