



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Thousands of Santas and Rudolphins set to race on Weston-super-Mare's beach**

Around 2,400 people dressed in festive fancy dress are due to hit the beach in Weston-super-Mare this Sunday 6 December, 2015 for the annual Christmas Cracker event, organised by Weston Athletic Club.

The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Cracker 10k has some 2,250 adult entrants to the race and a further 140 runners entering the mini cracker 2k event, new this year for children aged seven to 15 years old.

The Mini Cracker event gets under way at 10am on the beach by the Grand Pier, which is also the start of the Cracker 10k race at 11am.

Malcolm Gammon, race director of Weston Athletic Club, said: "The Cracker really is a fantastic event in our club's race calendar and this year's event is set to be another great spectacle, especially with the Mini Cracker that we've introduced.

"Many of the runners have been building up to this event, including a group of 60 individuals who joined our beginners group, the 'Rudolphins in Training' in September. Many of them will be running their first ever race on Sunday, dressed as yes, you guessed it, Rudolphins!

"I would like to urge as many people as possible to come out and support all of the tinsel-clad and fun runners this weekend by cheering them on during their race, all in support of Weston Hospicecare. The public support for everyone taking part is always wonderful and hugely appreciated."

This year, Weston Athletic Club will be presenting a cheque for £5,000 raised from race funds to Weston Hospicecare before the main prize giving at 12.45pm on race day, Sunday 6 December, at Weston College, Knightstone Campus. A further cheque for at least £2,000 is being handed over by the Rudolphins in Training members at the front of The Grand Pier at 10.30am.

Kelsey Dehaney, event fundraiser at Weston Hospicecare said: "On behalf of everyone at Weston Hospicecare, I would like to thank Weston Athletic Club for the wonderful support, yet again, we have been overwhelmed by the pledges made to our charity. There is still time to donate so please, if anyone is inspired by all of the children and adults running in this year's Cracker 2k and 10k races, you can pledge your support at:

[www.justgiving.com/weston/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/weston/donate)

“As well as gratefully receiving the cheques on the day, I’ll certainly look forward to cheering everyone on during the races!”

Spectators will be able to see the runners as they take on two laps of the main part of the beach at Weston-super-Mare during the race, with the start and finish on the beach by The Grand Pier. A requirement of all entrants of the Christmas Cracker is that at least one piece of tinsel must be worn as a minimum, although as in previous years, the crowds can expect Santas, Rudolphs, snowmen, penguins and many more interesting costumes hurtling along the seafront on Sunday.

For more information about the Cracker races, including a map for spectators and how to pledge sponsorship, visit [www.westonac.co.uk/christmascracker](http://www.westonac.co.uk/christmascracker)

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS

**To arrange an interview with a spokesperson from Weston Athletic Club prior to the event, or to send a reporter or photographer on race day for the cheque presentations at 10.30am and 12.45pm, please contact:**

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Photo caption: The start of the Christmas Cracker 10k in 2014, organised by Weston Athletic Club