

## NEWS

# Jersey-trained teenager is the youngest to swim North Channel

By Tom Innes

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A TEENAGER from India who spent six weeks training in Jersey under the eye of an Island swimming legend has become the youngest person to swim the North Channel from Ireland to Scotland.

After being delayed for nearly a week by bad weather, Anshuman Jhingran set off from Donaghadee in Northern Ireland on Monday morning, and shortly before sunset reached the Rhins of Galloway in south-west Scotland.

The swimming prodigy used ice baths while training in his native Mumbai in a bid to acclimatise to cold water before travelling to Jersey in May. He was timed at 11 hours 29 minutes for the North Channel, which covers a straight-line distance of 21 miles.

On completing the swim, Mr Jhingran became the 114th successful North Channel swimmer since the first recorded crossing in 1947 and – at 18 years 125 days – took the title as the youngest swimmer to achieve the feat, beating his compatriot Prabhat Koli by around eight months.

Jersey-based swimmer and coach Sally Minty-



■ Anshuman Jhingran after his round-Jersey attempt – with his Jersey tutor Sally Minty-Gravett and, right, on his swim from Northern Ireland to Scotland. Picture: JON GUEGAN

Gravett, a veteran of eight successful English Channel swims, mentored Mr Jhingran while he was in Jersey and had hoped to see the swim first-hand after travelling to Belfast on 8 July.

She said: 'We had a possible window starting on 11 July, but the weather

was dire and I had to come home on Saturday to look after my dog.

'Suddenly, on Sunday, the conditions improved and we had a Zoom call at which they said Monday was looking possible, so I had to follow on the tracker from Jersey.'

The signs for a success-

ful swim were not good, with three unsuccessful attempts last week by other swimmers, one of whom was hospitalised as a result of jellyfish stings.

Mrs Minty-Gravett added: 'It was a textbook swim, Anshu never complained and I knew he wouldn't get out of the water unless there was a serious problem.'

'It was quite rough for a couple of hours halfway across and there were some jellyfish stings leading up to dusk, but he carried on and it was great to finish while it was still light.'

Mr Jhingran has ambitions to use the experience based in Jersey and from the North Channel as a launchpad to attempt the Oceans Seven challenge, which encompasses some of the world's toughest swims, including the English Channel, New Zealand's Cook Strait and the Molokai Channel in Hawaii.

After flying back to Mumbai, Mr Jhingran hopes to complete the second of the seven swims in the challenge in the USA at the end of August, when he will take on the 20-miles Catalina Channel between Los Angeles and Santa Catalina Island.

Mr Koli, who congratulated his fellow Indian in a

## Swim stats

■ The North Channel covers the stretch of water between Northern Ireland and the south-west tip of Scotland, a straight-line distance of 21.4 miles.

■ English swimmer 'Torpedo' Tom Blower was the first person to complete the swim in 1947 in 15 hours 26 minutes; his feat was not repeated until 1970.

■ Eight of the 114 successful crossings have been completed in under ten hours, with the fastest recorded time being nine hours nine minutes by Jordan Leckey of Ireland in 2021.

■ This week's water temperature range was recorded at between 12.8°C and 14°C, compared with the current figure for Jersey of 17.2°C.

■ The longest distance among the Oceans Seven swims is the Molokai Channel in Hawaii, which measures 27 miles.



Facebook message, became the youngest of the 23 people to have completed the Oceans Seven challenge when he swam across the Cook Strait in March of this year at the age of 23.

## Competition regulator takes over as chair of homelessness charity

By Rod McLoughlin

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JERSEY Competition and Regulatory Authority chief executive Tim Ringsdore has become chair of homelessness charity the Sanctuary Trust.

Mr Ringsdore, who became a trustee in November 2021, takes over from Frank Walker, who served as chair for five years and will continue as a trustee.

Mr Walker's involvement goes back ten years, a period in which the trust has opened a third shelter and navigated substantial change and challenge, including operating during the pandemic and adapting to new regulatory requirements in the care sector.

He described Sanctuary Trust as 'a criti-



■ Tim Ringsdore

cal charity in our community', and said he was humbled and honoured to have been able to support its team and their residents during challenging times.

Established in 2011 by a group of committed Christians and St Brelade parishioners to provide emergency accommodation for men facing homelessness, the trust has helped more than 300 men who have been at a crisis point in their lives.

It provides accommodation for up to 30 residents across three facilities, providing counselling, helping those who are unemployed find work and securing accommodation for when residents are ready to live independently. It also offers outreach services to residents once they have moved into their own homes.

Mr Ringsdore paid tribute to his predecessor's achievements, particularly in raising awareness and securing funding. 'Since joining as trustee, I have been profoundly struck by the work that Sanctuary does and by the very real problem we have with homelessness in our Island,' he said.

General manager Sarah Tumelty said she and her team were looking forward to working together with Mr Ringsdore and the other trustees.

Tim Ringsdore

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