



## Kevin Murphy, Honor Swimmer, Great Britain, 1971



Personal Website (None known)

**Kevin Murphy** holds the record the greatest number of English Channel crossings by a man (34). Incredibly, his 1999 England-to-France crossing was two hours faster than his first success in 1968. In 1970 he became the first Briton to complete a double crossing of the English Channel, which he has done three times, and set the record of 11 hours and 21 minutes for crossing the Irish (North) Channel from Northern Ireland to Scotland. His English Channel swims include his double-crossing in 35 hours and 10 minutes in 1970, his England-France-England swim in 1975 in 36 hours and 3 minutes which was notable because he was ordered out of the water because of bad weather after swimming non-stop for 52 hours and 30 minutes when he was halfway back on his third leg and his France-England-France swim in 1987 in 32 hours and 42 minutes.

Kevin's single English Channel crossings include England-France in 1968 in 15 hours and 55 minutes, England-France in 1976 in 15 hours and 0 minutes, France-England in 1976 in 15 hours and 32 minutes, England-France in 1977 in 14 hours and 5 minutes, England-France in 1977 in 14 hours and 14 minutes, France-England in 1979 in 22 hours and 42 minutes, England-France in 1980 in 17 hours and 28 minutes for which he was awarded the IMSHOF Honor Organization Channel Swimming Association's Endurance Trophy after swimming for 32 hours and 42 minute as he was within four miles of completing a double-crossing, England-France in 1982 in 15 hours and 12 minutes, England-

France in 1982 in 21 hours and 22 minutes, England-France in 1983 in 15 hours and 29 minutes, France-England in 1983 in 15 hours and 25 minutes, France-England in 1984 in 14 hours and 58 minutes, France-England in 1990 in 13 hours and 16 minutes in the earliest Channel swim (at that time) on May 29th, England-France in 1991 in 13 hours and 58 minutes, England-France in 1991 in 15 hours and 26 minutes, England-France in 1991 in 17 hours and 6 minutes, France-England in 1992 in 15 hours and 5 minutes, France-England in 1993 in 14 hours and 37 minutes, France-England in 1994 in 15 hours, England-France in 1995 in 18 hours and 27 minutes, England-France in 1995 in 15 hours and 38 minutes, France-England in 1996 in 15 hours and 30 minutes, England-France in 1997 in 15 hours and 45 minutes, England-France in 1999 in 13 hours and 53 minutes, England-France in 2000 in 14 hours and 29 minutes, England-France in 2000 in 15 hours and 10 minutes, England-France in 2005 in 13 hours and 35 minutes and England-France in 2006 in 15 hours and 14 minutes for his 34th crossing. Murphy also participated in the following English Channel relays: France-England Channel Relay record in 1965 as a member of Phoenicians SC team which set the then team record of 9 hours and 58 minutes, England-France Channel Relay in 1987 with the Marrow Environment Project charity team, England-France Channel Relay in 1987 with the Channel Swimming Association Diamond Jubilee Team, England-France Channel Relay in 1991 with the Daytrippers Team, England-France Channel Relay in 1992 with the Barnet Cophthall SC team, England-France Channel Relay in 2006 with Hubert House men's team.

His other relays included the Loch Ness Relay in 2000 and in 2005, the Round Jersey Relay in 2003, the Loch Lomond 2-way Relay in 2002. Kevin's other marathon swims include the 90 km (56-miles) Round the Isle of Wight in the U.K. in 26 hours and 51 minutes, the 37 km (23-mile crossing of Loch Ness in Scotland in 1976 in 10 hours and 30 minutes, the 30 km (18.6-miles) Lake Como race in Italy in 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1989 and 1990, the 19.3 km (12-miles) Sydney Harbour Challenge Race in Australia in 1977 in 3 hours and 20 minutes, the 77.2 km (48-miles) Lake Balaton race in Hungary in 1973 in 43 hours 15 minutes, 69 km (43 miles) from Richmond to Gravesend in England in the River Thames in 1980 in 17 hours and 25 minutes, 40.2 km (25 miles) from Majorca to Minorca in the Spanish Balearic Islands in 15 hours and 10 minutes, the Maratona del Golfo – Capri-Napoli in Italy in 1974 in 12 hours and 15 minutes, the 37 km (23-miles) Nile Marathon Race in Egypt in 11 hours and 9 minutes, the 9.6 km (6-miles) Across the Sea of Galilee Swim in Israel, across the Bristol Channel from England to Wales, 27 km (17 miles)

