

Jen Swarbrick 09/01/2023

## **Social Secretary Report 2022**

2022 saw a return to the clubs social activities. The crowning event of the year was the Clubs 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which we celebrated with a Club wide sports day and BBQ. It was great to see so many from the Club attend and take part in the sports days – I am sure it helped discover a few hidden talents in throwing and long jump. A huge thanks you to all who helped me organise the event, particularly the Club's coaches.

The Club held the Hendred Handicap in June which saw 40 runners from the senior side of the club run up to the Ridgeway from East Hendred and back to the village on a very warm evening. The run is held in memory of Jonathan Cousins who was tragically killed in a road accident some years ago, his brother Paul was a member of the club. All entry fees and takings from a raffle were donated to a charity of the Cousin families choice. This year we raised a fantastic £290 for SSNAP an Oxford based charity that supports sick new-born and their parents. Thanks to all helped organise the race and contribute their time to marshal.

During the summer the seniors also enjoyed several runs away from Abingdon exploring the Thames path, bluebell woods and a few local pubs.

As we moved into December and the festive season we all enjoyed a Christmas Party at ASK, even though it clashed with an England fixture in the world cup. ASK did an excellent job hosting 54 members of the Club. The Christmas party is open to all members of the Club and it would be great to see more from other disciplines and Coaches attending too.

Our final event of 2022 was the Christmas Pud Run. The Pud Run is an annual event where the Club compete over a half marathon distance either solo or as a relay pair. This time we had 36 completing the full distance and 14 relay pairs. It was a cold damp day so kudos to all the runners and a big thank you to all the volunteers who stood out in the horrific conditions. After the run we enjoyed some food, some Christmas Pudding (as required) and a very large raffle. All money from the raffle and entry fees from guest runners were donated to charity. In total, we raised £375 for Abingdon Food Bank.

Planning is currently underway for an Awards Evening which we have been unable to hold since 2020. More details will follow once we have secured a venue and date.

I am stepping down as Social Secretary this year. It has been a great pleasure to serve the club in this role for the past 3 years and I'd be very happy to help whoever takes on the role next.