



**Colin Hill, Honor Administrator, Great Britain, 2017**



[Personal Website](#)

**Colin Hill** changed open water swimming in Great Britain. He inspired a “mass participation” open water swim which became the Great Swim Series. The tens of thousands competitive 1-mile swim spawned a generation of new marathon swimmers. This provided a massive publicity boost for the sport. Colin then led as the Marathon Swimming Technical Operations Manager for the London Organising Committee of the 2012 London Olympic Games. The Olympic 10K Marathon Swim, in the Serpentine, in the middle of a London Park, showcased the sport of open water marathon swimming to a new generation. After his Olympic success, Hill set up the Big Chill Swim in Windermere in the Lake District of England. This led to the Chillswim Coniston – 5.25 miles End to End and a restart of the historic Windermere Cross Lake Swim. Colin went to become the Technical Operations Manager for the 2018 LEN European Open Water Swimming Championships in Loch Lomond. He had held a position as Open Water Swimming consultant for both FINA and London Marathon to develop mass participation events.

Colin helped make spending a weekend going open water swimming into a trendy activity – even becoming “cool”. Colin now has an open water swimming coaching venue at Ullswater (UK Lake District) where he can be found daily coaching those new to open water and providing boat support for long distance swimmers. He received The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award from the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2021 for his contribution to the administration of open water swimming. Colin is also an accomplished marathon swimmer with a 10 hours and 30 minutes English Channel swim and a two-way crossing of Lake Windermere.

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

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