



Thomas H. Watch, Honor Coach, Great Britain, 1986



Videos: [Pathé 1](#) at 0:30 second from right with pipe

Thomas Watch coached and mentored long distance and channel swimmers for 60 years who needed support, training, encouragement and advice. Tom's career began with a finisher in the 1951 Daily Mail Cross Channel race. He accompanied more than 100 swimmers across the English Channel from across the world. In 1965, he coached the youngest swimmer to cross at that time. Some of the swimmers he has mentored include IMSHOF Honorees Marc Newman, Peter Jurzinsky and Chad Hunderby who set the channel speed record at the time. Other swimmers included two of the youngest females - one 12 years of age. Thomas coached IMSHOF Honoree Doc Councilman, who was the oldest at that time. In 1982, he was an Observer on IMSHOF Honoree Jon Erikson's first ever 3-way swim.

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