



**Roger Parsons, Honor Administrator, Great Britain,
1997**



Roger with his wife IMSHOF Honoree Val Parsons
Personal Website (None known)

Roger Parsons was selected to represent England on the initial FINA Open Water Commission and was largely responsible for adapting the British Long Distance Swimming Association and Channel Swimming Association rules into the FINA Open Water Swimming Rules. When FINA relaxed its rules on professionalism, Roger and his wife IMSHOF Honoree Val Parsons established a FINA World Series of Marathon Swimming. Roger combined several independently run professional races into a single cohesive body. As the FINA Open Water commitment grew, Roger was appointed to the Open Water Sub-Committee of the Technical Swimming Committee and then to the Technical Open Water Swimming Committee. The Parsons established the World Series of Marathon Swimming. He later became the Executive Secretary of the International Marathon Swimming Association (IMSA) and attended all ten IMSA swims in Europe, South and North America. Eventually, FINA took over the administrative functions of the IMSA. He and Val received The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award from the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2004 for their contribution to the administration of open water swimming.

Roger is also a marathon swimmer: Lake Windermere 10.5 miles and was the breaststroke champion of the British Long Distance Swimming Association for 10 years.

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

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