



Dear Nuffield Scholar,

Well, another quarter soon comes around, so it's time for another Chair's update. The logical place to start of course would be the annual donation, as this has been a recurring theme in our recent communications.

GoCardless and Annual Donation Process

The change over to the new system of GoCardless has definitely caused a few headaches, although I was quite surprised that when I went on the link myself it connected to my bank then in turn to gift aid, job done; normally to be fair, technology and I don't normally mix well. However, I've heard a few concerns:

- **Bank Recognition Issues:** I have had a few people say to me that their bank wasn't recognised, or it wasn't possible to sort it. Could I urge you to contact Lindsay in the Nuffield office and she will sort it out at a time convenient to yourself.
Lindsay@nuffieldscholar.org
- **Lack of Time:** A second group have said to me that they haven't had time to do it yet. Please could you sort it before the end of March, as it needs to be within our current financial year for it not to have a negative effect in our year end accounts.
- **Direct Debits:** A third group have said "*I don't need to do it as I already have a direct debit*". Again for clarity, your current arrangement has ended so you need to set up on the new system. All Direct Debits on the old system will not be taken and are now obsolete. Therefore, it is imperative that everyone uses Go Cardless.
- **Non-Renewals:** Finally, a small group of people have said they don't want to renew their annual donation. We have all gained hugely from our Nuffield and it is so important that we are able to continue our work and give future generations the same opportunity.

To set up your Annual Donation, [Click Here](#)

Outstanding Reports

In the last update, I promised clarity on the area around outstanding reports. The good news is that scholars from recent years are on track, and there's no cause for concern. The main issue lies with the scholars from 2020, 2021, and 2022, the "Covid years." Even after several communications with the individuals involved, we haven't had a satisfactory result, and sadly further action needs to be taken.

At our recent board meeting Trustees voted unanimously to set a new target of the 31st May 2025 to have second draft handed in as a minimum. Scholars that fail to meet this deadline will be stripped of their status of Nuffield Scholar and we will look to recover the money that has been invested in them to this point. This sounds harsh but the reputation of the Trust is at risk with our sponsors who are critical to our future. Anyone with special circumstances is invited to write to the Trustees via Rupert for consideration at our next Board meeting.

Financial Update

In more positive news, the third financial quarter is looking good with us performing £30k under our budget and at this stage looking to post a deficit around half of the previous year's

amount. The new budget has been signed off by the Finance sub-committee and at Board level with Rupert and his team are again fully invested in cost reduction to meet our aims of improving our financial situation. At our next Board meeting we are having discussions around the cost of scholarships and are looking to increase the level of sponsorship to fully cover our outlay. I can also report that for the first time in a while the last conference made a profit, so further thanks are due to Belfast Organising Committee and the Office Team.

Next-Gen Scholarship

I was recently involved in the 2025 Next-Gen Scholarship selections for the second year of dairy and the first year of poultry. A total of 29 people aged between 18 and 24 applied this year for 6 places. Congratulations to all the successful candidates.

Anna Bowen and her team are presenting at the Trustees Strategy session in June on the future of the Next-Gen scholarship program. So, we would like to hear from any interested groups that might like to host a Next-Gen Scholarship in the future.

This year, we are hosting the 2025 Next-Gen Scholars at an induction day in London in April, including a tour of Parliament kindly offered by Robbie Moore MP.

Nuffield International Update

I write this update from the Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC) in Auckland, New Zealand. A gathering of scholars from 16 nations from traditional countries such as France and Canada, as well as new countries such as Poland and Romania - a total of 91 scholars plus Country Executives. It has been a fantastic event and a privilege to represent Nuffield UK as Chair.

Our interaction with Nuffield International continues to be key, and we have a solid partnership with Nuffield Ireland as our immediate neighbour. Many alumni attended their conference last year and reciprocated by attending ours in Belfast. Our Northern Ireland scholars are also helping with the planning for the 2026 Triennial, 18-26 May 2026.

We're also focusing on strengthening our ties with the European Nuffield countries, including France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, and Romania. Mike Brady and I have been working closely with Laure Figeureu-Bidaud, Board member of Nuffield France, to plan this year's dairy tour.

My knowledge of Nuffield International has gone from not a lot, to now a considerable amount having just spent the last four days sat on their Board. The role of the organisation is twofold, one to organise the CSC and GFP (Global Focus Program), the other to help new Nuffield countries offer the scholarship and in turn develop their own Alumni. Recent success stories include Brazil, USA and Japan with the latter hosting next year's CSC.

The mix of scholars at the event is amazing with the level of noise unbelievable from the conference to the bus tours. This is an unreal opportunity for our scholars to network and help plan the rest of their individual travels.

Finally let me wish you a great Spring and further updates will be available in the Summer after the June Board.

Regards,

T Rawson

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