

Strange but true!

Four amazing sporting records

1 Surfing

Standing on a surfboard is difficult enough normally, but in 2013, American Bernie Boehm surfed for thirty-three seconds while spinning a basketball on one finger!

2 Athletics

In 2008, German Christopher Irmischer ran 100 metres along a running track and jumped over ten hurdles. It took him 14.82 seconds. That's not fast. That's because he was wearing flippers on his feet instead of trainers, and a mask and snorkel on his head! How strange!

3 Cycling

In 2013, another German, Jens Stötzner, went cycling ... underwater! He rode his bike around the bottom of a swimming pool seventy-eight times – a distance of 6.708 kilometres! I wonder if he was wearing a helmet!

4 Ice hockey

In 2008, the Slovakian women's ice hockey team beat Bulgaria. They won the match very easily, scoring a goal every forty-four seconds! On the electronic scoreboard, the final score was 82–0!

5  Read the article again and answer the questions. In pairs, compare your answers.

- 1 Which record do you think is the most amazing?
- 2 Which is your favourite? Why?
- 3 What other sporting records do you know?

5.05 **WORD FRIENDS** Complete the phrases with these words. Listen and check.

beat goal medal record take part
take up team volunteer

- 1 volunteer at a sports event/a club
- 2 (...) in a race/competition
- 3 (...) a sport
- 4 win a (...) /game/match
- 5 break/hold a (...)
- 6 score a (...)
- 7 support a (...)
- 8 (...) a team/an opponent

7  5.03 Study and listen to the Vocabulary B box. Check you understand the words.

VOCABULARY B Sporting events

changing room court fan opponent pitch
scoreboard stadium tournament track

8  5.04 Complete the blog post with the correct form of the words in the Vocabulary B box. Listen and check.

My greatest sporting success

My greatest sporting success didn't take place on a running ¹ track in a big ² (...). It was on the tennis ³ (...) behind my school last June. It was the first game in a tennis ⁴ (...). I didn't feel nervous as I took my kit out of my bag in the ⁵ (...) rooms. Nobody expected me to win, not even me. I'm not very good at tennis. But that day I played brilliantly. My racket felt like part of my arm. Almost every ball I hit went flying over the net. My ⁶ (...) didn't know what to do. I won the match easily. The final score was 6–1, 6–2. I've never played so well since then!

