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PROFESSIONAL MARATHON SWIMMING
By Joe Grossman, Secretary, WPMSE
World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation

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The MSHOF, conducted by the Marathon Swimming Foundation, had previously selected 48 swimmers and contributors -- persons who had performed outstanding marathon swimming ~~feat~~ solo feats, won long-distance world racing championships and made outstanding contributions to the unique sport since 1875.

Named to the Hall of Fame for 1971 were:

Enrico Tiraboschi, of Italy -- the first person to swim the English Channel from France to England. His 1923 time was 16 hours and 33 minutes

Baptista Pereira, of Portugal -- whose outstanding performance was a 127-mile swim down the Tagus River ending at ~~Kisland~~ Alhandra in 1959, taking 28 hours, 43 minutes. Pereira was also winner of the 1954 professional race across the English Channel (France to England, in 12:25).

Jason Zirganos, of Greece -- four-time English Channel conquerer; four-time Lake Windermere (England) conquerer, and who died while attempting to swim across North Channel (incorrectly called ~~the~~ the Irish Sea) in 1959.

Miss Elaine Gray, of England -- five-time winner of the BLDSA 10-mile championship; ~~four-time~~ four-time winner of the BLDSA eight-mile championship; once winner of the BLDSA 13-mile championship; whose 10:24 English Channel (France to England) swim in 1967 set a women's speed record.

Miss Shadia El Rageb, of Egypt -- winner of the 1971 title of ^{Women's} World Champion Professional Marathon Swimmer after ~~acquire~~ an undefeated year in international races.

(more)

James P. Toomey (contributor) of the U.S.A. -- for ~~years~~ conceiving and conducting an outstanding series of 11 annual races (1954 through 1964) at Atlantic City, New Jersey, which have served as models for professional and amateur distance races around the world.

Members of the jury which selected the 1971 electees to the MSHOF were Commander C. Gerald Forsberg of England, an outstanding marathon swimmer and author of books on the sport; Buck Dawson, Executive Director of the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; and Joe Grossman, Executive Secretary of the Marathon Swimming Foundation and WPMF Secretary.

The six 1971 electees join these previously-named MSHOF swimmers and contributors:

Capt. Matthew Webb; ~~Mike~~ Gertrude Ederle; George Young; Herman Willemse; Mary Martha Sinn; Sir William Butlin; Antonio Abertondo; Tom Blower; Greta Andersen; Abdel Latif Abou-Heif; Judith DeNijs; William Wrigley, Jr.; Pedro Candiotti; John Sigmund; Cmdr. C. Gerald Forsberg; Annette Kellerman; ~~Brojen Das~~ Brojen Das; Gen. Ali Sabry; Charles Zibbleman; Florence Chadwick; Hassan Abdel Rehim; Mihir Sen; Giulio Travaglio; George N. Duthie.

Also, Marilyn Bell; Lottie Schoemmell; Keo Nakama; Jose Cortinas; Horacio Iglesias; The Cavill Family; Barry Davenport; Otto Kammerich; Henry Sullivan; Tom Park; Linda McGill; Jabez Wolffe; Bert Thomas; Cliff Lumsdon; Mercedes Gleitze; David Smith; Patti Thompson; Carlos Larriera; Montserrat Tresserras; Brenda Sherrat; Helge Jensen; Robert Dowling; Johan Schans, and Johnny Weissmuller.

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