



IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

September 2020

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Honoree Video/Interviews and Birthdays

Honorees Antonio Argüelles Díaz-González, Ned Denison and Steven Muñatones have been conducting interviews with Honorees for the past months. These are shown on the [IMSHOF Facebook page](#) and WOWSA with links to YouTube. Interviews since the last newsletter (click to access the hyperlink) and a few more include:

David Alleva Marilyn Bell Lynn Blouin Luciano Cotena Melissa Cunningham Silvia Dalotto Penny Lee Dean (old interview) Captain Nabil Elshazly Nasser Elshazly Pat Gallant-Charette Christopher Green	Linda Kaiser (old interview) Michelle Macy Susie Maroney, OAM (old interview) Sally Minty-Gravett – 1 Sally Minty-Gravett - 2 Anna-Carin Nordin David O'Brien Margaret Park Roger & Val Parsons Captain John Pittman	Gilles Potvin Philip Rush Taranath Narayan Shenoy Carol Sing Greg Streppel Varne Ridge Dr. Christopher Stockdale, MBE Herman Willemse
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This is part of a project to capture (for the IMSHOF database) audio/video link of as many Honorees as possible. We have more than 210 so far out of 298 – remembering that some lived prior to film/video availability. Volunteers wanted to help with some research – reply if you have interest and a bit of time.

****Please feel free to share any posts on the IMSHOF Facebook page to your friends.

Please also let us know if you have a story and would like to be included or have any interesting audio/video. More Honorees are scheduled for interviews and will be posted to the IMSHOF Facebook page.

IMSHOF have also started posting birthday greetings (with a link to the biography) on the IMSHOF Facebook page for Honorees who have made the date available publicly. If you wish to opt out or wish to supply this information – please let us know.

Marathon Races – the “Majors”

Thank you for all who commented on the previous World Champions proposal and special thanks to David Alleva, PhD; Lynn Blouin and Val & Roger Parsons for recently submitted documents.

We think we now have a final version (see attached below) – subject to any final comments before implementation in November.

Establishing a Local Hall of Fame

See below for recent interviews on how three different Halls of Fame were created. These may inspire you to help create a local Hall of Fame.

[Vermont Open Water Swimming Hall of Fame](#)

[Ireland Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame](#)

[Ice Swimming Hall of Fame](#)

Zoom Calls, Mentoring, Signatures, Scrapbooks, Solos and Marathon Statistics

We recently held the first Zoom calls with Honorees (one for Americas/Europe and one for Asia/Australia). They went well and we will schedule more in the future. A few suggestions were made and implanted:

Honoree Sue Guesdon suggested a VOLUNTEER Mentor program – which was put into operation with more than 50 global contacts in less than ten days – see [link](#). Several Honorees updated their email signatures with IMSHOF. Several are making arrangements to send their scrapbooks to the ISHOF Museum, and one already has the request in her will.

As a special offer to Honorees, Evan Morrison (LongSwimsDatabase) is offering a quick review on your 2010 and earlier epic/solo 10 km + swims. He needs, at a minimum: date, body of water, start/finish location, swim time, confirmation that the swim was "unassisted (English Channel

equivalent rules) AND some documentation (witness statement at the time, local press coverage, charts, pictures, etc.). He has recently done an independent review of press coverage of Honoree Pedro A. Candiotti and added many of his old swims. Contact him on evan@marathonswimmers.org

For some (many?) of you – you will want to be correctly represented in future statistics “Insights” generated real time from this database. A recent example in the number of years that you completed a marathon swim (listed in the database). If you cite these statistics, please include the URL (because it is a real time list) and credit “LongSwims Database”. See [link](#)

Many Thanks

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@imshofame

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The Major Championships

Background

Until FINA's involvement about thirty years ago, our sport did not have a set of globally accepted World Championship and multi-event Series Championships. Before the 1990s there were competing Associations/Federations and individual events, some being promoted as World and International Championships and/or offering substantial prize money/media attention.

The International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF), in documenting the achievements of swimmers of all eras, wishes to establish a uniform method of categorization. IMSHOF take a lead from Golf and Tennis – which coin the term “Majors” and add our own flavor.

Historic Majors

Wrigley Ocean Marathon Race: (Catalina Channel, California, USA) 1927

Canadian National Exhibition: (Lake Ontario, Toronto, Canada) 1927- 1963

English Channel Race: Daily Mail 1950-1951 and Butlins 1953-1959

Capri to Naples: (Italy) 1953 -1990

Around Atlantic City: (New Jersey, USA) 1954 – 1964

Lac St. Jean: (Quebec, Canada) 1958 -1964

World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation: 1963-1990

World Long Distance Swimming Championship*: (Lake Windermere, England) 1966 -1982
(every 4 years)

International Marathon Swimming Federation World Ranking: 1991 (only)

Marathon Swimming World Series Championship: 1992/93, 1994/95, 1995/96 and 1996/97

FINA Long Distance Swimming World Cup: 1986 (2 different races held that year) every 2 years to 1996.

