## **GOLDEN SMILES**

The Blackpool Tower, the Golden Mile and a tram. David Hull took on the 1.6-mile Blackpool Pier to Pier Swim Challenge

here can't be many other events that start with a specially chartered tram ride, but since the Blackpool Pier to Pier Swim Challenge takes in the Blackpool Tower and the Golden Mile, it seemed fitting that the race started with a trip on another of Blackpool's iconic

Gredit: Garland illustration created by Freepik. Picute credits: Gregg Wolstenholme sights. The inaugural HEAD TO BREATHE Blackpool Pier to IT WAS AMAZING TO Pier took place on 21 July with two waves of 30 swimmers tackling the 1.6-mile swim. I was in the first wave. After registration the tram took myself and other

participants to the start at North Pier. I really enjoyed talking to my fellow swimmers while travelling - how cool

## SWIM DETAILS

Name: Blackpool Pier to Pier Swim Challenge Distance: 1.6 miles wetsuit policy: mandatory Safety: tow floats mandatory

More info: getset4success.co.uk

was it to be in our own tram and all kitted up in our wetsuits. It must have looked pretty funny to bystanders some even tried to flag down a ride! Before entering the water at North

AS I TURNED MY

**SEE BLACKPOOL** 

TOWER

Pier, we checked in and then, on the sound of the horn, we walked into the

calm waters of the 'Blackpool Sea'. I soon stretched out into my rhythm and stroked away, feeling at ease with the water. I found myself near the front of the pack and drifted into my own world and rhythm. As I turned my head to

breathe it was amazing to see from water level Blackpool Tower in the distance.

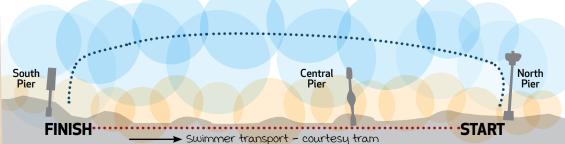
I swam in a small pack - a couple pulled out ahead of me while others dropped behind me. My aim was to just finish this swim challenge and

eventually after about 40 minutes of swimming strongly, I saw the two yellow finishing buoys. I swam through them, walked to the shore and was greeted by the team from the Blackpool Beach Patrol who were there on hand to help all swimmers from the water at the finish if they needed it.

After clearing the water, I strode up the beach to the gazebo where I received my finisher's wooden plaque and refreshments. This was a fantastic event was and I will certainly be entering it again in 2019 @

David exits the water after successfully wim challenge

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