

MINUTES OF MEETING No 30, THURSDAY 2ND MAY 2013

VENUE – BURNLEY GEN HOSPITAL, MACKENZIE THEATRE/LIBRARY, 2-4pm

24 people present incl. 3 new members & Gillian Helliwell from Prostate Cancer UK

Chairman Dave opened the meeting by introducing the 3 new members, John H, Leonard C & Robert S and gave a brief resume' from the minutes of the April meeting.

A matter arising from the April minutes was how we could offer our help in supporting Gordon Birtwistle's Scanner Appeal. (Scanner for Prostate Cancer). It was suggested that we can start by donating a cheque in order to help get his appeal up and running. It was agreed that £250 would be reasonable and a vote on this was accepted. The fundraising will continue for approx. 15 months and it is hoped that £50,000 can be raised for the Scanner which will be used at Burnley General Hospital plus a mobile one to be used within the East Lancs area.

Steve L. said he had visited Pendleside Hospice and he told us about all the courses and therapies which we could participate in on their TESSERA days, these are free to patients living within the Burnley and Pendleside areas.

Colin Stott talked about the new PSA 3 Urine test which it is hoped will be in regular use in the near future. It is believed to be twice as accurate as the current PSA test and also helps to diagnose infection and enlarged Prostate.

Dave asked the new members if they were prepared to share their Prostate journey with the group. John H informed them he had had a prostatectomy and had 6 monthly PSA tests – his surgeon says it may come back and as he wants to stay positive, he came across the Clarets website with a link to Prostate Cancer UK helpline. He felt that he wanted to give something back for the help he had received and has now become an awareness speaker and a volunteer for P.C. UK. He can talk about his treatment to other individuals and he was running the Manchester 10K for Prostate Cancer UK. He found out about the group at the Burnley football club fund raising event for Prostate Cancer UK and decided to come along and join the friendly group.

BREAK FOR COFFEE/TEA

For the second half of the meeting Dave, the Chairman introduced Gillian Halliwell – N.W. Communities Support Services/Management. She outlined what she is trying to establish in the North West in mapping out what everyone's needs are and which of the problems become most common and how support for these problems can help Prostate Cancer sufferers, some examples she gave were: relate with marriage counsellors, stress anger, anxiety,. She gave an interesting talk on her role and how lots of work has been previously centred in London but there are support services that are in place for sufferers to help quality of life in North & South Manchester – which in turn can help the people of East Lancs. She would like us to tell her of any problems which may arise which will help her to develop services to help us and hopes to be able provide speakers on

various subjects e.g. diet/healthy eating. Forms to be handed out at the next meeting for the purpose.

The meeting closed after we had heard some of the problems that people had experienced and after Dave had told one of his famous jokes to put a smile on our faces.

A member mentioned a late item for the next meeting asking for cups to be brought back to the kitchen.

The next meeting will be 2.00 p.m. on 6th June 2013 at the Mackenzie Suite at the General Hospital