

## **From Chairman Chris Guesdon May 2016**

What a growing and magnificent sport is the marathon of swimming. Capturing world headlines and involving more and more the life of everyday swimmers no matter where on earth.

The IMSHOF salutes our marathon swimmers around the world who continue to achieve some incredible results. From the deep south of the southern hemisphere to the far northern hemisphere, equally in tropical warm waters or in cold and temperate climates, in lakes, rivers, straits, channels and oceans and on all continents, in elite internationals like World Championships and Olympics or in local races, solo swims and relay events.

The incredible history of our sport continues to inspire many modern day marathoners. The IMSHOF continues to further explore the pioneers of marathon swimming and aims to bring to the fore the amazing feats of swimmers past to honour and acknowledge them.

We welcome your nominations for those people who are accomplishing or have accomplished extraordinary swims either competitors or contributors, providing that those events fit the IMSHOF criteria as set out on our website.

So now FINA marathon competitors are allowed to wear wetsuits. It's interesting to note that for some reason under the FINA rules open water swimmers were still allowed to wear full body suits in competition even after the pool people could not.

So why did this happen particularly following the ill-fated entry into the swimming world of the fast swimsuits and their subsequent withdrawal from pool events. Even though in training very few if any choose to wear these and the rules do not allow for these suits in the world renowned open water events around the globe.

### **If they don't help, why wear them?**

Whilst all major marathon swims, both competition and solo adventure swims held around the world require competitors to wear swim briefs for men and regular swimsuits for women, *no* swimming aids are allowed. FINA has persisted in allowing open water competitors to wear these outfits in these events that clearly help them swim faster.

It doesn't matter whether they are knee length racers, leg skin trousers or full body suits which most love to wear. It is noted that they are by design made to help you swim faster.

### **If you don't respect the past you will find it difficult to build a future**

According to some of the advertising that the brands put out for their products, (those suits made with textile material), and their design may give you a speed advantage of up to 2%. They also claim to help keep body heat in and blood circulation. In the latest

ruling FINA decided to shed the body suits for some of their events and don wetsuits for the balance of them when they wish to keep the wearers warm. According to the product promotion they also may give you a speed advantage up to 5%. Swimming costumes were designed for swimming modesty so people didn't have to jump in with their clothes on or nude.

**The IMSHOF policy regarding the type of swimming costumes used for all open water swimming events to be considered for nomination is posted to our website under the tab *criteria*. These criteria must be adhered to in order to be recognised by The International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.**

Cheers,  
Chris