

MEDIA RELEASE

August 2017

BAYSIDE LOCAL ATTEMPTS GRUELLING WORLD RECORD CHALLENGE

LEGENDARY endurance athlete John van Wisse is gearing up to reclaim the world record for one of the toughest ultra triathlon events on the planet – the Enduroman Arch to Arc.

The gruelling 483km feat consists of a 140km run from London's Marble Arch to Dover, a 34km swim across the English Channel and a 291km bike ride from Calais to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

Only 25 solo athletes have successfully completed race, which is considered one of the most physically and mentally demanding races in the world.

"It's just epic, and I like epic things," 44-year-old van Wisse said.

With the recent death of competitor Doug Waymark during the swim leg, the extreme nature of the event cannot be underestimated.

On August 29, 2014, van Wisse set a world record for the Enduroman, finishing the race in 61 hours and 27 minutes and beating the previous world record holder by more than 12 hours.

That was despite multiple challenges, including getting lost twice during the run through London, being mistaken for an illegal immigrant when he began his swim in Dover and battling horrendous swimming conditions due to the tail end of a hurricane in the North Atlantic.

"I have not met another single person that could have swum the English Channel in the time John achieved in the conditions he had on the day," Enduroman founder Edgar Ette said.

"If he gets the days he deserves, with his knowledge of the event and ability at open water swimming, he could potentially knock eight hours off his own record."

In June 2016, Frenchman Cyril Blanchard beat van Wisse's record with a time of 59 hours and 56 minutes, despite running and swimming slower than van Wisse (he took less rest and ride time).

But now it's time for van Wisse to reclaim the title, and with approximately 20 Ironman triathlons and multiple marathon swim competitions under his belt, he's in good shape to do so.

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Van Wisse will have a two-week window starting August 27 to begin the race (race officials have indicated the tide will be most favourable on August 30).

His goal is to achieve a finish time of 51 hours or less.

Van Wisse is raising money for two Australian charities – MND Australia, an organisation that helps Australians impacted by motor neurone disease, and TLC for Kids, a charity providing support for sick children and their families.

Supporters can donate to MND Australia and TLC for Kids at www.johnvanwisse.com.

John has been supported in the event by a range of local sponsors including BPM, Colliers International, Mills Oakley, Nunn Media and 3 Deep.

**** Live Media Coverage Opportunities ****

Regular training updates will be accessible prior to the race, as well as race status reports at www.johnvanwisse.com.

Join the conversation:

Facebook: John van Wisse @jvwgoesa2a <https://www.facebook.com/jvwgoesa2a>

Twitter: #jvwgoesa2a

See van Wisse's 2014 Enduroman performance via Vimeo: ["Crossing The Line \(London to Paris 483k Ultra Triathlon\)- ENDUROMAN John van Wisse"](https://vimeo.com/100000000) by David Brooks

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