

Hour records Inline skating + Roller skating

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Part 1: Hour records on Roller skates

In the first chapter, an attempt has been made to show the development of the hour record on roller skates in chronological order and to mention the details as much as possible. In many cases, the text from the newspaper articles has been copied in full (translated).

London (GBR) – Crystal Palace, 24 March 1900

On Saturday last, the first competitions for the hour championship on roller skates started on the main track of the Crystal Palace in London. The following times were made by the drivers mentioned here who come into the decision:

Charles .J. Wilson (b: 12-8-1876) 16 E.M. (English mile) and 6 3/4 laps; W. Bartlett 16 E.M. and 4 3/4 round; A. Henry 16 E.M. and 3 round; H. Young 14 E.M. and 4 laps, the latter and three others gave up the fight.

The article does not indicate how long a lap is. In a newspaper article, from 1903, it can be read that the track of Crystal Palace had a size of 9 laps to the mile, so 179 meters. This would make Wilson's winning distance 26,957 meters.

Source: Algemeen Handelsblad, 27-03-1900; Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 12-1-1903, p10

Place unknown, before 1-3-1902

Frenchman Charles Nicot is said to be in possession of the French hour record on roller skating among the pros, with a distance of 25,080 meters. Only then would Hal Berte (GBR) ride his record. This was read in Le Matin of 30-1-1911. It seems more likely that this race was around 1911.

Source: <https://www.rollerenligne.com/dossier/chronology-of-the-one-hour-world-record-on-roller-and-inline-skates/>

London (GBR) - Crystal Palace, 01-03-1902

Hal Berte (GBR) was a sportsman in heart and soul. He has left his mark both on the bike and on the skates. His real name was Albert

Perkins. The Sporting Times of 5/16/1908 reported that he had covered 16 miles and 745 yards on the asphalt track at Crystal Palace. So he would have ridden a distance of 26,430 meters on "traditional" roller skates. The following participants had also completed the hour: W. de Board, G. de Board, William M. Curtis and Arthur A. Buckhurst. No time was mentioned for them.

Source: <https://www.rollerenligne.com/dossier/chronology-of-the-one-hour-world-record-on-roller-and-inline-skates/>; The sporting Times, 16-5-1908

London (GBR) – Crystal Palace, 10-01-1903

6000 spectators attended the hour championship on roller skates last Saturday in the Crystal Palace near London. No less than 19 contenders appeared at the start. The championship was won for the second time by a certain Charles .J. Wilson, who covered 16 miles and 285 yards (16 miles and 215 yards according to the Rotterdams Nieuwsblad) in the hour. After him, E. Casey (16 EM 265 yards) and P. Miller (16 EM and 215 yards) crossed the finish line.

Wilson would therefore have covered 26,010 meters. The track would have a size of 9 laps to the mile (= 179m)

Source: Rotterdams nieuwsblad, 16-01-1903; Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 12-1-1903, p10

London (GBR) – Lava Rink, 04-02-1910

Ernest J. Little is said to have covered a distance of 15 miles and 132 yards (24,261 m) at the Lava Rink in London.

Source: Mail John Fry, 6-4-2025

Paris (FRA) – Palais de Sports du Velodrome D’Hiver, 06-11-1910

The first race in this new Velodrome D'Hiver was an hour-record race on roller skates. M. Fandr  from Bordeaux is said to have improved the French hour record to 24.515m.

Source: <https://www.rollerenligne.com/dossier/le-vel-d-hiv-un-lieu-historique-du-patinage-a-roulettes/>



Source gallica.bnf.fr / Biblioth que nationale de France

Paris (FRA) – Palais de Sports du Velodrome D’Hiver, v or 8-12-1910

During the winter championship for professional cyclists, an hourly race was held on roller skates in the middle area. Curtis led the first 11 kilometers but Charles Leveille was the winner. He covered a distance of 25,245m in one hour.

