

Minutes of meeting 46 Thursday 4th September 2014 2-4 p.m.
Venue – Burnley Gen. Hospital, Mackenzie Centre

24 people present including speaker, Mr Mike Harrison & his wife Pat & two specialist nurses Debbie & Deborah & Amanda from Age UK. There were apologies from John H., John & Hazel G., Leon, Glenn & Peter Ch. One new member attended.

Dave, Chairman, introduced the meeting by showing the new Display Stand. This Display Stand has been obtained by the partnership grant from Prostate Cancer UK. Dave then continued reading the Minutes of the previous meeting & speaking on any matters arising. He informed the meeting that the new Display Stand would be present at the beer festival to be held at the Mechanics, Burnley on 5th/6th & 7th September. Leaflets will be displayed but the stand is not being manned.

The Annual General Meeting for Prostate Cancer Support (NW) at Christies Hospital takes place on Saturday 4th October 1-30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

There may be further information on whether or not we can set up a petition for Doctors to do PSA tests whether or not a person presents other symptoms. Dave cited a case he knew where a grandfather was given a PSA test which was positive but died 4 weeks later. He wondered what would have happened if the Prostate Cancer had been detected earlier with a PSA test. We are the only people that can get the governing body to change their minds on PSA tests. A discussion took place on the feasibility of setting up a Prostate Screening day, but it was agreed that this was not feasible at this point but to keep it in mind for the future.

Dave spoke about Malcolm, the First Responder who gave a talk and a demonstration on a defibrillator and suggested he be contacted to come again to talk at the November meeting and this time ask him how long he needs to give an informative talk and demonstration.

Dave then told the members present that the Minutes are put onto the Web Site and asked people to look at this site because Leon spends lots of time putting articles on, & photos etc. for the benefit of all Prostate Cancer sufferers.

Dave then reported on his early morning telephone call from Sally Naden at Radio Lancashire at 7.50 a.m!. She wanted to do an interview in choices hour, wondering if there are any choices for Prostate Cancer sufferers. Dave said that there are for us now but there were none 10 years ago & Debbie our Specialist Nurse said that there were none 5 years ago! As an interesting point, our new member, David H., heard about the Support Group meetings from the interview on Radio Lancashire. Well done Dave!!

At this point Amanda, from Age UK gave a small talk about the delivery of a six week programme of activity for Prostate Cancer Sufferers to be held at Nigel House, Padiham. Funding has been received from Prostate Cancer UK & the course is to be run in conjunction with Age UK Lancashire. The first session will take place from Friday, 5th September 1 – 4 p.m. with a free lunch and will last for 6 weeks. It is for all East Lancashire and is to be held at Nigel House until other venues are arranged & feedback given. It is an opportunity for

men to get together and realise they are not on their own. The various activities will be walking, light exercise & information on healthy lifestyle etc.

At this point; Terry who was visiting from Canada gave an update on his “journey” with Prostate Cancer in another country. As he suffers from incontinence, the group was able to sit him with one of our members who had a similar problem and who has since had an operation to have an artificial sphincter fitted, he is very happy with the outcome after being incontinent for 5 years. Terry was very grateful for the advice and as he flies back on 16th October knowing he has some information on something he can fall back on.

BREAK FOR BREW

Raffle drawn and made £32.00.

In the second half, Dave introduced the speaker Mike Harrison, Mike is Chairman of the Prostate Cancer Federation NW. He gave a very informative & interesting talk about his own Prostate Cancer and about the Federation, has been able to help many men who have been diagnosed with Prostate Cancer.

The meeting drew to a close with one of Dave’s famous Prostate jokes and a reminder that the next meeting will be on **Thursday, 2nd October at the Mackenzie Centre.**