Hugh Tucker, Honor Coach, South Africa, 2018



Personal Website

Videos: Interview 1 Swim 1 at 23:04

Hugh Tucker was contributor for open water swimming in South Africa since the early 1970s. He has coached, piloted/crewed and observed over 350 swims. South African marathon swimming has its heart in Cape Town and the cold waters of Robben Island. More than 50 South Africans soloed the English Channel with a very high success rate. Hugh had a positive impact (directly or indirectly) on just about all who soloed between 1970 and 2015.

Hugh has not taken pay for his activities and even paid his own expenses for the swimmers he coached during English Channel marathons. His reward was being part of the swim experience and helping to improve the chances of success. He is a fabulous example of a lifetime of volunteering. Hugh contributed to the following IMSHOF Honoree swims: Lynne Cox Cape Point during which divers shot a large shark below her; Kevin Murphy Robben Island; Lewis Pugh 100 km around the Cape; Ned Denison False Bay, Cape Point and from and around Robben Island; and Christof Wandratch Robben Island.

Hugh is an accomplished and determined marathon swimmer. He first attempted the English Channel in 1973, again in 2003 before completing in 2004 in 13 hours and 37 minutes.

Expanded Biography (Openwaterpedia)

Long Swims Database (Marathon Swimmers Federation)