Source: Bredasche courant 8-12-1910



Source gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France

Jesse Carey



Source gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France

Charles Nicot



Source gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France

Henri Jourde

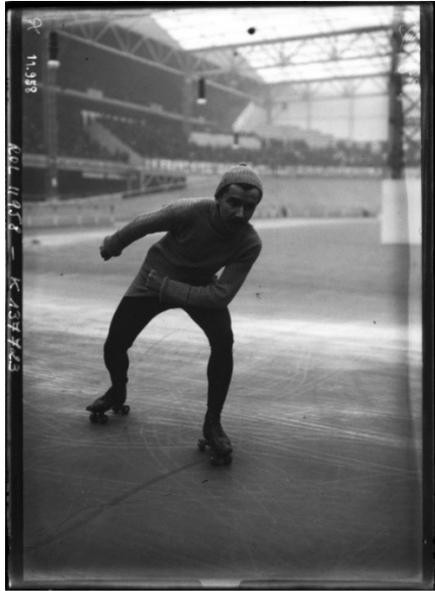


Source gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France

Miguel de Villabella



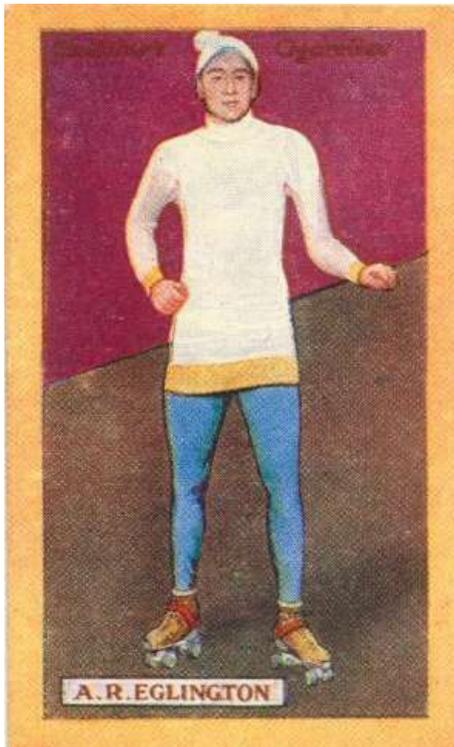
H. Smit



M. Fandré



Charles Wilson



A.R. Eglinton

Paris (FRA), 03-01-1911

The Belgian Henri Pansaers rode an hour race in Paris and came to a distance of about 28,000m. It is not known which track this was on, but it seems likely that this was the Palais de Sports du Velodrome D'Hivert.

Source: Mail John Fry, 6-4-2025.

Paris (FRA) – Palais de Sports du Velodrome D'Hivert, 29-01-1911

Canadian Jesse Carey improved the hour record of Hal Berte from 1902 on traditional skates (quads). Carey rode in Paris on a wooden track of 133 meters and 33 cm, according to the newspaper "La Nouvelle Presse" of February 5, 1911. He covered a distance of 28,375 meters in one hour. He passed the 10km mark after 20 min.55 sec. and the 20 km mark after 42.24. His personal best was 26,100m. A month earlier, he had broken the 24-hour World Record with a distance of 476km and 933m. According to the reports, he could have been even better if he had had more coaches.

Source: <https://www.rollerenligne.com/dossier/chronology-of-the-one-hour-world-record-on-roller-and-inline-skates/>; Toutes les sports, 03-02-1911

Antwerpen (BEL) – skating du cercle, 02-02-1911

Canadian Jesse Carey improved the hour record in Antwerp and came to a distance of 28.886. He rode on the track of the Anglo-American Circle Roller Skating Ring, founded in 1909. In 1910 they had a roller skating rink built on the current Henri van Heurckstraat, designed by Walter van Kuyck. The track had a size of 75 meters by 25 meters, with tables all around. In 1913, the Skating Ring went bankrupt. The NV Palais de Glace took over the company and the rink was transformed into the first artificial ice rink in Antwerp, on which the Olympic figure skating and ice hockey matches of 1920 were held.

Brussel (BEL), 11-02-1911

The Canadian Jesse Carey, who recently beat the hour record on roller skates in Antwerp, has already improved this record on Saturday in Brussels. He covered 30.421m.

Source: Het Handelsblad, 13-2-1911

Amsterdam (NED) – Paleis voor de Volksvlijt, 04-03-1911

On the roller skating rink of the Paleis voor Volksvlijt in Amsterdam, the Dutch hour record with pacesetter started on Saturday evening at 11.15 pm. Participants were Mr. H. Smit, record holder of Belgium with 25.485m (track in Antwerp) and the instructor A. Harris. Despite the narrow bends – which had to be taken without changing – the riders drove fast. Result was: A. Harris with 20.780m (259 3/4 lap). H. Smit with 20.140m (251 3/4 lap). The interest of the public was very high. Especially the style of Mr. Harris was particularly praised. Timekeeper was the well-known amateur A. Franken.

