



CITY OF CALAIS

# Butlin's INTERNATIONAL CROSS-CHANNEL SWIMMING RACE

SUPPORTED JOINTLY BY THE BOROUGH OF FOLKESTONE,  
ENGLAND; AND THE CITY OF CALAIS, FRANCE



BOROUGH OF FOLKESTONE

PRESIDENT: W. E. BUTLIN, Esq., M.B.E.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF FOLKESTONE :: LE MAIRE, CONSEILLER GENERAL, CALAIS

**Honorary Secretary**

C. J. Cumming, F.C.I.S.

439/441 OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1

PLEASE REPLY TO :



**Swim Controller**

J. Murray-Smith

9 SOUTHAMPTON PLACE, W.C.1

Telephone : CHANCERY 2131

JULY 1956



**Swim Marshal and Technical Adviser**

Sam Rockett

(France to England 1950)

FOLKESTONE BATHING POOL

Telephone : FOLKESTONE 4488

I M P O R T A N T

PRESS

RELEASE

ON

ENGLISH

CHANNEL SWIM RACE

AUGUST 1956



**Honorary Medical Officer**

Dr. I. Harvey Flack, M.D.



**Press Officer**

Harold Vinter,

439/441 OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1

Telephone : MAYFAIR 9811



**Official Timekeeper**

W. Hutton, M.B.H.I.

(Smith's English Clocks)



**Race Headquarters**

FOLKESTONE POOL

1,000 GUINEA SILVER TROPHY AND £1,900 CASH PRIZES

BUTLIN CHANNEL

SWIM RACE

Twenty-nine Competitors for  
mass start on Sunday  
AUGUST 12th 1956.

*DIARY*

Never before have so many people sent in applications wanting to swim the English Channel. They claim that the Channel, because of its length and difficulties, is the most testing long distance swim in the world. Open to swimmers of any Nationality, Billy Butlin and his Swim Committee finally selected twenty-nine top line swimmers, the greatest number ever to compete for the thousand guinea Butlin Challenge Cup and £1,900 in cash prizes made up as follows:-

<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>
1st Place: £500	1st Place: £500
2nd Place: £250	2nd Place: £250
3rd Place: £100	3rd Place: £100
4th Place: £50	4th Place: £50

In addition, he will award a special prize of £100 to the British man or woman, who, in the opinion of the judges, puts up the best performance of any British swimmer.

The twenty-nine competitors selected represent twenty countries as follows:-

<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>MEN</u>	
Greta Marie Andersen	Denmark	Thomas Laurie Park	U.S.A.
Gaby Vegni	Egypt	Mihir Sen	India
Inas Hakky	Egypt	Toufic Blake	Lebanon
Florence Louise Burdette	America	Mohamad El Soussi	Syria
Diara Christina Cleverley	New Zealand	Jack Antione Cloutier	Canada
Margaret Isobel Sweeney	New Zealand	Erik Martin	Sweden
Maria Meesters	Holland	Alfredo Camarero	Argentine
Brenda Fisher	England	Dogan Sahin	Turkey
Edna Borenstein	Israel	Kurt Feilen	Germany
Elizabeth Jacoba Viid	South Africa	Ian Harborne Tirrell	S. Africa
		Joaquim Baptista Pereira	Portugal
		Clarence Wentworth Conza	New Zealand
		Abdel Latif Abou Heif	Egypt
		John Francis Healy	Irish Free State
		William Edward Barnie	Scotland
		Frederick Charles Oldman	England
		Jack Maddock McClelland	N.Ireland
		Ronald Morisco Tarr	England
		Harold Bracewell	England

TIME KEEPING BY  
SMITH'S ENGLISH  
CLOCKS.

### THE SWIM

The Race Headquarters is the Folkestone Swimming Pool, where the Press Office will be established and available for all press information daily from Wednesday August 1st until after completion of the swim.

The swimmers will leave the Folkstone Beach in an armada of over sixty boats at about 5.30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon August 12th for Cap Griz Nez, when they will enter the water in a mass start about midnight. It is expected that some of the first swimmers across will be landing on the English shores around 2 p.m. on Monday afternoon August 13th.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The Control Ship will be the steam yacht "WENDORIAN" a vessel of 120 tons from the King Edward VII Nautical College. She will have a full time professional crew and carry about ten cadets from the College for training. The "WENDORIAN" is equipped with Decca Radar Navigator, visual echo sounder and Pye Marine radiotelephone.

In addition the Swim Controller will be aboard this vessel together with Captain Austin Davies, official navigator appointed by Trinity House, and the Operations Room will be manned by the 21st S.A.S. Regiment (Artists Rifles).

All vessels escorting the swimmers, will carry a Signaller of this Regiment equipped with V.H.F. radio and will be in constant touch with progress reports to the "WENDORIAN".

The Press Office at Folkestone will have a direct two way Radio link with the Control Ship "WENDORIAN" and up to date reports will be available to the press on shore. Arrangements can also be made for any special communique to be received by individual Press Reporters.

