

Minutes of meeting 5th June 2014
Venue - Mackenzie Centre, Burnley Gen. Hospital, 2 – 4pm

31 people were in attendance including our speaker Paula Hewitt from Prostate Cancer UK. and our two specialist nurses Debbie & Deborah. Apologies were received from Chairman Dave & Colin S. & Eddie and Moira. There were 4 new members, Tommy D, John G, Chris P. & Jim M.

Stuart (Secretary) chaired the meeting in the absence of Dave R. (Chairman). He told the meeting that one of our new members Colin from Keighley had been unable to attend the meeting because of transport problems and that we were disappointed because he was monitoring “onion juice” as possibly lowering PSA levels and intended to report on his findings.

Stuart reported on the Scanner Appeal. The amount raised has been enough to pay for the main scanner and also add on items. Fund raising will continue till Sept, (the remainder of the 12 months target). Siemens the suppliers of the Scanner have been training the hospital staff in the use of it and the official hand-over will be on the 19th June 2014.

Stuart read the Minutes of the last meeting and spoke about John & Hazels talk on their visit to a retreat in Cornwall and their raw veg diet. He reported that last month’s raffle made £53.50. This was a reminder as to how useful the money is from the raffle because it is currently our only means of fund raising. We are now in partnership with Prostate Cancer UK and are entitled to certain grants. We have used some of the grant money for a Gazebo to be used when we are attending functions promoting our support group. 2 banners are being made for the Gazebo to promote our support group, 1 for around the top and 1 for around the bottom.

Stuart reported that the Prostate Cancer Federation is looking for a new treasurer if anyone is interested.

The annual Classic Car Show takes place in Towneley Park, Burnley on 29th June and it was suggested that we erect the Gazebo and try and get the message of the Support Group to more people. Stuart asked for volunteers to help on the day siting that these events are interesting and can be a bit of fun!

Magazines were placed on the tables from the official Prostate Cancer Support Federation and shows how helpful it is to all get together and be part of a bigger group.

Stuart then introduced Paula Hewitt from Prostate Cancer UK to give a short talk. She is the Community Supports Manager of Prostate Cancer UK and she spoke about other services in the N.W. such as Wirral Healthy Living Centre where there is complimentary therapy and how it is trying to educate Afro Caribbean men in what is available and to make them aware of Prostate Cancer. Denise thought it was very interesting to know what is going on in

various areas, we are now in partnership with Prostate Cancer UK., there should be more regional meetings and it is hoped that this will filter through to the Support Groups and thereby indirectly help us all.

Deborah told us that she will find out what services are available in other areas and she will give support if people ring to find out where the different services are available. She hopes that everyone knows that the nurses can be contacted. Patients can ring the Hospice if ever they are unsure about anything and they will let you know where the services can be contacted. In Burnley & Pendle area an excellent point of call is Pendleside Hospice who also have free courses and counselling.

Stuart asked the four new members if they cared to share their experiences with the group (no pressure) and they could then be seated with members who had similar experience of their various treatments, this would help the new members with their queries and help them make informed choices and it could also help them with any problems they had experienced. That is what the support group is here for.

BREAK FOR BREW

In the second half Stuart asked if all the new members had managed to speak to someone who could help them with any questions they may have regarding their treatment. Deborah said it is worth having a chat on little things that can be done to help side effects of treatments.

A question and answer session ensued with people trying to help the new members and Deborah was able to explain the procedure after diagnosis and the “order” of treatment. Prostate Cancer UK have a special helpline for anyone who has any specific questions New member Chris P thought the PC UK web site was excellent.

Following on from this John H told us a delightful story about “you never know where your Prostate Cancer journey will take you”. He explained that he did voluntary work for Prostate Cancer UK and prostate cancer is the chosen charity of the football league this year. He was invited by Prostate Cancer UK to the League 1 play off final at Wembley as a guest of the Football League. He and his wife attended this function – only to find that they were in the Royal Box and that as a guest of the football league he was in the hospitality suite as a guest of honour and meeting such celebrities as Andrew Lloyd Webber. He was in the line-up to shake hands with all the players at kick off and the football league paid for the fantastic meal and day out. Dare one say that maybe this experience could never ever have come his way in normal circumstances! Well done John!!

To finalize Stuart asked about the Scanner as £45,000 seems like a bargain and Debbie thought it was a smaller scanner which could be used before a biopsy. He went on to say that when you attend the awareness days you realise how many more people there are who have experience of Prostate Cancer and he hoped that the new people attending this

meeting had had their questions answered. He asked one of the new members Tommy if he had found help at the meeting and was assured that Tommy had. That is what the group hope to achieve.

In the absence of Dave – there were no Prostate jokes!

That the next meeting will be on **Thursday, 3rd July 2014 at Burnley General Hospital McKenzie Suite. All welcome.**