



International Open Water Swimming Association

Established 2009

The Wash – England - Ratified Swims.

Swim No.	Year	Surname	Forename	Sex	Type	Direction	Time hh:mm:ss	Swim Date dd/mm/yyyy	Pilot	Age	Country	Photo	Notes
1	1929	Gleitze	Mercedes	F	Solo	S/H*	13:17:00	29/07/1929	-	28	England		1 st person. Inaugural World Record.
2	1973	Murphy	Kevin	M	Solo	S/H**	13:54:24	26/05/1973	-	24	England		First man. Inaugural men's record.
3	1974	Spry	Tina	F	Solo	H/S	08:36:00	26/05/1974	-	13	England	-	1 st ever swim from Hun to Skeg. 2 nd woman. World Record
4	1974	Read	Michael	M	Solo	S/H	07:52:00	16/09/1974	Skegness Lifeboat Crew	33	England		World Record.
5	1975	Read	Michael	M	Solo	H/S	08:30:00	27/07/1975	Skegness Lifeboat Crew	34	England		1 st person to swim it twice. 1 st leg of 1 st ever 2 way.
6	1975	Read	Michael	M	Solo	S/H	08:17:56	27/07/1975	Skegness Lifeboat Crew	34	England		1 st ever 2 way. 2 nd leg. Total time 16:47:56.
7	1976	Murphy	Kevin	M	Solo	S/H	07:47:00	22/06/1976	-	27	England		New Skeg/Hun Record.

Swim No.	Year	Surname	Forename	Sex	Type	Direction	Time HH:MM	Swim Date dd/mm/yyyy	Pilot	Age	Country	Photo	Notes
8	1976	Murphy	Kevin	M	Solo	H/S	07:10:00	27/06/1976	-	27	England		World Record.
9	1976	Read	Michael	M	Solo	H/S	05:57:00	11/07/1976	Skegness Lifeboat Crew	35	England		World Record.

NOTES

- 'H' = Hunstanton in the county of Norfolk, England. The H/S swim is a South to North direction of swim. 'S' = Skegness in the county of Lincolnshire, England. S/H is a North to South swim. * It is known that Mercedes Gleitze's swim in 1929 finished in Heacham, but it is not known where she started from. ** It is known that Kevin Murphy's swim in 1974 started in Skegness and finished in Holme.
- Mercedes Gleitze (b. 1900, d. 1981) was the first person and therefore the first woman known to have swum The Wash. The swim is recorded in the records of West Norfolk District Council and on the sign pictured right which was commissioned by the council to celebrate the 75th anniversary of her swim on June 20, 2004. It has never been erected due to her surname being spelt incorrectly (Gleiz instead of Gleitze).
- The swims of Tina Spry, Kevin Murphy and Michael (Mike) Read were completed when all swimmers were members of The former 'Channel Swimming Association' which was established in 1927 to ratify swims of The English Channel. All swims were completed in accordance with the rules of the then Channel Swimming Association which was superseded as an organisation in 1999 by The Channel Swimming Association Limited. Mike Read's swims were observed by The Skegness Lifeboat crew. The swims were ratified by the British Long Distance Swimming Association (BLDSA).
- On Tuesday November 03, 2009 Kevin Murphy confirmed that Tina Spry was Kevin's protégé and accompanied him on an attempt on 26/05/1974 when he passed out unconscious after 8 hours 40 minutes with hypothermia. The water temperature was 52 degrees Fahrenheit. Tina went on to complete the swim in 8 Hours 36 Minutes. She used it as a training swim for an unsuccessful English Channel swim the same year.
- Where the seconds have been recorded for a swim (Kevin Murphy 1973 & Mike Read's 2-way swim in 1975) they are shown in the times accordingly. Where the seconds are not known, ":00" has been added to the known times for consistency of layout.
- This inaugural list of swims was compiled on November 06, 2009 by The Chairman of IOWSA, Paul Hopfensperger, following a visit to Hunstanton on September 26, 2009 and meetings with representatives of West Norfolk District Council and by telephone conversations with Kevin Murphy, Mike Read and records from Kevin Murphy and Mike Read's internet pages, newspaper cuttings from Kevin Murphy and the internet in general.



The Wash Swimming Records as at November 2009

TITLE	NAME	COUNTRY	RECORD/DATE	TIME (HH:MM:SS)
King of The Wash™	Mike Read	England	4 Crossings	Most crossings by a person
Queen of The Wash™	Tina Spry	England	1 Crossing	Fastest of 2 x female swims to date
Fastest Person	Mike Read	England	11/07/1976	05:57:00
Fastest Female	Tina Spry	England	26/05/1974	08:36:00
Oldest Man	Mike Read	England	11/07/1976 (35)	05:57:00
Oldest Person	Mike Read	England	11/07/1976 (35)	05:57:00
Oldest Woman	Mercedes Gleitze	England	29/07/1929 (28)	13:17:00
Youngest Person	Tina Spry	England	26/05/1974 (13)	08:36:00
Youngest Male	Kevin Murphy	England	26/05/1973 (24)	13:54:24
Youngest Female	Tina Spry	England	26/05/1974 (13)	08:36:00
Fastest 2-way	Mike Read	England	27/07/1975 (H/S/H)	16:47:56

Following a meeting between The Chairman, Paul Hopfensperger and Hon. Secretary, Rebecca Hopfensperger on Tuesday November 09, 2009 at the registered office of The International Open Water Swimming Association Limited (IOWSA) we confirm that the above swims and list of records are ratified by IOWSA and will be held by the committee of IOWSA as a true and valid record of swims across The Wash as we know them at present. Should further evidence of swims across The Wash come forward in the future, the above records will be amended accordingly following ratification by The Committee.



Paul Johann Hopfensperger – Chairman



Rebecca Vivienne Hopfensperger – Honorary Secretary

Dated: 09/11/2009