



★ FASTEST 100 M FREESTYLE (FEMALE)

Britta Steffen (Germany) swam the women's 100 m freestyle in 53.30 seconds in Budapest, Hungary, on 2 August 2006.

★ FASTEST 100 X 1,000 M RELAY (MIXED TEAM)

On 2–3 September 2006, a relay team of 100 swimmers (comprising 50 men and 50 women) took 22 hr 48 min 43.10 sec to each successfully swim 1,000 m at Volkspark, Dortmund, Germany.

DIVING

★ OLDEST SCUBA DIVER

Herbert Kilbride (USA, b. 8 March 1914), a qualified PADI instructor, celebrated his 90th birthday on 8 March 2004 and remains an active scuba enthusiast.

★ LONGEST SCUBA DIVE IN OPEN FRESH WATER

Jerry Hall (USA) – a Tennessee diver, not the Texan actress! – remained under water at a depth of 3.6 m (12 ft) on a submerged platform in Watauga Lake, Tennessee, USA, for 120 hr 1 min 9 sec from 29 August to 3 September 2004. In accordance with the rules, he did not surface at any time.

HIGHEST HIGH DIVE

Olivier Favre (Switzerland) recorded a dive of 53.9 m (176 ft 10 in) from a diving board at Villers-le-Lac, France, on 30 August 1987.

GREATEST HIGH-DIVE SCORE

In 2000, during the Cliff-Diving World Championships in Kaunolu, Hawaii, USA, Orlando Duque (Colombia) performed a double back somersault with four twists from 24.4 m (80 ft). He earned a perfect 10 from all seven judges and scored 159.00 points.

YOUNGEST CLIFF DIVER

In December 2005, 12-year-old Iris Alvarez (Mexico) became the youngest person – and first female – to dive 18 m (59 ft) off La Quebrada rock in Acapulco, Mexico. A person diving from the top of the cliff (at 30 m; 100 ft) would hit the water at 90 km/h (56 mph)!



★ FASTEST 400 M FREESTYLE (FEMALE)

Laure Manaudou (France) swam the women's 400 m freestyle in 4 min 2.13 sec in Budapest, Hungary, on 6 August 2006.

★ FASTEST 200 M BUTTERFLY (MALE)

Michael Phelps (USA) won the men's 200 m butterfly in a time of 1 min 53.8 sec in Victoria, Canada, on 17 August 2006.

He also holds the record for the **most swimming medals won by an individual at a single Olympic Games** with six golds (100 m and 200 m butterfly, 200 m and 400 m medley, 4 x 200 m freestyle and 4 x 100 m medley) and two bronze (200 m freestyle and 4 x 100 m freestyle) at the 2004 Games.

CHANNEL CHAMPS

The Brits call it the English Channel; to the French, it's La Manche ("The Sleeve"). At its narrowest – between Dover (UK) and Cap Gris-Nez (France) – this slim stretch of water separating England and France measures just 21 miles (34 km) – and to some people, that represents a challenge...

• The **first person to swim the Channel** (without a life jacket) was Matthew Webb (UK), who made the crossing in 21 hr 45 min on 24–25 August 1875.

• The official Channel Swimming Association record for the **fastest time to swim the Channel** from Shakespeare Beach, Dover, UK, to Cap Gris-Nez, France, is 7 hr 17 min by Chad Hundebly (USA), on 27 September 1994.

• For some people, once is never enough. The **greatest number of Channel crossings swum** is 39 by Alison Streeter (UK) from 1982 to 2000 (including a record seven in one year, 1992). The **greatest number of Channel crossings swum by a man** is 33 by Michael Read (UK) from 1969 to 2004.

• Different strokes for different folks: the **fastest crossing of the Channel using solely breaststroke** is 13 hr 31 min by Frederik Jacques (Belgium) on 16 August 2005.

The **fastest crossing using solely backstroke** is 13 hr 22 min by Tina Neil (USA) on 9 August 2005.

Finally, **the fastest crossing using solely the butterfly** is 14 hr 18 min by Julie Bradshaw (UK) on 5 August 2002.

★ **NEW RECORD**

★ **UPDATED RECORD**

DID YOU KNOW?

The **oldest woman to swim the Channel** was Carol Sing (USA, b. 24 August 1941), who was 57 years 361 days old when she completed the journey on 21 August 1999.