



## 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 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 won 13 world championships and set 72 amateur swimming records. Greta swam the English Channel five times, winning the famous Butlin English Channel Race twice in 1957 and 1958 in 10 hours and 59 minutes, and winning the women's event from 1957 to 1959. 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.

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) World Long Distance Open Water Swimming Championship 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 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 vandt 13 verdensmesterskaber og satte 72 amatører for svømning i amatører. Greta svømmede Den Engelske Kanal fem gange, vandt det berømte Butlin English Channel Race to gange i 1957 og 1958 på 10 timer 59 minutter, og vandt kvindernes begivenhed fra 1957 til 1959. 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. 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) World Long Distance Open Water Swimming Championship 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).