

Minutes of meeting (49) Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014, 2 – 4pm

Burnley Gen Hospital, Mackenzie Centre

There were a least 34 people present including our specialist nurse Debbie, and wives and partners of our regular members who had come to celebrate our Christmas party. Also Gary Steele MBE, chairman of Leighton Support Group, who was present to talk about setting up a PSA testing session in our area. Apologies were received from Deborah Dobson one our specialist nurses, Kevin S. and Eddie and Moira.

Dave, Chairman, opened the meeting by telling us about Asda at Colne offering new premises for Community events and that we could possibly use this venue for our meetings F.O.C. should the need arise in the future. He reiterated that there is to be no meeting in January as the first Thursday in January is New Year's day, therefore the **next meeting would be Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015.**

He then introduced Gary Steele MBE who was here in person to talk and inform us about promoting the PSA testing event. It had been hoped that Gary would be present at our previous meeting but unfortunately he had to cancel at short notice owing to illness. Since that meeting in November we have moved on further with the quest to PSA test as many men as possible. Further details will be given later in these Minutes. Gary spoke about the fact that "men have to get tested". He gave a very informative talk about his vocation in testing men for Prostate Cancer. He told us that 2015 has been internationally declared 'Global Green' where early detection and diagnosis of Prostate Cancer is top priority. He then explained how the set up for Prostate Cancer testing works and how we go about putting this into practice.

After Gary's talk our Christmas party began. We were once again entertained by our own member Glenn South who provided music and quizzes and a few jokes along the way despite being unwell himself. Grateful thanks to Glenn especially as he dragged himself from his sick bed to be with us. A Jacob's join followed with a 'groaning' table with so much food and drink.

**Thanks to everybody who provided food and drinks for this occasion, including our ladies who made the usual brews and a surprise gift of Samosas from Naz our representative from Macmillan nurses.**

The raffle made £61 and donations from Jimmy C & John C. amounted to £15.

As previously mentioned, further information about the PSA testing is now given. The event will take place at Burnley Football Club, Bob Lord Stand, on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> January between 9 a.m. and 12.00 Noon. Gary Steele will be present with his team to conduct the testing. Volunteers have offered to give out leaflets at the Burnley, Crystal Palace football match on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January and other volunteers will give out leaflets in Accrington, Blackburn and Nelson. Posters have been designed with the help of Leon and printed and distributed to as many places as possible and this testing is to go ahead supported by **Burnley Football Club In The Community Dept.** All that remains now is that the weather will be kind to us on the day and that as many men as possible, over the age of 45 to 50 come forward to be tested for this insidious disease.

The meeting closed with one of Dave's famous prostate jokes and a reminder that a report will be given at the next meeting on the PSA testing at Burnley Football Club, hopefully it will have been very successful.

**Next meeting will be 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 2 -4pm** at Burnley General Hospital, Mackenzie Medical Centre.