

Minutes of meeting Thursday 6th Feb 2014, 2-4pm
Venue: Burnley Gen Hospital, Mackenzie centre/Library

29 People were in attendance including our regular Specialist nurse Debbie. Apologies were received from Colin S., Deborah Dobson & Glenn S.

4 new members were in attendance. (David J., William S., John K., John Miller.

Secretary Stuart opened the meeting in the absence of the Chairman Dave, introducing 3 new members. He went on to tell the members of the amazing response that the scanner appeal had had in Marks & Spencer (for the bag packing) members of the support group were talking to so many people who had relatives or friends with Prostate problems, it more than justifies having the display stand and our members at these events. From this awareness it is hoped that new members will come to the Support Group for advice or help (as one did today).

Terry who lives in Canada intended being here today but couldn't make it and sent his apologies – he is having tremendous trouble with incontinence and wanted to speak to one of the specialist nurses. He hopes he will make the next meeting in March.

Stuart went through the minutes of the previous meeting and said we are well supported with people who have been coming since the Support Group was first started and he felt that it should be the object of existing Support Group members to encourage new members to come to meetings and once at the meetings we should sit them with other members who know something about their concerns or problems and this should be of help to them.

Debbie Hesketh, one of Specialist Urology nurses was introduced to be available for anyone who needs to speak to her.

Stuart spoke about the Scanner Appeal organised by Gordon Birtwistle, by giving a resume of the proceeds of the Burnley Football match where Burnley played Sheffield Wednesday on 18th January. The full total raised on that day including the auction of a bottle of whiskey in the 1882 lounge which raised £500 & proceeds of a bucket collection – of which members of our support group were taking part was £4,341.00. The bag collection at Marks & Spencer- again supported by members of our own support group - made £1,800 of which £900 was donated to the scanner appeal and £900 to Marks & Spencer's own charity (Air Ambulance). The scanner appeal now stands at £32,000 – the target is £50,000 and another £25,000 needs to be raised for the mobile scanner which is to be used throughout the East Lancashire area.

Our own member Shaun T raised a fantastic £200 by growing a moustache for the Movember campaign. He donated this to the scanner appeal. He arrived at the meeting just as this information was being given out and he rightly received a good round of applause on his entrance!

Stuart informed the meeting that he had received a circular about a decision by NICE not to allow an extremely successful drug Enzalutamide to be available to patients who have

already been prescribed Arbiraterone. Patients have been recommended by the Prostate Cancer Federation to write to NICE expressing their disapproval as Enzalutamide has been proven to extend the life of men with aggressive P.C.

Glenn South, one our members who royally entertained us at our Christmas Jacob's join is holding an event at the Nelson Ace Centre with 3 or 4 other entertainers for people who find it difficult to get out together socially or maybe cannot always get out to functions. Tickets are only £2.50 for anyone interested. This will go ahead on Thursday, 13th March, 2pm. Stuart sent a list around for people who are interested.

BREAK FOR BREW

The second half of the meeting was taken up with a talk by Steve Jeffries of Collective Legal Solutions — his talk was entitled 'Tax, Care & Toyboys' and was basically about putting ones legal affairs in order and the implications of such as we and our families grow older. This was followed by an extremely interesting question and answer session and a few members made contact with Steve Jeffries at the end of the meeting.

The meeting concluded, 'sadly' without one of Dave's Prostate jokes as he was having a tough time sunning himself and roughing it in Los Angeles!

A Donation of £5 was received yet again from Jimmy C.

The raffle made £45.

At our next meeting there will be a short talk by our own member Colin O. who lives in France and a presentation by Deborah Dobson, one of our regular Specialist Urology nurses from the Royal Blackburn Hospital.

Next meeting: Thursday 6th March 2014, same venue, 2 – 4pm