

IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



In this issue

1. Class of 2026 Nominations	1
2. Next Ceremony – San Diego Saturday 16 May 2026 at Bahia Resort	1
3. New Videos (now 158) in the IMSHOF YouTube Channel	1
4. In Memoriam.....	2
5. New Patrons	3
6. Three items from the Congress at the Jersey Ceremony	3
7. Plan a big swim while coming to California in May 2026	4

1. Class of 2026 Nominations

Nominations must be submitted by Saturday 13th September, 2025 10pm GMT
[Forms | IMSHOF](#)

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

Start making your plans and follow the news on [International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame - IMSHOF](#). The first 20 tickets have been sold – see details on the page for tickets and hotels.

Bahia rooms are \$229 + tax This is a discounted rate they offered IMSHOF (use code MSHFD). Please take advantage of this offer and stay where the ceremony will be held. Beautiful location too! Contact INFO@IMSHOF.ORG if the discounted rate is unavailable – we may be able to secure more rooms. Beautiful location too!

The special price on a table of 8 has been extended to 15 September.

3. New Videos (now 158) in the IMSHOF YouTube Channel

[Honoree Grace “Gracie” van der Byl](#) marathon heroes, mentors, and key events

[Honoree Dr. Vicki Keith, CM](#) perseverance, philanthropy, and pioneer

Please follow us on:



page: 1

IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



- [Jillian Best](#) marathon swimmer and organ donator
- [Alice Harvey](#) growing up in the Honor Organization - the Jersey Long Distance Swimming Club
- [Laure Latham](#) first female President of the Honor Organization the Serpentine Swimming Club
- [Bill Leonard](#) Lake Ontario swim

4. In Memoriam



Linda McGill, MBE, OAM, Honor Swimmer, Australia, 1968 - the first to swim around Hong Kong Island in 17 hours and 6 minutes; across Port Phillip Bay, Victoria Australia; and from Townsville to Magnetic Island, Queensland, Australia. She established a new women's record in 9 hours and 59 minutes across the English Channel in 1967 – which held until 1975. She completed the English Channel a total of three times; around Manhattan swim three times in 1983, 1984 and 1986; and St-Jean in 1968. Linda competed in the pool in the 1964 Olympics.

Please follow us on:



page: 2

IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



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

5. New Patrons

Platinum Patron Individual: Joe Zemaitis (USA 2025)

Silver Patron Individual: Steve Sutton

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

6. Three items from the Congress at the Jersey Ceremony

The Congress was an open discussion to broaden the input to the Executive Committee. 15 Honorees and 4 others attended the session which resulted in three actions.

1. The ISHOF's Irving Davids and Captain Roger Wheeler Memorial Award names two marathon swimming contributors who are not IMSHOF Honorees. They will be added to the Class of 2026 ballot for consideration by the [Selectors](#).
2. The nomination forms make it clear that lobbying (for votes) is not permitted. IMSHOF have now formally defined "lobbying" and have informed all nominees with active nominations as of mid-July.
3. IMSHOF Honorees are from 43 different countries. For most countries without representation, IMSHOF have identified at least 1 marathon swimmer or contributor. This will help our education – especially where language is an issue. For the countries below – we are looking for help. Can you help identify at least 1 marathon swimmer or contributor? Please email info@IMSHOF.org

Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, , Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Congo-Brazzaville), Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica (different from the Dominican Republic), Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini (formerly "Swaziland"), Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Jamaica, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar (formerly Burma), Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudia Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste,

Please follow us on:



page: 3

IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, and Zambia.

7. Plan a big swim while coming to California in May 2026

For those planning to attend the San Diego Ceremony in May 2026 – start thinking about a solo or relay in these well know places:

Catalina Channel: [Contact CCSF Officials – Catalina Channel Swimming Federation](#)

Santa Barbara Channels: [Santa Barbara Channel Swimming Association](#)

Coronado Island (close to the event): [Around Coronado Swim – Open Water Swim Academy](#)

Lake Tahoe: <http://www.swimtahoe.com>

Monterey Bay: <https://www.swimmontereybay.org/>

San Francisco (Alcatraz, Angle Island, etc.): <http://www.pacificswim.co>), [SF Boat Support](#) and of course if you are a member of the two local clubs [Home - South End Rowing Club](#) and [Dolphin Club - Open Water Swimming and Rowing in San Francisco](#)

End

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page: 4