Source: De Courant, 6-3-1911

Parijs (FRA) - Palais de Sports du Velodrome D'Hiver, 07-04-1911

The Belgian Charles Sweerts is said to have improved the world hour record to 27.105m on this date in Paris. The Maasbode of 2-12-1911 mentions 27,165m. According to "Tousles Sports", he was suspended for a year on April 24, 1911 because he did not want to return a scarf/sash.

Source: La dernière heure, 30-11-1911

Parijs (FRA) - Palais de Sports du Velodrome D'Hivert, 29-11-1911

The amateur roller skater Charles Sweerts, has attacked the hour record of the amateurs in the Sportpaleis in Paris. He covered 28.233m in one hour on 28 or 29 November, breaking his own record of 27.165m. His first kilometer went in 2.03 1/5. After 10 kilometers, the clock stood at 21 minutes 08.4 seconds. The 20 kilometers went in 42 minutes 34.2 seconds and the 25 kilometers in 53 minutes and 12 seconds. After half an hour, the counter stood at 14 kilometers and 117 meters. Verily, beautifully ridden, if one considers that the record of professional riders is only 28.866m held by Carey.

Source: De Maasbode, 02-12-1911, La dernière heure, 30-11-1911

Brussel (BEL) – Sporting Palace, 26-12-1911

The Belgian Henri Pansaers improved on 26 Dec. J.I. the record of Charles Sweerts with 650 meters, so that it is now 28,883m.

Source: Rotterdamsch Nieuwsblad. 12-01-1912

Brussel (BEL), 27-01-1912

Charles Sweerts challenged Henri Pansaers to compete for the hour record on 27-01-1912. Pansaers had recently taken away Sweerts' record. However, Sweerts' illness threatened the continuation of this match. It is possible that the Frenchman Sergeant stepped into the arena as a replacement for Sweerts.

Source: 19me Siecle, 7 Januari 1912

London (GBR) – Holland Park, 27-03-1912

Englishman Hubert J. Delahaye rode a distance of 17 miles, 956 yards and 6 inches (28.233 meters) in one hour on the Holland Park course in London.

Source: mail John Fry, 06-04-2025

Paris (FRA) – Palais de Sports du Velodrome D’Hiver, 27-10-1912

In the Grand Prix du SCUF, an interclub competition between SOCF and SRHCF, the Spanish champion Miguel de Villabella (ESP, born 20-12-1892) improved the hour record on traditional skates. He came to a distance of 28.766 meters. The "La Vie au Grand Air" of 24-11-1912 reports on this. He would weigh, 18 years old, only 45 kilos. He would later make a furore as an opera singer.

Source: <https://www.rollerenligne.com/dossier/chronology-of-the-one-hour-world-record-on-roller-and-inline-skates/>

Parijs (FRA) - Palais de Sports du Velodrome D’Hiver, 24-04-1914

In the "Le Temps" of April 24, this record attempt is already announced.

Last Friday, in the presence of officials from the Fédération des Patineurs à Roulettes de France and Mr. Bazin, official timekeeper, amateur runner Henry Jourde, of the Paris Roller Skating Association, broke the world hour record for the fantastic distance of 29 kilometers and 253 meters, breaking the previous record of 370 meters and breaking thirty intermediate records in the meantime. It is the first time that a Frenchman wins the world records, which will become French records.

Source: De Avondpost, 30-04-1914; Le Voltaire, 28-04-1914

London (GBR) - Holland Park Rink, 14-03-1922

According to the Skating official handbook NSA 1938/39, Otto Lerwill (GBR) would have covered a distance of 30,906 (19 miles, 367 yards) meters on the Holland Park Rink, a track with a circumference of less than 200 meters. With this performance, he set a GBR record for amateurs at all distances from 6 to 15 miles.

Source: Skating official handbook NSA 1938/39

London (GBR) – Holland Park Rink, 15-02-1923

The world hour record has been set. In Holland Park, London, Alfonso Richard (Arthur) Eglington rode 19 miles and 550 yards, thus, 31,080 meters, according to L'Auto-Vélo. However, the British NSA Handbook talks about 19 miles and 651 yards. The old record was held by O. Lerwill with 31.456m. The French record is held by Henri Jourde, with 29.260m (should be 29.253m).

