



Colin Hill, Honor Administrator, Great Britain, 2017



[Personal Website](#)

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Colin Hill changed open water swimming in Great Britain. He inspired a “mass participation” open water swim which became the Great Swim Series. The tens of thousands competitive 1-mile swimmer spawned a generation of new marathon swimmers. This provided a massive publicity boost for the sport.

Colin then led as the marathon swimming technical operations manager for the London Organising Committee of the 2012 London Olympic Games. The Olympic 10 km, in the Serpentine, in the middle of a London Park, showcased the sport of open water marathon swimming to a new generation. After his Olympic success, he set up the Big Chill Swim in Windermere in the Lake District of England. This led to the Chillswim 8.4 km Lake Coniston and a restart of the historic Windermere Cross Lake Swim.

Colin was the technical operations manager for the 2018 LEN European Open Water Swimming Championships in Loch Lomond. He held a position as open water swimming consultant for both FINA and London Marathon to develop mass participation events.

He helped make spending a weekend going open water swimming into a trendy activity – even becoming “cool”. Colin opened an open water swimming coaching venue at Ullswater (UK Lake District) where he coached those new to open water and provided boat support for long distance swimmers.

Colin is an accomplished marathon swimmer with a 10 hours and 30 minutes English Channel swim and a two-way crossing of Lake Windermere.

He received The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award from the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2021 for his contribution to the administration of open water swimming.

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

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