

# 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

**T**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 sights.

The inaugural Blackpool Pier 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

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 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 completing the swim challenge

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## 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](http://getset4success.co.uk)

