

Andover Triathlon Club.....giving something back / charitable donations.

Andover Triathlon Club recently presented cheques for £500 to local charities, The Andover Food Bank and Naomi House.

Back in July, the club held it's annual triathlon for adults and children at Farleigh School, Redrice. The event is always popular, but was better attended than ever this year, receiving record entries and a total field in excess of 250.

The club has always taken pride in putting on a good value event and is always praised for its organisation, welcoming atmosphere and it is fast becoming an established race for experienced racers and first timers alike.

Despite the modest entry fee in comparison to other races, the club has over the past few years made some profit, which has been put back into developing resources, such as signs and goody bags for the following year's race. This has meant that the event is now well resourced and there are fewer items to buy each year.

The club also works hard to raise sponsorship for the event and this year they were extremely lucky to receive a substantial amount from Thomson Reuters, in addition to the usual smaller donations and prizes from other local organisations, for which they are extremely grateful. This meant all competitors received a few mementos from the day in addition to prizes for all the category winners.

With such support for the event and such generous sponsorship this year, the club made profits in excess of those expected and felt it would be nice to give something back to the community.

After discussions within the committee, Naomi House and The Andover Food Bank were selected to each receive £500.

The Andover Food Bank were selected as a deserving local charity, particularly in the present economic climate and with Christmas around the corner, struggling families would be under even more pressure to put food on the table.

Upon receiving the cheque, Food Bank Chairman Jaeson Middleton said, "We are currently supporting up to 400 local people and expanding all the time. We are also trying to open a distribution centre in the town so we can meet more of the families and people we support." He thanked Howell Reed, chairman of the Triathlon club for their generosity and said, "The money would be put to good use."

The club are also developing strong links with Naomi House, with some members having already raised funds through taking on their own challenges that the sport of triathlon presents. John Byrne last year ran the London

marathon raising funds for the charity and earlier this year David Hall completed the UK Ironman and raised in excess of £3000 for them too.

Committee member Paul Wills and Chairman Howell Reed presented the cheque to Mary Rochford from Naomi House and were given a tour of the newly completed jackspace @ Naomi House by volunteer David Cunningham.

David said, "They were extremely grateful for the donation and every penny they receive really does make a difference". He also thanked the club for their generosity.

Jason Briley, a committee member for the Triathlon Club and an employee from Thomson Reuters also said, "The Company were extremely proud to be associated with the event and being able to help local charities through the profits makes the venture even more worthwhile." He thanked his bosses who supported the event and made the sponsorship possible.

The club would like to thank all people who were associated with the event; Farleigh School, competitors, helpers, sponsors etc and are looking forward to putting on another successful event again next year.

More information about the club and the charities can be found on their respective websites.

www.andovertriathlon.org.uk www.andoverfoodbank.org.uk
www.naomihouse.org.uk



Howell Reed, & Paul Wills from Andover Triathlon club with Mary Rochford from Naomi House.



Howell Reed with Jaeson Middleton from Andover Foodbank