

Top triathlete lends his support to Santa Dash

A SANTA Dash and Fun Run got a helping hand from a top international triathlete.

Great Britain competitor and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Sam Dickinson was on hand to support the attraction at Manvers Waterfront Boat Club having attended a British Triathlon "Swim Bike Run" session beforehand.

The fun run was organised in memory of Hana Szczepkowski, who sadly died of cancer aged only 31, to raise funds for the cancer charity Team Vericco, which gave her hope and support throughout her illness.

John Healey MP launched the event.

Participants ranging from seasoned runners to families looking for a fun-filled activity showed their support by completing the course with enthusiastic cheers and boundless energy.

Mark Benton, club chairman, said: "Seeing the community come together and embrace the holiday spirit while making a difference in people's lives is truly heart-warming. We are incredibly proud of the success of this annual Santa Dash.



Santa Dash at Manvers Waterfront Boat Club

"We are grateful to everyone who signed up to take part, not forgetting the volunteers who helped make the event a triumph."

The event was attended by more than 140 runners, from the very young to spritely folk in their 80s.

Mr Healey said: "It was great to see so many people taking part. The dash is something I always look forward to coming

along to and it really kicks off the festive season."

Anna Blinkho, from Team Verrico, added: "The charity is very proud that this event takes place each year not only to raise funds and awareness but to remember Hana, who was a close friend. She was extremely grateful for its support in her time of need and I am delighted the annual event continues in her memory."