

Minutes of meeting Thurs 7th August 2014, 2-4pm
Venue - Burnley Gen. Hospital, Mackenzie Centre

24 people present, including our “speaker” Community First Responder, Malcolm: There were apologies from our Specialist Nurses Debbie & Deborah, Tommy M., John H. & Moira.

Dave, Chairman, introduced the meeting by reading the Minutes of the previous meeting in July. He reported that he had been contacted by ABC - action for Bladder Cancer support groups as they are trying to set one up in the North West where there isn't one at the moment. They were interested to know how our Support Group operates.

He mentioned that there is to be a Beer Festival 5th/6th & 7th October and after writing to the organisers, we will be allowed to erect our stand and leave literature, but there is no need to man the stand.

Dave then reported on the Gordon Birtwistle Scanner Appeal saying that enough money had been raised for a machine for Bladder Cancer and Testicular Cancer and at the last Committee Meeting he was informed that enough money had been raised to have the machines up and running. He mentioned that Mr Birtwistle wanted the appeal to be finished by September so that it did not compete with his parliamentary business.

There is the Annual Meeting at Christies Hospital on Saturday 4th October, 1-30pm – 4.30pm in the old Auditorium. If anyone would like to go contact Dave or Stuart and they will arrange. It is interesting to go just to see the set-up.

The grant that we put in for has been successful for £1,000 - to be used for a number of items, to include a display stand, gazebo, banners & brochures, water boiler for aiding tea & coffee brewing at meetings.

Dave has tried to get clarification of the guide lines that local Doctors use on giving men PSA tests. The Clinical Governing body for East Lancashire that make decisions for G.P.s in the area have given out a directive that if a man has problems such as urinary, pain, etc. then a PSA blood test can be recommended. **As we all know at this point it can be too late.** The Governing Body are concerned that until we get a better test than PSA blood tests there may be some men who could have treatment when they do not actually need it. Colin said that this was not the rules of the NHS and that once you've started treatment there shouldn't be any problem and that having a PSA test is your right. Dave suggests writing to Doctor Daley (the representative of the Governing body in East Lancashire) and ask him to **let us know what the exact guidelines are. A routine test leaflet was sent around at this point for the members to see.**

Stuart sent an article around which he had seen in a newspaper regarding car park charges for Cancer patients when visiting hospitals for treatment, the article highlighted how Cancer patients were being particularly targeted, it appalled the members. He also reported on the fact that our meeting room at the hospital may not always be available for the meetings. The room is free and if the building closed down we may have to find new premises.

Tommy D. said that we would be able to have a room at the 110 Club in Burnley. Ideally, we would like a room to be found that was free should we eventually need one. **The room at the hospital is still available until any final decision is made about the buildings future.**

Colin spoke about a new booklet from the Federation which he had brought with him. He gave information to Dave on how to get this booklet. Stuart said he would request them for the next meeting.

Tommy D. did a short speech about Rosemere Cancer Foundation and that they are having a fund raising event in Fence with a bucket collection on 9th August. Apparently, they want to let the people in Burnley know who Rosemere are, if anyone is interested in attending.

At this point the Raffle was drawn which made £37.30. In the second half of the meeting we were to have a talk by Malcolm, a Community First Responder.

BREAK FOR BREW

In this half Malcolm gave an extremely interesting talk and demonstration on the work of the First Responders. He brought equipment to show to the group, including a defibrillator he showed and demonstrated to everyone. He also demonstrated CPR with the use of dummies. As the talk and demonstration was so interesting to everyone present he promised to return at a later date and give the demonstration again.

As usual the meeting ended with one of Dave's famous Prostate jokes and a reminder that the **next meeting will be on Thursday, 4th September** at the Mackenzie Centre.