Source: L'Auto-Vélo, 18-02-1923; Skating official handbook NSA 1935-36

Milano (ITA), November 1947

The British press reported extensively on an Hour Record by Enrico Rossi (ITA), who would have covered a distance of just over 32 km in Milan. However, it is not known whether this was a road or track race.

Source: Mail John Fry, 06-04-2025

Udine (ITA), 14-12-1947

Giorgio Venanzi (ITA) is said to have covered a distance of 31,530 meters in one hour on skates on December 14, 1947 on a road course.

Source: Skating official handbook NSA 1953/54

Rome (ITA), 16-04-1950

The Italian Massimina Carucci is said to have covered a distance of 22,851.73 meters on a track in Rome. This would make her, as far as is known, the first female hour record holder. However, this is an interim period. She rode a five-hour race in Rome in which she covered 105km and 528m. During this race, she would have improved 21 world records in the process.

Source: Skating official handbook NSA 1953/54; Le Journal de Biarritz et de Cote Basque, 17-04-1950

Vallasina (ITA), 12-06-1952

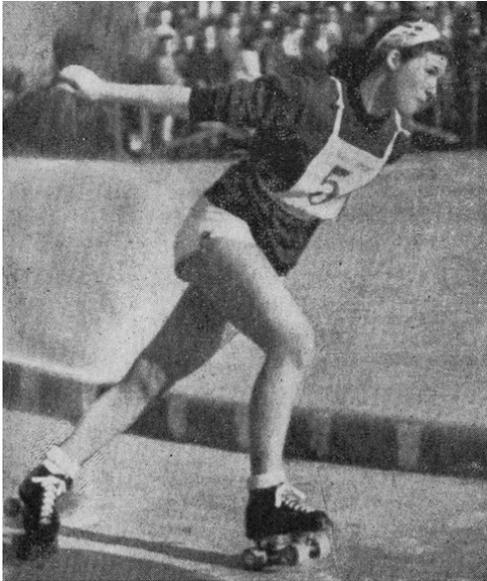
The Italian Angela Bossi rode a distance of 26,834.96 meters in one hour on a road course, improving the world record of Massima Carucci from 1950.

Source: Skating official handbook NSA 1953/54, Mail John J, Fry, 06-04-2025

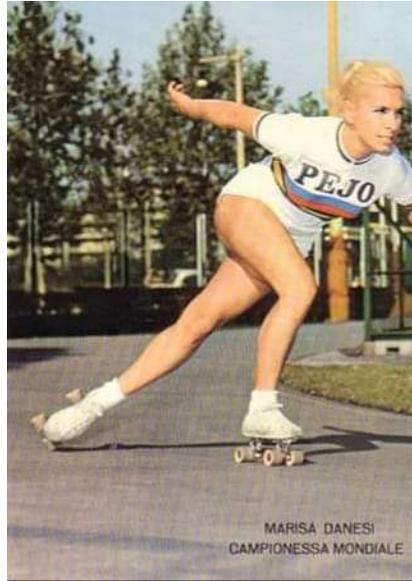
Ferrara (ITA), 30-10-1955

The Italian roller skater Alberta Vianello rode a distance of 29,374.05 meters in one hour on a road course

Source: Skating official handbook NSA 1964/65



Alberta Vianello



Marisa Danesi



RICORDI DI VITA

Giorgio Venanzi



Pat Barnett

London (GBR) – Alexandra Palace, 1955

Geoffrey Thomas (Geoff) Wright rode an hour-race and came (unpaced) to 19 miles, 204 yards and 1 foot, or 30.764.4 meters.

Source: Skating official handbook NSA 1955/56

Ferrara (ITA), 20-10-1956

The Italian Valeriano Pellizzari rode a distance of 33,378.80 meters in one hour on the road. According to a facebook entry, his hour record would have been set on 16-10-1956

Source: Skating official handbook NSA 1964/65



Pellizzari on his way to his hour record in 1956



Les Woodley

L'Aquila (ITA), 04-11-1956

The Italian Alberta Vianello is said to have set an hour record on November 4, 1956 and covered an (unconfirmed) distance of 29,939.50 meters

Source: Mail John J. Fry, 6-4-2025

Brixton (GBR), 24-09-1960

Briton Lesley Ernest (Les) Woodley registers a distance of 33,327.14 meters in one hour at Brixton Skating Rink. In the process, he improves 20 World Records from 500 meters to 30,000 meters and from 1/4 mile to 20 miles. The track in Brixton, in use from 1910 to ±1965, was normally a round track, but especially for this occasion the track was modified so that it had two corners and two straights, as the FIRS rules prescribed to qualify for an official record.

