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News from **Bradford on Avon** and around the county

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Sailors' record bash for Bart

BRADFORD on Avon Sailing Club hopes to have raced into the Guinness Book of Records as part of The Largest Sailing Race in 24 Hours (Multiple Venues) held on Sunday.

The criteria for Bart's Bash, set up in memory of Olympic sailor Andrew Simpson (nicknamed Bart), were that clubs had to have 25 boats racing and the course had to be at least one kilometre in length.

The boats raced up and down the River Avon, with participants ranging from seven years old to a man in his seventies.

John Potter, Bradford on Avon's mayor, was one of the independent witnesses.

Anne Cundick, Bradford on Avon Sailing Club's secretary, said: "It was absolutely fantastic to be involved."

"We ran it as part of our autumn series of races.

"It was wonderful to see all the boats on the river and it was a beautiful day, with a gentle breeze.

"It was the first race for some people, so it was quite daunting for some with that number of boats."

By Monday, participants worldwide had already raised £185,024.21 in memory of Mr Simpson, who died while training for the America's Cup in May 2013.

For more results on the race, visit www.bartsbash.co.uk



Mayor Cllr John Potter at the Bradford on Avon Sailing Club acting as a witness to the record attempt: inset, the sailors in action

Photo: Trevor Porter (50406)

