

MINUTES OF MEETING 36 – THURSDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2013
VENUE: BURNLEY GEN HOSPITAL, MACKENZIE THEATRE/LIBRARY

29 people attended including specialist nurse Debbie. We had one new member. Apologies were received from Glenn, Kevin & Pat.

Our member James Sinclair, local author, donated 10 books to the Scanner Appeal and a book signing was photographed by the Burnley Express before the meeting commenced. The proceeds from the sale of the books (£100) are to be donated to the Prostate Scanner Appeal.

The meeting then got underway with Dave (Chairman) reading the Minutes of the previous meeting and speaking about matters arising. He then read the Minutes of the Scanner Appeal and the various fund raising events which are taking place and where we can set up our stand to promote awareness of the Prostate Support Group. Here are a few of the future events where it is hoped we can raise awareness of Prostate Cancer.

30th November – Race night at Greenhill Bowling Club, Manchester Road 7.30 p.m. some raffle prizes needed.

16th December Barclays Bank is having a week of Prostate Awareness and we can put our stand up in their bank.

10^{th/11th} January Bag Packing at Marks & Spencer 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. volunteers needed for two hour slots.

18th January - Burnley Football Club at the Burnley v Sheffield Wednesday game they are having a collection day with buckets they are looking for volunteers who can collect money on the day. We can put up our stand and promote awareness of our Support Group and this could be a big help to our own campaign.

Dave went on to inform the meeting that Deborah Dobson had been asked to give a talk on Prostate Cancer in conjunction with East Lancs Health Trust – further information to be given at a later date – but he hoped that people from our group would help and support her as she has helped and given support to our own group in the past and is always supportive of our meetings.

Stuart gave details of ideas for future speakers and general business and he mentioned that he hoped he could organise another talk by Collective Legal Solutions in the new year as Barry Williams from this organisation gave a very informative financial talk on “putting our house in order” with no pressure, just food for thought and quite a few members missed this because of holidays.

He mentioned the library at the back of the room where there are lots of pamphlets to give information. He told us of the £500 grant from the Cancer Federation that we have been awarded for anything that we need to keep us going. Colin told us that this grant is not limited to “one go” we can have another go at it next year **BUT** they would like a bit of feedback on what we have spent the money on.

Dave mentioned Steve L. from whom he has had an e-mail withdrawing from future meetings of the Prostate Support Group and he would like to be able to offer him support in the future should he need it and to thank him for his fun contribution to our meetings in the past.

BREAK FOR TEA & COFFEE

The 2nd half of the meeting commenced with a very good and informative talk by one of our own members, Mr John Heyworth, who is a volunteer for Prostate Cancer UK. He spoke of his own Prostate cancer journey and how he wanted to give something back for all the help he had received. A cutting from the Burnley Express was passed around with a picture of John at Burnley Football Club and how he is involved with fundraising for Prostate Cancer UK. The presentation that John did was extremely interesting and gave an insight into the fund raising on behalf of Prostate Cancer in the UK and worldwide. He spoke about the worldwide biggest fund raising event of MOVEMBER when participants grow moustaches or beards for sponsorship money during the month of November. His talk gave an insight into how much is being done to promote Prostate cancer awareness in the UK and beyond.

Before the meeting closed Colin (Doctor Colin) spoke about his involvement with the Prostate Cancer Federation in the North West which is totally patient led. He has had several meetings with Ann MacEwan – Prostate Cancer UK support group development manager – discussing the proposed levels of engagement between groups and PC UK. He was now able to explain to us the proposals of closer working with PC support groups in the North West area. PC UK is proposing 2 levels of co-operation in which they would provide the groups with extra benefits in exchange for a commitment to work with them and acknowledge their involvement. There is no doubt that they can assist us both factually & financially in putting over our dual purposes of helping people affected by Prostate cancer & making the general public more aware of the disease & its implications.

One aspect we will have to consider is that we don't compromise our biggest asset which is the fact that we are the only Prostate organisation totally patient led. PC UK has said that they have no intention of a take-over or influencing our present policies. The two levels of co-operation look very interesting and beneficial to us, so should be carefully discussed & considered. The 2 levels of engagement, affiliated group or partner group are **explained in detail in the document which will be posted on our website. (newsletter)**

In conclusion to the meeting, Dave mentioned that it was our 3rd birthday & he expressed the hope that we had helped Prostate Cancer sufferers on the way. He spoke about the fact that a sheet was going around asking what people could provide for the "Jacobs Join" which will be our Christmas Party **next meeting on 5th December**. He then finished with one of his famous Prostate jokes to send us away with a smile on our faces.

The raffle raised £45

A late rider to these minutes is that we have an extension to 4.45 p.m. for our Christmas Party Meeting and that we are going to have some entertainment provided by one of our members Glenn – so be prepared for some good singing & eating!