Source: Skating official handbook NSA 1964/65;
<https://www.britishskatinglegends.com/british-skating-legends/les-woodley>

Brixton (GBR), 24-06-1962

The British women's hour record is improved by Carole Patricia (Pat) Barnett. She comes to a distance of 33,425.05 meters in one hour on the track in Brixton. With this performance, she also improves 12 other records at various intermediate distances.

Barnett was also known as a personal assistant to singer Dusty Springfield.

Source: Skating official handbook NSA 1964/65

Bologna (ITA), 14-10-1967

Marisa Danesi has covered a world record distance of 32,766, 62 m in one hour in Bologna, 1967. In passing, 20 world records were improved at 1/4 mile, 1/2 mile, 1 mile, 3 miles, 5 miles, 10 miles, 15 miles and 20 miles, as well as the world record at 1/2 hour. The following metric world records were also improved: 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m, 5000m, 10,000m, 15,000m, 20,000m, 25,000m, 30,000m.

Source: Skating official handbook NSA 1968/69

Bologna (ITA), 15-10-1967

The Italian Alberto Civolani covered a distance of 35.831.14 m in an Hour one day after his compatriot Danesi, also in Bologna. This was an intermediate time during a 50 km road race.

An online source reported that on the concrete track of Corticella "on a balmy day without a breath of wind" he improved 15 world records on roller skates. From 15 to 100 km, from half an hour to two hours of racing. However, under the title "fifteen records in one day" stands from 1 to 31 October 1968. Is this the same achievement or did he set world records in both 1967 and 1968? Elsewhere we read that he stops in 1968.

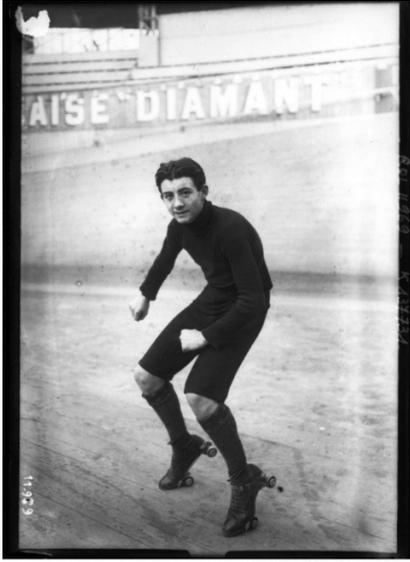
Source: Skating official handbook NSA 1968/69

<https://www.bibliotecasalaborsa.it/bolognaonline/events/quindici-record-in-un-giorno>

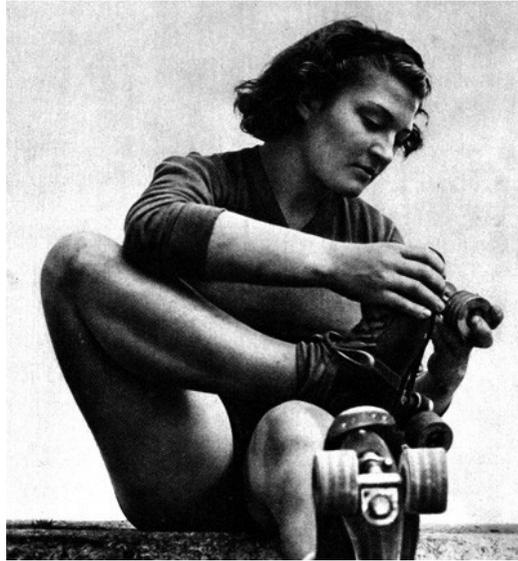
Inzell (FRG), 28-09-1968

Marisa Danesi covered a distance of 35.399 m. This achievement seems unlikely. Mareike Thum came up to 34.336m in 2020 on inline skates !!

https://archivio.unita.news/assets/main/1969/03/31/page_008.pdf



Charles Leveille



Angela Bossi



Geoff Thomas Wright



Alberto Civolani

Development of the world hour record roller skating

The first lists of hour records appeared around 1910. Hal Berte was always listed as the first holder of the hour record. However, two years before Berte's achievement, Wilson had already covered a greater distance in one hour. It is unclear why this achievement was not mentioned at the time.