### BOAT RESERVATIONS

#### FOR PRESS

Any press or film Reporters requiring a boat reservation should make an application as soon as possible to the Press Officer after August 1st. Organiser of the race, Billy Butlin will have at his disposal throughout the swim, two fast Speed Boats for Press and Film liason work.

### TRAINING

All the swimmers will be in full training at the Folkestone Pool and in the sea from August 1st onwards, and will be officially welcomed by the Mayor of Folkestone and Mr. Butlin at a Swimming Gala on Friday evening August 10th when they will all be available for advance press stories, films and photographs.

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COMPETITORS

William Edward ('Ned') Barnie - Age 59 - Scottish

Address: 7 Straiton Place, Portobello, Midlothian.

Record: Swam from France to England 1950/51, England to France 1951.  
The grand old man of marathon swimming trains on whisky.  
Competed in 1955 Butlin's International Channel Swim Race.  
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Frederick Charles Oldman - Age 40 - British

Address: 2 Cambridge Road, Huddersfield, Yorkshire.

Record: Cross Channel Swimmer 30.8.55. (14 hrs. 31 mins.)  
Ex record holder Lake Windermere swim (5 hrs. 53 mins.)  
10½ miles Essex long distance champion, 1946/50/52  
Winner of Festival of Britain Solent Swim 1951.  
Southsea Pier to Pier Swim 1949.  
Holder Huddersfield and District A.S.A. Open Water Record  
13 miles (24.6.56.)  
.....

Jack Maddock McClelland - Age 32 - Irish

Address: 329 Antrim Road, Belfast, Ireland.

Record: 15¾ hrs Butlin's Race 1954  
12 " 5 mins " " 1955  
Over 500 miles in pool and sea training since Sept. 1955  
Schoolboy International footballer. Professional Wrestler.  
Engineering Draughtsman.  
Vegetarian for past 14 years. Married (wife also vegetarian).  
Trains 3 times daily - eat once daily only (at 8.30 p.m.)  
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Ronald Morisco Tarr - Age 19 - British

Address: 107 Lanark Road, Maida Vale, W.9.

Record: Took part in Butlin's International Cross Channel Swim 1955.  
Now in training at Folkestone Swimming Pool.  
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Harold Bracewell - Age 47 - British

Address: 61 Crossland Road, Marton, Blackpool.

Record: 11 miles Morecambe Cross Bay Swim - 3 hrs. 17 mins.  
16 miles in Lake Windermere - 9 hrs. 40 mins.  
Footballer and Ice Hockey Player.  
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Brenda Fisher - Age 27 - British

Address: 154 Scarthoe Road, Grimsby, Lincs.,

Record: Channel 1951 - 1954  
Winner (women's record) Nile Race 1956.  
(Won women's section of Butlin's Channel Swim Race in 1954  
in 14 hrs. 25 mins.)  
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Thomas Laurie Park - Age 32 - American

Address: Tom Park Swim Enterprises, 4018A Elsa St., Lakewood 11,  
California, U.S.A.

Record: Atlantic City 25 World Championship 1954 and 1955.  
Catalina Channel record - both ways.  
(2nd in 1955 Channel Swim - 12 hrs. 2 mins.)  
The Butlin International Channel Swim Race.  
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Mihir Sen - Age 27 - Indian

Address: 87, Karnani Estate, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta 17, India.

Is over here now - Address: 250 Camden Road, London, N.W.1.

Record: Represented India in Butlin's International Cross Channel  
Swimming Race in 1955, swam for 11 hrs. 30 mins.  
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Toufic Blake - Age 25 - Lebanese

Address: P.O.Box 632, Beirut, Lebanon

Is at present in America and has no fixed address until he comes to  
England for the race, sometime in July.

Record: Champion of Lebanon for long distance.  
Crossed the English Channel 1953.  
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Mohamad El Soussi - Age 28 - Syrian

Address: P.O.Box 2424, Damascus, Syria.

Record: Crossed the Channel in 1954, 5th in International Race,  
17 hrs. 55 mins.  
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Jack Antione Cloutier - Age 24 - Canadian

Address: 337 Laird Blvd., Mt. Royal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Is now at Folkestone - Address: Seagulls Hotels, West Leas, Folkestone.

Record: A member of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association - water  
polo player for the Club - also entered the Olympic trials in 1948.  
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Erik Martin - Age 53 - Swedish

Address: Artillerigatan 28C, Stockholm, Sweden.

Record: More than 30 years competing in long distance swims in  
U.S.A. and many other countries.  
Is a journalist and writes for one of the largest Swedish  
newspapers - "Aftonbladet".  
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Alfredo Camarero - Age 25 - Argentinian

Address: Salta 353, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Record: Argentine champion 1954-55.  
Winner in 1955 race Capri "Naples."

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Dogan Sahin - Age 25 - Turk

Address: Ayaspa Mezarlik Sok. 21/12, Taksim - Istanbul, Turkey.

