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1. Sponsors' Support for Refugees from Ukraine

Scott McArthur is helping to congregate and ship donated equipment for refugees to border towns in Poland, using their depot at Scunthorpe to distribute using their own lorry and other volunteer hauliers. They have been collecting goods from organisations such as schools, churches, even gyms where members have been looking for a way they can help.

The highest priority items, which should be new / unused, are in three categories :

1. **Food / Medical / Other** : baby formula, tinned food, First Aid and Medical Supplies, phone battery packs (to communicate with those still in Ukraine)
2. **Hygiene and Cleaning** : bath / shower / soap, deodorants, toothpaste and brushes, combs, underwear (men, women, children), sanitary pads, disinfectants, filtering / disposable masks.
3. **Coverings** : normal and thermal blankets, sleeping bags, sleeping mattress pads.

To a lesser extent, the following are also needed : cold weather clothing and raincoats.

If any other sponsors or Rugby Club members would like to buy / donate vital equipment, we can use the Club as a local collection point for Scott McArthur's lorries / vans to pick it up. Some members might be involved with organisations who have collected, but do not yet know how to send it onwards. If it is in bulk, we can coordinate vehicle-to-vehicle transfer at a set time.

We hope to have the goods collected in one week's time, so any donations should be made **before midday on Friday, 11 March** please.

Another of our sponsors, ADM, has a set up their office at Hemswell Cliff, Lincolnshire as a collection point, and have 30 vans due to go out to Poland in ten days' time.

The Club is not coordinating a collection for those wishing to give cash : if you wish to contribute this way, the British Red Cross, Choose Love, Project Hope, Unicef, APKMUK, and the International Rescue Committee are among the NGOs taking donations for their emergency crisis appeals.

2. 1st XV Fixtures

A full list of fixtures for all senior teams is on the website at : <https://www.driffieldruffc.com/1st-xv-fixtures-results/> - there are links from there to all teams. For our 1st XVs, March fixtures are :

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Men - remember that we have now gone to a 15:00 kick-off

- Saturday, 05 : Old Brodleians (Away)
- Saturday, 12 : Heath (Away)
- Saturday, 26 : Bradford & Bingley (Home)

Ladies

- Sunday, 06 : Novocastrians (Away)
- Sunday 20 : Hartlepool Rovers (Home)

3. Mrs Dinny's Charity Efforts

Club President David Dinsdale was diagnosed with prostate cancer in January. He is determined to fight it and is feeling very positive. David started playing first team rugby for Driffield at 16, one of the youngest ever, and enjoyed several years of senior rugby until having to retire through injury. He then went on to coach both mini and junior rugby.

David's wife, Rachel, decided to take part in Prostate Cancer UK's "March the Month", walking 11,000 steps every day in March to raise money for the charity. This will help fund research and support men and families affected by the disease.

David has said : "On behalf of Rachel and myself, could I thank everyone for their fantastic support. Rachel decided to raise money for research into prostate cancer with a target of £500. This has already been blown out of the water, and now stands at over £2,500. Many thanks. Dinny."

You can contribute to Rachel's effort by visiting the JustGiving page at :

<https://marchthemonth.prostatecanceruk.org/fundraising/mrs-dinny-is-marching-the-month-for-prostate>

4. Mini / Junior Festival on Sunday, 3 April

The Club's annual festival is running again, and many other local clubs have confirmed that they will be sending sides at every age grade. This year, the clubs that are attending are all 'local'.

The event takes a lot of organising, and the coaches and managers work flat out to manage the on-field activity. They would really appreciate volunteers to help with car parking at the start of the day, to make sure we get all the vehicles off the main road quickly and safely.

We would really appreciate it if you can set some time aside, and let Volunteers to help with the running of the day are always welcome – if you can spare a few hours please get in touch with Jonathan Lane or Simon Farnsworth.

5. Annual Dinner on Thursday, 14 April

As is the tradition, this will take place at the clubhouse on the Thursday before Easter. The evening will include the usual dinner, and the award of the following :

- 1st XV Player of the year – men and ladies
- 2nd XV Player of the year – men and ladies
- 3rd XV Player of the year
- 4th XV Player of the year

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What's happening at the Rugby Club ?

- Most improved player of the year – men and ladies
- Young player of the year
- Colts / U18s XV Player of the year
- John Harrison award
- President's Award

Tickets are £15 each and must be reserved in advance. Captains will be organising their own tables, and anyone else who would like to go should contact either Dominic Thompson, or Veronica in the office.

6. Steve Knowles Memorial Match on Saturday, 16 April

We plan to hold the rescheduled game on Easter Saturday, 16 April kicking off at 14:00.

7. Turnbull Trophy

We still hope to hold this game later in the season, once the backlog of games has cleared – no date has been set yet.

8. Staff Recruitment

We are looking for two members of staff to help us deliver great services : we need a Bar Manager and a Club Administrator. You can read the adverts on our website at <https://www.driffieldruffc.com/club-news/>

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