



## Greta Andersen, Honor Swimmer, Denmark, 1964



Greta being presented the winner's trophy for the Butlin English Channel race by IMSHOF Honoree Sir William "Billy" Butlin

Personal Website (None known)

**Greta Andersen** won 13 Majors: 1961 Canadian National Exhibition; 1958 and 1962 Lac St, Jean; 1957 and 1958 English Channel Race; 1956, 1967, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962 and 1963 Around Atlantic City; and 1959 Capri to Naples [she also beat all men in the 1958 Lac St Jean and English Channel Race]. She won a gold medal in the 100-meter freestyle and a silver medal in 4 x 100 meter freestyle relay in the 1948 Olympics. She was fourth in 4 x 100 meter freestyle relay and eighth in the 400-meter freestyle at the 1952 Olympics. She held world records from 100 yards in 1949 to 50 miles in 1962, from Chicago to Kenosha, Wisconsin, USA. She set 72 amateur swimming records. Greta swam the English Channel five times. She completed a double-crossing of the English Channel and was the first person to complete a double-crossing of the Catalina Channel in 1958 in 26 hours and 53 minutes. Greta's marathon career took place after she moved to the USA.

She was the first woman in the 1956 16 km (10-mile) Salton Sea marathon swim in the California, USA desert, a 24 km (15-mile) Huntington Beach-to-Long Beach swim in 1957, a 42 km (26-mile) swim in Guaymas, Mexico that took her 12 hours in 1957, the 36 km (22.5-mile) Around the Island Swim in Atlantic City, USA in 12 hours and 36 minutes in 1957, the 24 km (15-mile) Owen Sound Marathon in Canada in 6 hours and 15 minutes in 1957, the Around the Island Swim in Atlantic City, USA in 1958, in 1959 in 11 hours and 7 minutes and 1963 the 30.5 km (19-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac Memphrémagog in 1958 in Canada. Greta won the 42 km (26-mile) professional marathon swim in Guaymas, Mexico in 1958 and did a single-crossing of the Catalina Channel in 1958 in 11 hours and 7 minutes. She also won the 80.4 km (50-mile) race in 1962 in Lake Michigan.

She truly earned her title of the “World’s Greatest Female Swimmer”. She is also an inductee in the International Swimming Hall of Fame (1996) and a recipient of their Lifetime Achievement Award (2015).

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)

### Danish Translation

**Greta Andersen** vandt 13 Majors: 1961 Canadian National Exhibition; 1958 og 1962 Lac St, Jean; 1957 og 1958 English Channel Race; 1956, 1967, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962 og 1963 omkring Atlantic City; og 1959 Capri til Napoli [hun slog også alle mænd i Lac St Jean og English Channel Race i 1958]. Hun vandt en guldmedalje i 100 meter freestyle og en sølvmedalje i 4 x 100 meter freestyle stafet i OL i 1948. Hun blev fjerde i 4 x 100 meter freestyle rholdkap og ottende i det 400 meter fristil ved OL i 1952. Hun holdt verdensrekorder fra 100 yards i 1949 til 50 miles i 1962, fra Chicago til Kenosha, Wisconsin, USA. Hun satte 72 amatør svømning rekorder. Greta svømmede Den Engelske Kanal fem gange. Hun afsluttede en dobbeltkrydsning af Den Engelske Kanal og var den første person til at gennemføre en dobbeltkrydsning af Catalina Channel i 1958 på 26 timer 53 minutter. Gretas maratonkarriere startede, efter at hun flyttede til USA.

Hun var den første kvinde i 1956 16 km (10 km) Salton Sea-maraton-svømmetur i Californien, USA-ørkenen, en 24 km (15 km) Huntington Beach-to-Long Beach-svømmetur i 1957, en 42 km (26 km) -mile svømme i Guaymas, Mexico, der tog hende 12 timer i 1957, den 36 km (22,5 mile) Omkring øen svømmer i Atlantic City, USA på 12 timer og 36 minutter i 1957, den 24 km (15-mile) Owen Sound Marathon i Canada på 6 timer og 15 minutter i 1957, rundt om øen svømmer i Atlantic City, USA i 1958, i 1959 på 11 timer og 7 minutter og 1963 den 30,5 km (19 km) Traversée internationale du Lac Memphrémagog i 1958 i Canada. Greta vandt 42 km (26-mile) professionel maraton-svømmetur i Guaymas, Mexico i 1958 og gjorde en 11-timers 7-minutters enkeltkrydsning af Catalina Channel i 1958. Hun vandt også 80,4 km (50-mile) i 1962 i Lake Michigan.

Hun har virkelig opnået sin titel som ”Verdens største kvindelige svømmer”. Hun er også en inductør i International Swimming Hall of Fame (1996) og modtager af deres Lifetime Achievement Award (2015).