Skegness to Hunstanton in England in 13 hours and 54 minutes in 1973 and in 7 hours 47 minutes in 1976, a 33.7 km (21-miles) double-crossing of Lake Windermere in England, 38.6 km (24-miles) Scottish ASA Championship in Loch Lomond in Scotland (where none of the other swimmers were able to finish), the 42 km (26-miles) Marathon du Saguenay in Canada in 1988 in 7 hours and 4 minutes, the Strait of Gibraltar in 2000 from Tarifa, Spain to Punta Cires, Morocco in 5 hours and 18 minutes, 48.2 km (30 miles) across the Chicago Skyline from Evanston, Illinois to Hammond, Indiana in 23 hours and 31 minutes. In 2007, Murphy swam 24 km (15 miles) from Valentia to Couminole Beach in Dingle Bay in Ireland in 7 hours and 45 minutes, won the 3.7 km Sognfjord Swim Festival Challenge Race in Norway 1 hour and 32 minutes, swam 27.5 km (17 miles) in the Aurlandsfjord, Norway in 10 hours and 46 minutes, 1.5 miles from Alcatraz Island to Aquatic Park, San Francisco, 1 mile across the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, 40 km (25 miles) across the Santa Barbara Channel from the Santa Cruz Island to Santa Barbara, California in 17 hours 31 minutes. Other swims include 15 hours and 4 minutes across Loch Lomond in 1967 and 12 hours 53 minutes in 1979, double-crossing of Lake Windermere in 1969, 45 km (28 miles) across the Bristol Channel in 1972 from North Devon to Porthcawl in 15 hours and 8 minutes, 37 km (23 miles) across Loch Ness in 1976 in 10 hours and 30 minutes, 33.7 km (21 miles) across Lake Tahoe between California and Nevada, USA in 2003 in 13 hours 56 minutes, 35.4 km (22 miles) across the Catalina Channel in California in 2003 in 15 hours and 23 minutes, the 45 km (28.5-miles) Manhattan Island Marathon Swim in New York in 2001 in 9 hours 2 minutes, 17.7 km (11 miles) across Lake Mergozzo in Italy in 1989, across Table Bay, Cape Town, South Africa in 1973 in 3 hours and 45 minutes, a double-crossing in Table Bay between Blouberg to Robben Island in 1973, a 22 km (13.6-miles) double-crossing of Table Bay in 1987 between Three Anchor Bay to Robben Island in 10 hours and 38 minutes, a 2 hours and 7 minutes crossing across Table Bay in 1987 from Robben Island to Blouberg, a 3-mile swim in Lake Bala in North Wales in 1963,

10.5-mile swim across Lake Windermere in 6 hours and 29 minutes in 1964 and 6 hours and 34 minutes in 1967, an 8-mile swim in Torbay (Torquay-Brixham-Torquay) in 3 hours and 51 minutes in 1966, 3 hours and 57 minutes in 1969, 3 hours and 37 minutes in 1971, 4 hours and 41 minutes in 1972, 3 hours and 40 minutes in 1976, 10 miles in the Weymouth-Lulworth Cove in 1966 in 4 hours and 50 minutes, 7 miles from Walton to Clacton in 1972 and 1974, 6 miles from Folkestone to Dover in 1972 in 1 hour and 51 minutes, Belfast Lough from Whitehead to Bangor in Northern Ireland in 1974, from Gorey to Bouley Bay in Jersey in the Channel Islands in 1974 in 2 hours and 52 minutes, from Mumbles to Aberavon in South Wales in 1976 in 2 hours and 55 minutes, across Lake Windermere in 5 hours and 55 minutes in 1979 and in 5 hours and 45 minutes in 2006, two-way Solent between Ryde to Southsea in 3 hours and 34 minutes, 8-mile Solent Challenge 2000 from Yarmouth to Gurnard on the Isle of Wight in 2 hours and 45 minutes.

Kevin has completed the Irish Channel three times in total, including the harder Ireland-to-Scotland route. He swam from Northern Ireland to Scotland in 1970 in 11 hours and 21 minutes to set a record that stood for 18 years with the water temperature between 8.8-13.3°C (48-56°F), from Northern Ireland to Scotland in 1971 in 14 hours 35 minutes, and from Scotland to Northern Ireland in 1989 in 17 hours and 17 minutes. Murphy was inducted as an Honor Swimmer in the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2009.

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

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