FINA Marathon Swimming World Series: 1993/94 and 1997 - 2006

FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup: 2007 - 2017

FINA Grand Prix Series: 2007 - 2017

FINA World Open Water Swimming Championship: 2000 - 2010 every 2 years

Current Majors

FINA World Championship: 1991 > (every 2 years)

Olympics: 2008 >

FINA Marathon Swim World Series Cup: 2018 >

FINA UltraMarathon Swim Series: 2018 >

Clarifications

1. It takes a team to produce a Major winning swimmer. IMSHOF will name only the swimmers, but IMSHOF also remember their families, friends and team of administrators, coaches, trainers, nutritionists, therapists, etc.
2. A Major could only be won in one or more races – that is to say, multiple swimmers in the water at the same time. This rules out incredible solo swimming accomplishments like Captain Matthew Webb as the first to swim the English Channel or Gertrude Ederle breaking the male/female speed record for the same. These accomplishments are recognized in many other places in the IMSHOF records.
3. All Majors needed to have an international field of swimmers (ideally the top swimmers of the day). Due to the cost/difficulty of international travel this did not really happen in the early days of the sport – hence no Majors are named before 1927. In many cases an event started with a solo or several local swimmers – before becoming international. These starting “solo” years were not considered as Majors.
4. Ideally the individual race (or points-based series) was advertised as a World or International Championship and the winners were announced, promoted, reported as such.

In several cases, the event was not listed as a World or International Championship – but in hindsight, it filled that role.

5. IMSHOF only lists as a Majors those races of 10 km or greater.
6. Only in the 1958 English Channel Race as an exception – a swimmer needed to finish the swim to be listed.
7. *The original title was “The B.L.D.S.A. Windermere International Championship” but over time took on the more generic title above.
8. No junior or team events are considered. This rules out two-person relays in Le Tuque and recent FINA relay and team championships. These can be noted separately **example below.
9. Many early events featured a mix of male and female swimmers and awarded the winner based only on the finishing place. IMSHOF lists male and female winners and notes when the overall winner was female ***example below.
10. Some swimmers kept their amateur status for many reasons. This was particularly prevalent in Great Britain where marathon swimmers had exceptional strong ties to local clubs and the IMSHOF Honor Organization the British Long Distance Swimming Association (BLDSA) controlled all the key domestic swims. To protect the status of amateur swimmers, the BLDSA generally barred professional elite racers from their events. The distinction between amateur and professional mostly vanished by the 1990s. Where IMSHOF can determine earlier amateur winners – they will be listed. It is recognized that the early decades of the sport focused on professional swimmers.
11. There are mistakes/contradictions/gaps in the old records. As an example, an old International Long Distance Swimming Federation handbook shows Diana Nyad (1973 and 1974) and Tina Bischof (1977 and 1978) as female race winners in Capri to Naples. The actual results show only 1974 for Diana. Tina who raced as a professional was beaten by another professional women in 1977. In 1978 no women finished the race. IMSHOF have always deferred to records closest to the actual race results – as opposed to annual yearbooks or press reports.
12. There are probably gaps in the listing of some amateur and female Major winners – which will be addressed as they are identified.
13. There is a larger document with discussion of the detailed logic used and notes of any historically inaccurate records. This notes the winners of Majors who are not presently Honorees of IMSHOF only for the purposes of future checking. It can be provided on request.

Endorsement of this Document

It started as a working proposal from Ned Denison who sought broad agreement via a previous IMSHOF Newsletter and significant changes were made during this consultation phase. It was approved by the IMSHOF Executive Committee (18 September 2020) to govern the IMSHOF.ORG records (many biography changes will be required). These changes are delayed until November to allow any final comments. Then, as future information is available this list below will be modified.

Suggested Usage in the Future

The sport history is filled with reference to “World Champions” in print media and more recently on the web. Many swimmers have appropriately and proudly listed World Champion as part of their resume for decades. It would not be possible to “correct/edit” all these old references – however IMSHOF would ensure that the IMSHOF.ORG website biographies do not include an abbreviated “World Champion” description or different marathon World Championship descriptions. During the creation of this document – several old (incorrect) references have already been deleted on the IMSHOF.ORG website.

