**HELP IN THE COMMUNITY**

We pride ourselves as being a community club and highlighted below are some of the initiatives we have undertaken in supporting the community in recent months.

In February, neighbouring villages were severely impacted by floods, which affected Nantgarw and parts of Taff’s Well overnight on Saturday/Sunday the 15/16 February. By 11:00 on the Sunday morning the club had reacted to a plea for assistance to become a hub where food, clothes, blankets, toiletries and other essential items could be dropped off. With others, the club informed members and other residents in the local community of these developments and by 4:00pm that Sunday 6 transit vans, loaded from floor to ceiling, had been taken from the club to be shared by those in need of assistance.

More recently, we have all experienced the effects of coronavirus, with the club closing its doors on Saturday, 21 March, to adhere to the government ‘lockdown’ directive. Within days, senior and youth players in the club volunteered to offer their services to local residents in Pentyrch and surrounding villages, by way of doing their shopping, collecting prescriptions, doing other errands or just having a chat. Furthermore, our Club Chaplain, Gerrit Banjes, also advertised his personal availability to help individuals in the community in a similar fashion.

Having undertaken a stock take of edible goods, soft drinks and alcoholic bottled/canned beverages the Committee decided to donate all, except alcoholic drinks, equally amongst Royal Glamorgan Hospital and the nearby Ty Hafod Care Home. These items were delivered over the Easter weekend and were worth in the region of £700.00.

As for the alcoholic drinks (worth around £300.00) the committee decided to raffle these to raise funds for the NHS. The raffle was conducted on-line and advertised amongst the membership and more widely across social media platforms. A total of £500.00 was raised, there being two winners – Dai Llywellyn and Sue James. £400.00 was donated to Cardiff and Vale Charity Trust with £100.00 being donated in memory of Donna Campbell, who worked as a nurse in Velindre Hospital and was the mother of a Canton RFC U13s player, who passed away just before Easter having contracted the coronavirus disease.

As with other organisations the Club has many members and patrons who either work in the NHS or are deemed to be key workers. One of our committee members and club physiotherapist, Sian Harries, has volunteered to return to work in the NHS. She is based at the Dragons Heart Hospital, located in the Principality Stadium. We are very proud of them all and send them a huge ‘Thank You’.

We hope you are all keeping well and safe. Should the COVID-19 pandemic continue to adversely impact the club’s ability to trade, we may have other stock to move on in the coming weeks. Should we decide upon a further raffle, and donate the takings to a good cause, please get involved. Look out for updates on the club website – pentyrchrugby.co.uk - or our social media platforms:

 Pentyrch RFC  @pentyrch\_rfc