Record: Winner of 1954 St. Nazaire Loire-Ocean Swimming Race.

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Kurt Feilen - Age 30 - German

Address: c/o Harry Hollinger, Voelkingen-Saar, Schillerstr. No. 16.,  
Germany.

Record: One of Germany's best swimmers.

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Ian Harborne Tirrell - Age 33 - South African

Has been over here training for some time - Address:  
Silverton, Church Street, Alcombe, Minehead, Somerset.

Record: Former English, South African, Egyptian champion and record  
holder over various distances.  
Completed 8 hr. swim in Minehead Pool.

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Joaquim Baptista Pereira - Age 35 - Portuguese

Address: Praca 7 de Marco, No. 21, Alhandra, Portugal.

Record: Winner of Butlin's 1954 Channel Race in 12 hrs. 25 mins.  
Holds European long distance record.  
Former record holder of Gibraltar straits crossing.

.....

Clarence Wentworth Conza - Age 33 - New Zealander

Present Address: Pier Hotel, Marine Crescent, Folkestone, Kent.

Record: New Zealand 3 mile and Auckland 3 mile championships for  
three consecutive years 1949/50/51.  
Auckland 100 yds to 1 mile championships.  
All harbour races and several open water swims from 6 miles  
to 20 miles.  
Sponsored by the Auckland Electric Power Board.

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John Francis Healy - Age 29 - Irish

Address: 19 Herbert Place, Dublin.

Record: Just completed eight months training covering over 500 miles  
since September 1955. Longest time 6 hrs - distance 14 miles.

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Abdel Latif Abou Heif - Age 26 - Egypt

Address: 13, Kasr El Nil, Cairo.

Record: Cross Channel Swim 1952 France/England  
Cross Channel Swim 1953 England/France  
Winner Butlin's Cross Channel Swim 1955 (11 hrs. 44 mins)  
Winner Nile Marathon 1955  
Winner St.Nazaire - La Boule race 1954 and 1955.

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Margaret Isobel Sweeney - Age 26 - New Zealander

Address: 103, Elmcroft Ave., Wanstead, E.11.

Record: 26 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles Lake Taupo 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.  
30 miles Waikato Lake  
16 miles Kale Rotoura  
40 miles Nile River Race  
British Empire Games 1950  
10 miles Lake Teanau  
N.Z. Champion sprinter 1949/50/51.  
Competed in last year's Butlin International Channel Swim.

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Maria Meesters - Age 17 - Dutch

Address: c/o Ad Vriens, Z.O.Singel 15, Bergen Op Zoom, Holland.

Record: 32 Km in open water in 6 hrs. 20 mins.

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Elizabeth Jacoba Wiid - Age 22 - South African

Address: c/o South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London, W.1.

Record: Cape Town - Robben Island - March 1955.  
Straits of Gibraltar - June 1956.

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Edna Borenstein - Age 19 $\frac{1}{2}$  - Israel

Address: 208 Kiryat Matalon, Petach-Tikva, Israel.

Record: Length of Lake of Galilee (22 Kilometers)  
34 kilometers in the sea from Haifa to Rosh Hainkra.

.....

Gaby Vegni - Age 21 - Egyptian

Address: 13, Kasr El Nil, Cairo

Record: 2nd in St. Nazaire - La Boule Race 1955  
2nd Nile Marathon 1954  
3rd Nile Marathon 1956  
First Egyptian girl to compete in the 1955  
Butlin International Swimming Race.

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Inas Hakky - Age 26 - Egyptian

Address: 13 Kasr El Nil, Cairo

Record: 1st Nile Marathon Amateur 1954  
2nd Capri-Naples Race 1955  
1st St. Nazaire-La Boule Race 1955.

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Florence Louise Burdette - Age 27 - American

Address: 7 Rue des Fonts, Buzancais, France (Indre)

Record: In Sept, 1955 became the first to swim the 10 mile length  
of Lake Chambon in France in 5 hours 27 mins.

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Diana Christina Cleverley - Age 22 - New Zealander

Address: 7 Marine Parade, Folkestone

Record: Finalist in National Swimming Championships of N.A. 1949/50/51.  
Fastest time for women in Taranaki Harbour Swim 1953/54/55.  
Completed 12 mile swim in Auckland Harbour in 5 hrs. in 1956.

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Greta Marie Andersen - Age 29 - Danish

Address: 11742 $\frac{1}{2}$  Lakewood Blvd., Downey, California, U.S.A.

Record: 1948 Olympic 100 meters free-style champion.  
Former World 100 yd. free-style record holder.  
World record holder 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles Salton Sea - 4 hrs. 25 mins. 20 secs.  
Is swimming in Atlantic City Marathon on July 18th and will be in  
England a week later for the Butlin International Channel Swim Race.

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Sent with the compliments of:- ~~Harold Winter~~,  
Public Relations Officer,  
Butlin's Limited,  
439/441, Oxford Street,  
London, W.1.

Telephone: MAYFAIR 9811