It is suggested to use this document to list Majors using this template:

Name (X Majors): 1927 Wrigley Ocean Marathon Race; **years** Canadian National Exhibition; **years** English Channel Race; **years** Capri to Naples; **years** Around Atlantic City; **years** Lac St. Jean; **years** World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation; **years** World Long Distance Swimming Championship; 1991 International Marathon Swimming Federation World Ranking; **years/years** Marathon Swimming World Series Championship; **years** FINA Long Distance Swimming World Cup; FINA Marathon Swimming World Series; **years** FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup; **years** FINA Grand Prix Series; **years distance km** FINA World Open Water Swimming Championship; **years distance km** FINA World Championship; **years** Olympics; **years** FINA Marathon Swim World Series Cup; **years** FINA UltraMarathon Swim Series **[additional information can be added]**

Amateur ****example below: must be referenced where professionals and amateurs swam together, and the results were combined. Male/female does not need to be noted.

Honoree Listings

Greta Andersen (13 Majors): 1961 Canadian National Exhibition; 1958 and 1962 Lac St, Jean; 1957 and 1958 English Channel Race; 1956, 1967, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962 and 1963 Around Atlantic City; and 1959 Capri to Naples [***beat all men in the 1958 Lac St Jean and English Channel Race]

Abdellatief Abou Heif (7 Majors): 1963 Canadian National Exhibition; 1955 English Channel Race; 1963 and 1964 (tied) Capri to Naples; and 1964, 1965 and 1968 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Aleksey Akatyev (1 Major): 1998 25 km FINA World Championship

David Alleva, PhD (1 Major): 1990 Capri to Naples

Paul Asmuth (10 Majors): 1982, 1987 and 1988 Capri to Naples; and 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Marilyn Bell (1 Major): 1954 Around Atlantic City

Tina Bischoff (1 Major): 1980 Capri to Naples

Damián Blaum (1 Major): 2013 FINA Grand Prix Series

Peggy Büchse (3 Majors): 1998 and 1999 FINA Marathon Swimming World Series; and 2001 10 km FINA World Championship

Karen Burton (3 Majors): 1995/1996 and 1996/1997 Marathon Swimming World Series Championship and 1992 FINA Long Distance Swimming World Cup

Alfredo Camarero (4 Majors): 1959 English Channel Race; 1955 and 1956 Capri to Naples and 1957 Around Atlantic City

Anne Chagnaud (1 Major): 1997 FINA Marathon Swimming World Series

Christine Cossette (2 Majors): 1980 and 1981 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Ana Marcela Cunha (8 Majors): 2010, 2012 and 2014 FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup; 2011, 2015, 2017 and 2019 25 km FINA World Championship; and 2018 FINA Marathon Swim World Series Cup

Melissa Cunningham (2 Majors): 1996 FINA Long Distance Swimming World Cup; and 1994 25 km FINA World Championship

Silvia Beatríz Dalotto (1 Major): 1990 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Brojen Das (1 Major): 1958 English Channel Race

Penny Lee Dean (1 Major): 1979 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Diego Degano (5 Majors): 1989 Capri to Naples; 1989 and 1990 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation; 1991 International Marathon Swimming Federation World Ranking and 1992/1993 Marathon Swimming World Series Championship

Edith van Dijk (9 Majors): 2000, 2001 and 2005 FINA Marathon Swimming World Series; 2000 10 km and 2000 and 2002 25 km FINA World Open Water Swimming Championship; and 2005 10 km and 2003 and 2005 25 km FINA World Championship

Captain Nabil Elshazly (4 Majors): 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964 ****Amateur Capri to Naples [1st overall in 1962 beating all professionals]

Nasser Elshazly (2 Majors): 1977 Amateur and 1983 Capri to Naples [1st overall in 1977 beating all professionals]

Pilar Geijo (5 Majors): 2010, 2011, 2014 (tied) and 2015 FINA Grand Prix Series; and 2019 FINA UltraMarathon Swim Series

Spiros Gianniotis (3 Majors): 2012 FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup and 2011 and 2013 10 km FINA World Championship

Elaine Gray (1 Major): 1966 World Long Distance Swimming Championship

Martina Grimaldi (2 Majors): 2010 10 km FINA World Open Water Swimming Championship and 2013 25 km FINA World Championship

Trent Grimsey (1 Major): 2012 FINA Grand Prix Series

Chad Hundebly (3 Majors): 1994 FINA Long Distance Swimming World Cup; 1993/1994 FINA Marathon Swimming World Series and 1991 25 km FINA World Championship

Horacio Iglesias (5 Majors): 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972 and 1973 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Larisa Dmitriyevna Ilchenko: (4 Majors): 2006 and 2008 10 km FINA World Open Water Swimming Championship; 2014 10 km FINA World Championship and 2008 Olympics

Helge Jensen (2 Majors): 1958 and 1959 Lac St. Jean

Britta Kamrau (6 Majors): 2003 and 2006 FINA Marathon Swimming World Series; 2002 and 2004 10 km and 2004 25 km FINA World Open Water Swimming Championship; and 2014 10 km FINA World Championship

James Kegley (1 Major): 1987 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Jerry Kerschner (1 Major): 1951 Canadian National Exhibition

