



British Long Distance Swimming Association, Honor Organization, Great Britain, 2002



[Organization Website](#)

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British Long Distance Swimming Association (BLDSA) started to conduct its annual championships in Lake Windermere in 1957. After an affiliation with the Irish Long Distance Swimming Association, the Lake Windermere Championship expanded to accept competitors from Australia, Israel, USA, Canada, Italy, Egypt, Syria, Ireland, Spain, Hungary, Poland, Holland, Belgium and many other countries. Between 1966 to 1982, the International Long-Distance Swimming Championships have been held in Lake Windermere – considered a Major championship. In 1986, the first 25 km World Cup Long Distance Swimming Championships were held in Windermere under the auspices of FINA and run regularly thereafter – considered a Major championship. This was FINA's first strong move into marathon swimming and facilitated by the BLDSA.

Over the years, the BLDSA has held the Windermere 2-way, Derwentwater Senior and Coniston Senior, Morecambe Cross Bay, Champion of Champions, Derwentwater Junior, Lynn Regis, Wykeham Lake Junior and Senior, the Waterloo Junior, Rivington Reservoir Senior, Veterans, Junior and Novice events, and the Millennium Celebration Championships.

They received The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award from the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2003 for their contribution to the administration of open water swimming.

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