

Minutes of Meeting Thursday 5th April 2012, 2- 4pm
Venue Mackenzie Medical Centre B.G.H.

19 people attended this meeting, the number was lower due to the Easter holidays. Chairman Martin opened the meeting and introduced himself, he informed the 4 new attendees (incl. a daughter and a grand daughter) and the group about the object, aims and aspirations of our support Group in respect of offering help and support to those affected by Prostate Cancer. As talked about many times at these meetings, it is a fact that men do not like to talk about their medical or sexual problems, Martin stated that 'being a man most times gets in the way of Prostate Cancer'. To open the floor to discussion he gave a brief insight into his own experiences and how he is being helped considerably by attending counselling sessions at Pendleside Hospice, these sessions are available and free to Cancer patients. Martin then invited others who were prepared to talk and share their experiences with the rest of the group (particularly for the benefit of the new attendees) and that person to invite someone else to do the same.

Colin who attends our meetings regularly and is the Deputy Chairman of the Bolton group told us about his experiences and how he was diagnosed with a PSA of 37. Following scans and biopsies he had Radiotherapy and Hormone treatment. Colin also said that one member in the Oldham group had a PSA of 127 and two in the thousands!

Martin asked new attendee Ray what he was hoping to get from the support meeting, he said that he had only just been diagnosed and that he was interested in talking to other members about their problems and experiences prior to forming an opinion about the best treatment to have. Ray said that he had only been diagnosed 6 weeks ago following visiting his Doctor to discuss his 'waterworks' problem of getting up during the night. He had a PSA of 9 and Gleason score of 7. He also had an MRI scan and Bone scan and had attended the outpatients clinic at Christies Hospital for a second opinion. He was informed that if he was to have Radiotherapy he would not then be able to have surgery, if surgery is required. The question was asked as to why this would be the case and it was suggested that it would be a good question to ask Mr Pillai at the May meeting. Ray is on the 'STAMPEDE' trial, this is a trial where treatments are closely monitored.

Some of the members said that they had suffered from stress due to incontinence, this can be quite common following Prostate surgery and Martin suggested that 'being a 'secretive' man probably made the problem worse'. Unfortunately it appears that patients don't seem to be given much information about how severe the effects of incontinence can be following surgery, Keith had severe depression and Martin was interested to know if this was because there was nobody who could advise him about depression or the associated problems following being diagnosed with the disease.

Leon was thanked for having the Prostate Cancer posters printed.

Stuart informed everyone about the new N.W. Prostate Cancer Support Group Conference on Wednesday 25th April at the Marriot Hotel, Preston. 10-30am – 3:00pm. 18 members from our group had registered to date. The event which includes a 3 course lunch is funded and supported by Macmillan Cancer and is free to all our members.

A brief discussion took place with regard to the format for the May meeting in view of the fact that Consultant Urology Surgeon Mr Pillai is coming to speak to us about the latest developments in respect of Prostate Cancer surgery and treatments. It was agreed that following Mr Pillai's talk a question and answer session would be the favourable format. **Questions to be written on the forms provided and posted in our 'post box' or handed in prior to Mr Pillai speaking.**

Treasurer Hazel said that it is important that we welcome and respect Mr Pillai and treat him as the professional that he is.

The raffle raised £28 (£12.85p was paid to Leon to cover the cost of the posters)

Next meeting is:

Thursday 3rd May at The Mackenzie Medical Centre, Burnley Gen. Hospital. 2 – 4pm