Dr. Michael P. Read, MBE, Honor Swimmer, Great Britain, 1978

Platinum Patron



Videos: Interview 1 Show 1 at 27:11 IMSHOF 2020 at 1:56:10
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Dr. Michael P. Read, MBE won 1 Major: 1970 BLDSA Windermere International Championship. He has been the King of the Channel® from 1980-2000 and 2004 to 2024 (and beyond) with 33 successful crossings of the English Channel. In the Channel, Michael was the first to complete in a year, 1979: 4, 5 and 6 1-way crossings.

He completed first ever swims: 16 km swim from Kings Lynn to Downham Market in England in 1975 in 4 hours and 54 minutes; 64.3 km between Hunstanton and Skegness and Hunstanton; 65 km from Mora to Amposta in Spain in 1998 in 14 hours and 57 minutes; 37.8 km from Perth to Broughty Ferry in Australia in 1974 in 9 hours and 43 minutes; 25.7 km between Hunstanton-Skegness in 1975 in 8 hours and 30 minutes; 18 km 2-way crossing of Lake Sursee in Switzerland; 49.8 km 3-way crossing of Lake Windermere in 19 hours and 0 minutes; and 67.5 km 4-way crossing of Lake Windermere in 26 hours and 3 minutes. He was the first to swim Loch Lomond twice 35.4 km in 12 hours and 13 minutes and in 11 hours and 51 minutes.

Michael set the record for the latest swim of the season recorded; there was frost on the pebbles as he walked into the sea – October 28, 1979 – which held until 2016. He set speed records: 14.4 km Loch Rannoch swim in 1975 in 5 hours and 8 minutes; and Lake Windermere Champion between 1969 and 1977, 6 speed records. He holds the record for the most years of recorded swims of 10 km or more by a man (1968-2018) with 42 to 2024 (and beyond) on longswim.com.

Mike has completed over 110 swims greater than 16 km with most of his swims in cold water ranging from 6 to 15 C. He swam 96.5 km around Isle of Wright in 24 hours and 36 minutes; 35.4 km across Loch Lomond; 25.7 km across Loch Earn; 25.7 km across Lock Tay; 40.2 km between Jeble and

Latakia in Syria in 1977; and 25 km between Evian to Lausanne in Switzerland. He was the 1960 and 1961 British Long Distance Champion, the 2-way 33.7 km Lake Windermere Champion for nine consecutive years between 1969 and 1977. He was the third person to swim the 38.6 km Loch Ness in 14 hours and 23 minutes in 6 to 7 C water. He completed a 40.2 km Nile International Championship in 1977; 40.2 km from Jeble to Latakia in Syria in 1977; 28.9 km from Jarach to Sabac in Yugoslavia in 1990; 32 km across Lake Como from Dervio to Lecco in 1985, 1986, 1988 and 1989; 45.9 km around Manhattan Island in 1989; Torregaveta Baia Bacoli in 1986 and 1987; 26.7 km across Lake Zurich from Rapperswill to Zurich in 1988. He swam 25.7 km Windermere International in 1974, 1978 and 1982; 16.8 km across Lake Windermere in total 39 times; 20.9 km from Fleetwood to Morecambe in England; 4 times in Morecambe Cross Bay race; 25 km Gulf of Toroneos swim in Greece in 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007; 25 km Amateur Swimming Association National Championship in 1996 (2nd) and 1999 (3rd); 23 km from Stavoren to Medemblik in IJsslmeer in Holland in 1998, 1999 and 2000; 33 km from Kroni to Kalamata in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2005; 33 km from Kalamata to Koroni in 2003 and 2004; 23 km across Lake Trichonida in 2000; and 25 km in the World Marathon Series in Alexandria, Egypt in 2000.

Michael won these races: International Olympic Committee Championship between Evian and Lausanne in Switzerland in 1991 and 1993; International Olympic Committee Championship between Lausanne and Evian in 1992 and 1994.

He was elected to his first committee at Brighton Swimming club in 1956. Micheal served on the committee of the IMSHOF Honor Organizations: British Long Distance Swimming Association in the 1970s and Channel Swimming Association in 1974, vice chairperson in 1978, chairperson from 1993 to 2007, and president from 1993 to 2024 (and beyond). He was an alternate member of the British 1960 Olympic team in the 800-meter freestyle relay and was a FINA judge, timekeeper, referee and starter between 1969 and 1971.

He received the Irving Davids / Captain Roger Wheeler Memorial Award in 2009 and Poseidon Award in 2019 and was inducted in the International Swimming Hall of Fame (2011). In 2027 he received the Dale Petranech Award for Services to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.

Expanded Biography (Openwaterpedia)

Long Swims Database (Marathon Swimmers Federation)