John Kinsella (6 Majors): 1978 Capri to Naples; and 1974, 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1979 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Yuri Kudinov (5 Majors): 2000 and 2002 25 km FINA World Open Water Swimming Championship; and 2001, 2003 and 2007 25 km FINA World Championship

Irene van der Laan (5 Majors): 1983 and 1987 Capri to Naples; 1989 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation; and 1982 World Long Distance Swimming Championship

Regent LaCoursiere (1 Major): 1960 Lac St. Jean

Annemie Landmeters (1 Major): 1988 Capri to Naples

Stéphane Lecat (3 Majors): 1997, 1999 and 2000 FINA Marathon Swimming World Series

Cliff Lumsdon, CM (4 Majors): 195 and 1959 Canadian National Exhibition; and 1956 and 1959 Around Atlantic City

Thomas Lurz (6 Majors): 2009, 2011 and 2013 FINA Marathon Swimming World Cup; 2004 10 km, 2006 10 km and 2013 25 km FINA World Championship. **Additionally, Olympic medals 2008 Bronze and 2012 Silver plus other FINA World Championships at 5 km and Team.

Angela Maurer (8 Majors): 2002 and 2004 FINA Marathon Swimming World Series; 2007, 2008 and 2011 FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup; 2006 25 km FINA World Open Water Swimming Championship; and 2007 and 2009 25 km FINA World Championship

Attila Molnar (1 Major): 1994/1995 Marathon Swimming World Series Championship

Magda Molnar (1 Major): 1958 Capri to Naples

Steven Muñatones (1 Majors): 1982 World Long Distance Swimming Championship

Marvin "Duke" Nelson (3 Majors): 1930, 1933 and 1934 Canadian National Exhibition

Marc Newman (3 Majors): 1986 World Long Distance Swimming Championship; and 1986 and 1988 FINA Long Distance Swimming World Cup

Cynthia Nicholas, CM (1 Major): 1976 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Judith de Nijs (10 Majors): 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1970 Capri to Naples; 1964 Lac St. Jean and 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968 and 1970 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Martha Norelius (1 Major): 1929 Canadian National Exhibition

Esther Nuñez Morera (2 Majors): 2007 and 2012 FINA Grand Prix Series

Diana Nyad (2 Majors): 1974 Capri to Naples and 1974 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Poliana Okimoto (2 Majors): 2009 FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup and 2013 10km FINA World Championship

Tom Park (4 Majors): 1956 English Channel Race; and 1954, 1955 and 1968 Around Atlantic City

Baptista Pereira (1 Major): 1954 English Channel Race

Claudio Plit (5 Majors): 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1986 Capri to Naples and 1975 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Francis "Frank" Pritchard (1 Major): 1937 Canadian National Exhibition

Shadia El Rageb (4 Majors): 1971 and 1972 Capri to Naples and 1971 and 1972 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Michael P. Read, MBE (1 Major): 1970 World Long Distance Swimming Championship

Hassan Abdel Rheim (1 Major): 1950 English Channel Race

Éva Risztov: (1 Major): 2012 Olympics

Veljko Rogošić (4 Majors): 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974 Capri to Naples

Johannes "Johan" Schans (1 Major): 1970 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Marty Sinn (4 Majors): 1962 and 1963 Canadian National Exhibition; 1964 Around Atlantic City; and 1963 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Tomi Stefanovski (1 Major): 2016 (tied) FINA Grand Prix Series

Peta Stoychev (12 Majors): 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 FINA Marathon Swimming World Cup; 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 FINA Grand Prix Series; and 2011 25 km FINA World Championship

Greg Streppel (2 Majors): 1992 FINA Long Distance Swimming World Cup; and 1994 25 km FINA World Championship

Shelley Taylor-Smith (7 Majors): 1990 Capri to Naples; 1991 International Marathon Swimming Federation World Ranking; 1992/1993 Marathon Swimming World Series Championship; 1988 and 1994 FINA Long Distance Swimming World Cup; 1993/1994 FINA Marathon Swimming World Series; and 1991 25 km FINA World Championship [***highest number of World Ranking Points of all swimmers]

Patty Thompson (1 Major): 1969 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Giulio Travaglio (6 Majors): 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1970 Capri to Naples and 1966 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Ernest Vierkoetter (1 Major): 1927 Canadian National Exhibition

Maarten van der Weijden (2 Majors): 2008 25 km FINA World Champion; and 2008 Olympics

Monique Wildschut (8 Majors): 1986 and 1989 Capri to Naples and 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Herman Willemse (11 Majors): 1961 and 1962 Canadian National Exhibition; 1961, 1962 and 1963 Lac St Jean; 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964 Around Atlantic City; and 1963 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

Steve Wozniak (1 Major): 1948 Canadian National Exhibition

George Young (2 Majors): 1927 Wrigley Ocean Marathon Race and 1931 Canadian National Exhibition

End