

February 2018

Herman Willemse (on the right in the picture) will be the second recipient of the The Dale Petranech Award for Services to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) to be presented at the Induction/Award ceremony in Old Windsor UK on 31st March 2018.

As President of the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation Championships in the 1960s he assisted the groundwork to establish the IMSHOF in 1967. When classes were named starting in 1963 Herman was included in the first class.

Willemse ranked as one of the dominant swimmers of his generation.

His victories included:

- 30 km (19-mile) Traversée Internationale du lac St-Jean in Canada in 10 hours 7 minutes in 1961, in 9 hours 3 minutes in 1962 and in 8 hours 32 minutes in 1963
- 36 km (22.5-mile) Around-the-Island Marathon Swim in Atlantic City, USA five times from 1960 to 1964
- 24 km (15-mile) Canadian National Exhibition race in 1961 and 1962
- 12.5 km (8-mile) Northumberland Strait race in 1964
- 37 km (23-mile) la Descente ou remontée du Saguenay in 6 hours 15 minutes in 1966
- 16 km (10-mile) Tois Riviere Swims in 1961 to 1963 in Canada
- 45 km (28-mile) Mar del Plato race in Argentina
- 42 km (26 miles) race in the Suez Canal in Egypt
- 88 km (54.6-mile) Maratón Internacional Hernandarias – Parana in Argentina
- 32 km (20-mile) Maratona del Golfo Capri-Napoli in Italy
- 13-time Dutch national championships

Other victories and podium finishes included:

- Second at the 1959 Billy Butlin Cross Channel International Swim in 12 hours 49 minutes
- 58 km (36-mile) Maratón Acuática Internacional Santa Fe - Coronda in Argentina victory in 1963 with two third-place finishes in 1964 and 1966
- World male champion of the World Professional Marathon Swimmers Federation in 1963 and second to Abou-Heif for the next three years
- 58 km (36-mile) Maratón Acuática Internacional Santa Fe - Coronda in Argentina in 1963 with two third-place finishes in 1964 and 1966

Upon retirement as an elite marathon swimmer, he coached Johannes Schans for two years culminating in his winning World male champion of the World Professional Marathon Swimmers Federation in 1963.

This award was created in 2016 to honor Dale Petranech for decades of service to the IMSHOF. Dale is an Honoree in the IMSHOF and the International Swimming Hall of Fame as a Contributor. As a marathon swimmer he previously held the record as the oldest soloer across the Catalina Channel. Dale continues to serve on the Executive Committee of the IMSHOF.