Although the reporting seems reliable most of the time, there are still doubts about some performances. For example, A.R. Eglinton rode almost as far in 1923 as Evert van Benthem in 1988 ip Inline Skates and what about the performance of Marisa Danesi, who rode more than a kilometer further in 1968 than Mareike Thum would do in 2020. You would almost think that you go faster on "old-fashioned" roller skates than on modern Inline skates.....

Men track:

26.957m	Charles J. Wilson (GBR)	London (GBR)	24-03-1900
26.430m	Hal Berte (pro,GBR)	London (GBR)	01-03-1902
28.000m	Henri Pansaers (BEL)	Paris (FRA)	03-01-1911
28.375m	Jesse Carey (pro,CAN)	Paris (FRA)	29-01-1911
30.421m	Jesse Carey (pro,CAN)	Brussel (BEL)	11-02-1911
30.906m	Otto Lerwill (GBR)	London (GBR)	14-03-1922
31.080m	Arthur Eglinton (pro,GBR)	London (GBR)	15-02-1923
31.105m	Luciano Cavallini (ITA)	L'Aquila (ITA)	03-11-1956
33.327m	Les Woodley (GBR)	Brixton (GBR)	24-09-1960

Men road:

31.530m	Giorgio Venanzi (ITA)	Udine (ITA)	14-12-1947
33.378m	Valeriano Pellizzari (ITA)	Ferrara (ITA)	20-10-1956
35.831m	A. Civolani (ITA)	Bologna (ITA)	15-10-1967

Women track:

22.851m	Massimina Carucci (ITA)	Rome (ITA)	16-04-1950
29.939m	Alberta Vianello (ITA)	L'Aquila (ITA)	04-11-1956
33.425m	Carole P. Barnett (GBR)	Brixton (GBR)	24-06-1962
35.399m	Marisa Danesi (ITA)	Inzell (FRG)	28-09-1968

Women road:

26.834m	Angela Bossi (ITA)	Vallasina (ITA)	12-06-1952
29.374m	Alberta Vianello (ITA)	Ferrara (ITA)	30-10-1955
32.766m	Marisa Danesi	Bologna (ITA)	14-10-1967

Development of the world hour record for inline skating

Standings as of 1-10-2024

Men track:

31.516,42m	Evert van Benthem	Vriezenveen	30-04-1988
32.113,66m	Egbert Post	Vriezenveen	15-09-1988
32.325,58m	Dick Hoeve	Vriezenveen	22-06-1989
34.276,35m	Haico Bouma	Vriezenveen	14-08-1990
35.589,12m	Haico Bouma	Groningen	08-10-1994
36.460,52m	Tristan Loy (FRA)	Grenoble (FRA)	17-08-2000
36.512,40m	Frank Fiers (BEL)	Groningen	09-09-2005
1 39.932m	Felix Rheinen (GER)	Geisingen (GER)	05-07-2020

Men road:

34.820	Eddy Matzger	?	03-02-1990
35.811,65m	Tristan Loy (FRA)	Landevant (FRA)	25-05-1998
36.493	Mauro Guenci (ITA)	Senigallia (ITA)	21-07-2000
36.828	Mauro Guenci (ITA)	Senigallia (ITA)	30-06-2002
38.632m	Mauro Guenci (ITA)	Senigallia (ITA)	11-06-2005

Women track:

28,203,69m	Tineke Hoogendijk	Vriezenveen	30-04-1988
30.550,22m	Karin Verhoeff	Vriezenveen	14-08-1990
31.722m	Linda Schellekens	Grenoble (FRA)	12-10-2003
1 34.336m	Mareike Thum (GER)	Geisingen (GER)	05-07-2020

Current Hour Records

National records inline skates

Men:

België	Frank Fiers	36.512,m	Groningen (NED)	09-09-2005
Duitsland	Felix Rheinen	39.932 m	Geisingen (GER)	05-07-2020
Frankrijk	Tristan Loy	36.460 m	Grenoble (FRA)	16-08-2000
Italië	Mauro Guenci	38.632 m	Senigallia (ITA)	11-06-2005
Nederland	Haico Bouma	35.589 m	Groningen (NED)	08-10-1994
USA	Eddie Matzger	±33.000 m	??	03-02-1990

