



**Kevin Murphy, Honor Swimmer, Great Britain, 1971**



Videos: [Interview 1](#) [Interview 2](#) [Documentary 1](#) [Panel 1](#) [IMSHOF 2021 at 58:33](#) [IMSHOF 2023 at 57:42](#) [IMSHOF 2023](#) [ISHOF 1](#)

**Kevin Murphy** holds the record the greatest number of English Channel crossings by a man (34) as of 2022 (and beyond).

He accomplished these first ever swims: Original Triple Crown (English, North and Bristol Channels); California Triple Crown (Catalina and Santa Barbara Channels and Lake Tahoe); male North Channel from Scotland to Northern Ireland; 90 km Round the Isle of Wight in 1971 in 26 hours and 51 minutes; River Tay (Perth to Dundee); 2 times, then 3 times the North Channel (including both directions); 26.8 km Bristol Channel from England (north Devon) to Wales(Porthcawl) in 1971 in 15 hours; competing a 2-way English Channel then turning for the 3<sup>rd</sup> crossing in 1975 – the first 50+ hour attempt; 27 km “The Wash” Skegness to Hunstanton in 13 hours and 54 minutes in 1973 (and again in 7 hours 47 minutes in 1976); 69 km from Richmond to Gravesend – length of the tidal River Thames in 1980 in 17 hours and 25 minutes; 27.5 km in the Aurlandsfjord Norway in 10 hours and 46 minutes; and 24 km Valentia to Couminole Beach in Dingle Bay in Ireland in 2007 in 7 hours and 45 minutes.

He set the overall speed records of 11 hours and 21 minutes for crossing the North Channel in 1970 with the water temperature between 8.8-13.3°C which held until 1988 (female faster), and for men

2013; 10 hours and 30 minutes for Loch Ness in 1976 which held until 1999 (female faster) and for men until 2022 (and beyond). His France-England swim on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1990 in 13 hours set the “earliest in the year” record which held until 2016.

His English Channel 2-way swims include: 35 hours and 10 minutes in 1970; England-France-England swim in 1975 in 36 hours and 3 minutes which was notable because he was ordered out of the water because of bad weather after swimming non-stop for 52 hours and 30 minutes when he was halfway back on his third leg; and France-England-France swim in 1987 in 32 hours and 42 minutes. Kevin’s single English Channel crossings include: England-France in 1968 in 15 hours and 55 minutes; England-France in 1976 in 15 hours and 0 minutes; France-England in 1976 in 15 hours and 32 minutes; England-France in 1977 in 14 hours and 5 minutes; England-France in 1977 in 14 hours and 14 minutes; France-England in 1979 in 22 hours and 42 minutes; England-France in 1980 in 17 hours and 28 minutes; England-France in 1982 in 15 hours and 12 minutes; England-France in 1982 in 21 hours and 22 minutes; England-France in 1983 in 15 hours and 29 minutes; France-England in 1983 in 15 hours and 25 minutes; France-England in 1984 in 14 hours and 58 minutes; France-England in 1990 in 13 hours and 16 minutes; England-France in 1991 in 13 hours and 58 minutes; England-France in 1991 in 15 hours and 26 minutes; England-France in 1991 in 17 hours and 6 minutes; France-England in 1992 in 15 hours and 5 minutes; France-England in 1993 in 14 hours and 37 minutes; France-England in 1994 in 15 hours; England-France in 1995 in 18 hours and 27 minutes; England-France in 1995 in 15 hours and 38 minutes; France-England in 1996 in 15 hours and 30 minutes, England-France in 1997 in 15 hours and 45 minutes; England-France in 1999 in 13 hours and 53 minutes (two hours faster than his first success in 1968); England-France in 2000 in 14 hours and 29 minutes; England-France in 2000 in 15 hours and 10 minutes; England-France in 2005 in 13 hours and 35 minutes; and England-France in 2006 in 15 hours and 14 minutes for his 34<sup>th</sup> crossing.

Kevin accomplished the Triple Crown and other marathon swims include: the 30 km Lake Como race in Italy in 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1989 and 1990; 19.3 km Sydney Harbour Challenge Race in 1977 in 3 hours and 20 minutes; 77.2 km Lake Balaton race in 1973 in 43 hours 15 minutes; 40.2 km Majorca to Minorca in 15 hours and 10 minutes; Capri to Naples in 1974 in 12 hours and 15 minutes; 37 km Nile Marathon Race in 11 hours and 9 minutes; 42 km Marathon du Saguenay in 1988 in 7 hours and 4 minutes; from Gorey to Bouley Bay in Jersey in the Channel Islands in 1974 in 2 hours and 52 minutes; Belfast Lough from Whitehead to Bangor in Northern Ireland in 1974; Strait of Gibraltar in 2000 in 5 hours and 18 minutes; 48.2 km across the Chicago Skyline from Evanston, Illinois to Hammond, Indiana in 23 hours and 31 minutes; 40 km Santa Cruz Island to Santa Barbara in 17 hours 31 minutes; 33.7 km Lake Tahoe in 2003 in 13 hours 56 minutes; 35.4 km Catalina in 2003 in 15 hours and 23 minutes; 45.9 km Manhattan Island in 2001 in 9 hours 2 minutes; 17.7 km across Lake Mergozzo in 1989; 2-way between Blouberg to Robben Island in 1973; and 22 km 2-way in 1987 between Three Anchor Bay to Robben Island in 10 hours and 38 minutes.

Other marathons in Great Britain include: 37 km Loch Ness in 1976 in 10 hours and 30 minutes; 33.7 km 2-way Lake Windermere in England in 1969; 15 hours and 4 minutes across Loch Lomond in 1967 and 12 hours 53 minutes in 1979; 16.9 km Lake Windermere – 11 times between 1965 and 2006 (including 2 international races); 12.9 km Torbay (Torquay-Brixham-Torquay) in 3 hours and 51 minutes in 1966, 3 hours and 57 minutes in 1969, 3 hours and 37 minutes in 1971, 4 hours and 41 minutes in 1972, and 3 hours and 40 minutes in 1976; 16.3 km Weymouth-Lulworth Cove in 1966 in 4 hours and 50 minutes; 11.3 km Walton to Clacton in 1972; from Mumbles to Aberavon in South Wales in 1976 in 2 hours and 55 minutes; 2-way Solent between Ryde to Southsea in 3 hours and 34 minutes; and 12.9 km Solent Challenge 2000 from Yarmouth to Gurnard on the Isle of Wight in 2 hours and 45 minutes.

Murphy was inducted in the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2009. In 2023 he received the Poseidon Award from the International Swimming Hall of Fame for his high level performance that advanced the development and status of marathon swimming to the world.

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

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