



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

Videos: [Interview 1](#) [Documentary 1](#) [Show 1](#) [Panel 1](#) [Swim 1](#) [Swim 2 at 2:08 & 12:12](#) [Pathé 1](#) [ISHOF 1](#)

Greta Andersen won 14 Majors: 1961 Canadian National Exhibition; 1958 and 1962 Lac St, Jean; 1957, 1958 and 1959 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 was first to complete a 2-way crossing of the Catalina Channel in 1958 in 26 hours and 53 minutes – setting the female speed record Catalina to Mainland which she held until 1977. In 1959 she set the female speed record Mainland to Catalina which she held until 1974. Greta set female speed records in the English Channel: 1958 France to England in 11 hours and 1 minutes – held until 1967 and 1964 England to France in 13 hours and 40 minutes – held until 1971. She set the female speed record in Capri-Naples in 1955 in 11 hours 5 minutes and 52 seconds which held until 1962 and twice in Lac St. Jean (26 km overall record in 1958 in 8 hours and 17 minutes which held until 2023 (and beyond) and 30-32 km in 1962 in 10 hours and 14 minutes – which held until 1966).

Greta was the overall winner in the 80.5 km 1962 race in Lake Michigan, Greta crossed the English Channel 5 times and Catalina 4 times. She won, as the first woman in the following races: 1956 16 km Salton Sea in California; 24 km Huntington Beach-to-Long Beach in 1957; 42 km in Guaymas, México in 1957 and 1958; and 24 km Owen Sound in Canada in 6 hours and 15 minutes in 1957

She won gold in the 100-meter freestyle and silver in 4 x 100 meter freestyle relay in the 1948 Olympics. She was 4th in 4 x 100 meter freestyle relay and 8th in the 400-meter freestyle at the 1952

Olympics. She held the world record for 100 yards for seven years from 1949. She set 72 amateur swimming records. Greta's marathon career took place after she moved to the USA.

She is 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 14 majors: 1961 Canadian National Exhibition; 1958 og 1962 Lac St. Jean; 1957, 1958 og 1959 English Channel Race; 1956, 1967, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962 og 1963 Around Atlantic City; og 1959 Capri to Naples [hun slog også alle mænd i 1958 Lac St. Jean og English Channel Race].

Hun var den første til at gennemføre en tovejsoverfart over Catalina-kanalen i 1958 på 26 timer og 53 minutter – satte den kvindelige hastighedsrekord Catalina til Mainland, som hun havde indtil 1977. I 1959 satte hun den kvindelige hastighedsrekord Mainland til Catalina, som hun havde indtil 1974. Greta satte kvindelige hastighedsrekorder i den Engelske Kanal: 1958 fra Frankrig til England på 11 timer og 1 minut - holdt indtil 1967 og 1964 fra England til Frankrig på 13 timer og 40 minutter - holdt indtil 1971. Hun satte den kvindelige hastighedsrekord i Capri-Napoli i 1955 på 11 timer, 5 minutter og 52 sekunder, som holdt indtil 1962 og 52 sekunder, som holdt indtil 1962, og to gange i Lac St. Jean (26 km samlet rekord i 1958 på 8 timer og 17 minutter, som holdt indtil 2023 (og derefter) og 30-32 km i 1962 på 10 timer og 14 minutter - som holdt indtil 1966).

Greta blev den samlede vinder (hun slog alle mændene) i 1958 Lac St. Jean-løbet og i 1962 i 80,5 km-løbet i Lake Michigan. Greta krydsede den Engelske Kanal 5 gange og Catalina 4 gange. Hun vandt som den første kvinde i følgende løb: 1956 16 km Salton Sea i Californien; 24 km Huntington Beach-to-Long Beach i 1957; 42 km i Guaymas, Mexico i 1957 og 1958; og 24 km Owen Sound i Canada på 6 timer og 15 minutter i 1957.

Hun vandt guld i 100 meter fristil og sølv i 4 x 100 meter fristilstafet ved OL i 1948. Hun blev nr. 4 i 4 x 100 meter fritstilstafet og nr. 8 i 400 meter fristil ved OL i 1952. Hun holdt verdensrekorden på 100 meter i syv år fra 1949. Hun satte 72 amatørsvømmerekorder. Gretas maratonkarriere fandt sted, efter at hun flyttede til USA.

Hun er optaget i International Swimming Hall of Fame (1996) og modtager af deres Lifetime Achievement Award (2015).