Women:

Duitsland	Mareike Thum	34.336 m	Geisingen (GER)	05-07-2020
Nederland	Linda Schellekens	31.722 m	Grenoble (FRA)	12-10-2003

Sources:

The following sources have been used for the compilation of this book:

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- E-mail John C. Fry, 06-04-2025

Bijlage 1 Kranteknipfels

RECORD DU MONDE BATTU
 LONDRES, 15 février. — Le record mondial de l'heure a été battu, à Holland Park, par A.R. Eglinton, qui couvrit 19 milles 550 yards, soit 31 kilom. 569 m. L'ancien record était détenu par O. Lerwill, avec 31 kilom. 456 m. Le record de France appartient à Jourde avec 29 kilom. 260 m.

L'Auto, 18-2-1923

PATINAGE A ROULETTES
Le record de l'heure
 Dimanche dernier, 29 janvier, sur le rink du Palais des Sports, Jesse Carey, le brillant gagnant des 24 heures, s'est attaqué au record de l'heure qu'il détenait avec 26 kil. 100. Il a réussi de belle façon, battant le record de plus de 2 kilomètres. Aidé par d'excellents entraîneurs, Carey n'a pas tardé à donner l'impression de la victoire, il couvrait les 10 kil. en 20 m. 55, les 20 kil. en 42.24 et après avoir couvert 14 kil. 170 dans la demi-heure, il terminait avec 28 kil. 375. Le précédent record appartenait à Hal Berte qui, en 1902, couvrit 26 kil. 430, mais étant donnée l'énorme différence des pistes, asphalte ou bois, il est des plus difficile d'établir une comparaison entre ces deux records.

Tout les sports, 3-2-1911

En patinant 5 heures durant
L'Italienne Massimima Carucci s'adjuge 21 records
 Rome. — La championne italienne Massimima Carucci a établi à Rome au cours d'une seule tentative, 21 nouveaux records du monde de patinage à roulettes. Massimima Carucci a notamment couvert les 50 kms en 2 h. 13 minutes 35 secondes (moyenne horaire 22 kms 450) et les 100 kms en 4 h 32'51" 7/10 (moyenne horaire 21 kms 585).
 La tentative a duré exactement 5 heures au cours desquelles la championne italienne a couvert 105 kms 328.

Le Journal de Biarritz.... , 17-4-1950

ROLSCHAATSEN.
Het Nederlandsche uur-record.
 Op de rolschaatsbaan in het Paleis voor Volkslijft werd Zaterdagavond te 11¼ uur gestart voor het Nederlandsche uurrecord met gangmakers, door de heeren H. Smit, recordhouder van België, met 25.485 K.M. (baan te Aariwerpen) en de instructeur A. Harris.
 Niettegenstaande de smalle bochten — welke zonder overstappen genomen moesten worden — werd er snel gereden.
 Het resultaat was: A. Harris met 20.780 K.M. (259¾ ronde) H. Smit met 20.140 K.M. (251¾ ronde).
 De belangstelling van het publiek was zeer groot, vooral de stijl van den heer Harris werd bijzonder geroemd. Tijdopnemer was de bekende amateur A. Franken.

De courant 6-3-1911

Rolschaatsen.
SWEERTS WERELDRECORDHOUDER.
 De amateur-rolschaatsenrijder Ch. Sweerts, heeft een aanval gedaan op het **uurrecord**, der amateurs in het Sportpaleis te Parijs. Hij legde in het uur 28 k.l. 233 m. af, zijn eigen record neerhalende wat stond op 27 kil. 165 meter.
 Voorwaar, prachtig gereden, als men nagaat dat het record der beroepsrijders maar staat op 28 kil. 866 m. gehouden door Carey.

De Maasbode 2-12-1911

**** Rolschaatsen.** Men wijst er ons op dat het uurrecord rolschaatsenrijden, gisteren in ons blad niet geheel juist is medegedeeld. Het record 26 K.M. 430 M., staande op naam van Ch. Sweerts Parijs, werd 26 Dec. j.l. verbeterd met 650 M. door Henri Pansaers, Belg, in het Sporting Palace te Brussel, zoodat het thans is 28 K.M. 883 M.

Rotterdamsch Nieuwsblad 12-1-1912