

IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



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1. 2025 Induction & Awards Ceremony – Recap

It wasn't just a Ceremony dinner – it was a full weekend 16-18 May in Jersey, Channel Islands.

21 Honorees

90 Attended to Saturday night dinner

Plus, many others kayaking support and joining a big Saturday swim

Friday: early arrivals enjoyed breakfast together in the hotel, afternoon swim, and a BBQ at the nearby Lido.

Saturday: breakfast together in the hotel, morning 2.5 km swim along the coast to the Lido, premiere of Vindication Swim (the Honoree Mercedes Gleitze story) by the film makers, Induction & Awards dinner, and “afters” in the bar.

Sunday: breakfast together in the hotel, coach tours of the island, Congress, and casual dinners for small groups.

For many Honorees they combined stays on the island, in Paris and/or tours of the D-Day sites in Normandy.

See the booklet, videos and pictures at: [Class of 2025 Jersey | IMSHOF](#) plus [Notes and Ceremony Attendees | IMSHOF](#).

Class of 2025 Inductees & Awards Winners biographies updated on [Honorees | IMSHOF](#).

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All 19 attendees at the Congress received a copy of the notes. It can be shared with other interested Honorees – just email info@imshof.org and request a copy.

Many thanks to Honoree Sally Anne Minty-Gravett, MBE for hosting the Ceremony weekend.

2. Next Ceremony – San Diego 16 May 2026

Start making your plans and follow the news on [International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame - IMSHOF](https://www.imshof.org/). The first tickets have been sold – see details on the page for your tickets!

Thanks, in advance, to Honoree Carol Sing for hosting the Ceremony weekend.

3. Sea Goddess Trophies

IMSHOF Honorees continue to order and receive Sea Goddess Trophies – Dr. Caroline Block's arrived in April.



Honorees inquire for a Sea Goddess trophy at info@imshof.org

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4. New Videos (now 142) in the IMSHOF YouTube Channel

Many videos added from the Induction & Awards Ceremony WEEKED in Jersey – May 16-18 – see <https://www.youtube.com/@infoimshof3830>

5. In Memoriam

Honoree **Régent Lacoursière** was the oldest Major winner from the Americas and competed from 1955 to 1975. Régent logged 15 consecutive crossings of lac St-Jean from 1958 to 1975: 1st once, 2nd 5 times and 3rd 3 times. Take a few minutes to read his biography on <https://www.imshof.org/honorees-by-name> - watch the interview (see link under his photo) to better understand his career.

Honoree Organisation British Long Distance Swimming Association – Past Presidents: **Avril Mitchel (also known as Dorman)** and **Marguerite Pike**.

Honoree Organisation IJsselmeer Zwemmarathon - Past Chairperson: **Paul Krugers**

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

6. New Patrons

Gold Patron Individual: Dr. Caroline Block (USA 2022)

Upgraded from Gold to **Platinum** Patron Individual: Nora Toledano Cadena (MEX 2006)

Gold Patron Individual topped up on the way to Platinum: Suzanne Heim-Bowen (USA 2024) and Sandra Bucha Kerscher (USA 2014)

Silver Silver Family: Devon (Clifford) Baldwin Family

Silver Patron Individual: Grace “Gracie” van der Byl (USA 2025) and Jorge “Coco” Villegas Pérez (MEX 2025)

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

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7. Honorees Biographies Updated

Almost all the 342 Honoree Biographies have been updated for two reasons:

The LongSwims Database <https://longswims.com> consolidates solo marathon swimming and race results in a publicly searchable website, cross-linked by swimmers and routes/events. All links changed as the site evolved to become even more compelling.

[Records - Nomenclature | IMSHOF](#) are reported for Honorees. Here is an example:

Penny Lee Dean, EdD won 2 Majors: 1979 Around Atlantic City and 1979 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation. She set the overall English Channel speed record of 7 hours and 40 minutes in 1978 which stood until 1994 when one of the swimmers she coached, IMSHOF Honoree Chad Hundebly, broke it. Penny set speed records in the Catalina Channel, from the mainland to Catalina in 7 hours and 16 minutes in 1976 **which stood in 2024 (and beyond)**, and from Catalina to the mainland in 8 hours and 33 minutes in 1977 (held until 1983 male and 1994 female) on her way to an 80.4 km (50-mile) 2-way crossing in 20 hours and 3 minutes **which stood in 2024 (and beyond)**.

IMSHOF tries to track when records are broken. You can see above when some of Penny's records were broken. Prior to the update, many records might have shown "which stood in 2020 (and beyond)". All these were checked, where broken a date added, and where they still stand were updated to "2024 (and beyond)".

During the Jersey weekend we learned that Honoree Carol Sing held records for the oldest female for all the Triple Crown swims – her Biography was then updated – see [Honorees | IMSHOF](#). This is the kind of information well known in her family and swimming friends 25 years ago – but nobody would know in 2025. Please all – help IMSHOF capture all Honoree records for their Biographies.

Some mistakes are inevitable with tens of thousands of key strokes to execute these updates – please report to info@imshof.org any mistakes for correction.

End

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