

# IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2026



### In this issue

1. Next Ceremony – San Diego Saturday 16 May 2026 at Bahia Resort ..... 1
2. A Vital Call to Action - Help Shape the Future ..... 2
3. New Honorees – International Swimming Hall of Fame ..... 3
4. Recognizing Our New and Advancing Patrons ..... 4
5. Fresh Content - 178 Stories of Resilience ..... 4
6. In Memoriam - Irene Wakeham ..... 5
7. Global Expansion & Organizational Updates ..... 6

### 1. Next Ceremony – San Diego Saturday 16 May 2026 at Bahia Resort

The countdown is on! We are thrilled to gather at the **Bahia Resort** this May to honor the legends of our sport. The energy is already building, with the **first 92 tickets already sold**. We encourage you to start making your travel arrangements and follow the latest updates on the [International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame \(IMSHOF\) website](#).



Bahia Resort Hotel and surroundings

- **Stay at the Heart of the Action:** We have secured a discounted room rate of **\$229 + tax** for our guests. Please take advantage of this offer to stay on-site at this beautiful location.
- **Booking Details:** Use code **MSHFD** when making your reservation.
- **Need Assistance?** If you find the discounted rate is unavailable, please contact us at [INFO@IMSHOF.ORG](mailto:INFO@IMSHOF.ORG). We may be able to secure additional rooms for the group.

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page: 1

# IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2026



### 2. A Vital Call to Action - Help Shape the Future

IMSHOF is managed and advanced by 100% volunteer help. As we look toward the future, we need more hands and hearts to sustain our mission. If you are interested in giving back to the sport, please [click here to complete a short volunteer profile](#).

Below are the areas where we are currently seeking future volunteers:

Category	Potential Roles & Responsibilities
Research	Investigating media, ancestry, and nominations for swimmers and contributors; exploring new countries and initiatives.
Technical Skills	Website maintenance, Google Suite management, and social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, video editing).
Administration	Leadership roles include IMSHOF Chairperson, Manager of Nominations and Selections, and Executive or Ballot Selection Committee members.
Selection	Serving as an official Selector for the Hall of Fame.
Content Creation	Writing for the website, statistics, suggesting topics, newsletters, conducting interviews, creating social media posts (including birth date features), and producing the annual booklet and newsletter.
Event Orchestration	Master of Ceremonies, event organization, and managing the annual Congress.

Please follow us on:



page: 2

# IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2026



### 3. New Honorees – International Swimming Hall of Fame

Two IMSHOF Honorees will be amongst the 11 new inductees to ISHOF: Ferry Weertman - Netherlands (Open Water Swimmer) and Sid Cassidy – United States of America (Contributor):

Ferry Weertman won 3 Majors: 2016 Rio Olympics, 2017 10 km FINA World Championship and 2018 FINA World Series Cup. He was the first male winner of both the Olympics and the 10 km World Championships. Ferry won two silvers at the 2015 FINA World Championships in the 10 km and 5 km mixed team event; and gold at the 10 km European Championships in 2014, 2016 and 2018 and mixed team event in 2014 and 2018. He competed for 10 years at the FINA level: 29 events in 17 countries and 10 podiums (34%) all 1st and 2nd. He also excelled in the pool and was a finalist (8th) at the World Championships in the 4x200 freestyle relay in 2017 in Budapest.



S.A. "Sid" Cassidy served in all aspects of the sport: as an athlete, coach, and race director, but Sid's greatest influence in the sport has been achieved as the result of his work as chairman of the FINA/WA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee, where he had oversight of the FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup circuit, the FINA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix series and the FINA World Open Water Swimming Championships. Under his leadership, marathon swimming was added to the Olympic program starting at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.



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page: 3

# IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2026



### 4. Recognizing Our New and Advancing Patrons

Our community thrives thanks to the generosity of our supporters. We are proud to announce our newest:

**Platinum Patron:** Jacqueline McClelland (IRL 2026)

**Gold Patron Organization:** Sandycove Island Swimming Club

**Gold Patron:** Steve Sutton

Please see the description of the program on [Patrons & Special Thanks | IMSHOF](#).

### 5. Fresh Content - 178 Stories of Resilience

Our YouTube channel has grown to **178 videos**, capturing the history and grit of marathon swimming. Our latest additions include:

- [English Channel Relays - Fundraising and More](#): Paul Parrish of Aspire and Honoree Cliff Golding
- [Sandycove Island Swimming Club](#): A feature on our newest Gold Patron.
- [Honoree Marian Cassidy](#): A fascinating comparison of modern 10 km racing tactics versus the 1990s.
- [Catherine Mckenna](#): Discussing how her swimming journey fuels her environmental activism.
- [Bryan Huffman and Stacy Huffman](#): Exploring how swims can be about global impact rather than just personal achievement.
- [Mario Lin](#): The incredible story of a Chinese English Channel swimmer who taught himself via the internet and traveled to Dover alone.
- [Vermont Open Water & Ireland Marathon - Swimming Halls of Fame](#): How they operate
- [Honoree Joe Zemaitis](#): Didn't let COVID slow him down

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page: 4

# IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2026



### 6. In Memoriam - Irene Wakeham

Please let us know if you hear of the passing of other Honorees (or long-term committee members of Honor Organizations).

Irene Wakeham died 19  
October 2025

Every summer (which gets longer and longer) for more than 25 years, Irene was part of the "beach crew" in Dover England. An unpaid volunteer she helped aspiring English Channel swimmers: greeting them by name, checked them in/out of the water, "guarded" their clothes bags, met them hourly at the water's edge with drink bottles of carbo-mix, encouraged them to keep going, made sure they staggered back after to their clothes after long sessions (sometime 10+ hours), and told them that they were wonderful and on-track for a future success. Every swimmer knew that Irene cared about them as individuals.



*Pictured between Michael Oram (IMSHOF) and Kevin Murphy (ISHOF and  
IMSHOF) at an annual ceremony dinner.*

From 2004 to 2019 she observed on 86 solo swims and 51 relay swims, a total of 137 swims - a remarkable achievement and was recognized by the Channel Swimming and Piloting Federation twice with the Observer of the Year trophy.

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page: 5

# IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2026



### 7. Global Expansion & Organizational Updates

- **New Horizons:** The Class of 2026 marks a historic milestone as we welcome representatives from **Chile, Paraguay, and Syria** for the first time. This is a proud step toward ensuring IMSHOF remains truly international.
- **Organizational Name Change:** Please note that the *Australian Long Distance Swimming Federation (ALDSF)* has officially rebranded as **Marathon Swimming Australia**.
- **Rottnest Channel Updates:** Honorees who have conquered the Rottnest Channel are now featured in the biography of the **Rottnest Channel Swim Association**. If you have completed this swim, please check the list to ensure you are included.

End

**Are you receiving this directly?** If you received this newsletter via email from [info@IMSHOF.org](mailto:info@IMSHOF.org), you are already on our subscription list. If not, please visit our website to stay connected with our community.

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page: 6