

## **MINUTES OF MEETING No 52, THURSDAY 2nd APRIL 2015**

### **Venue Mackenzie Centre, Burnley Gen. Hospital. 2- 4pm**

23 people present. Apologies were received from Francis, Ramon & Niru, Peter Ch and Glenn. We had 1 new member Dave. There was no speaker at this meeting so people present discussed any side effects they have had and their various treatments and hopefully it was of help to the other members who may be about to undertake treatments.

Dave, Chairman, opened the meeting by reading the minutes of the March meeting and reporting on matters arising. He said that there were only 21 people present at that meeting and that looking around there were not many more present today. Could that be a problem in the future? He referred to the last meeting explaining that the speaker "over shot" his time and that we really have to try to keep to times with speakers.

Colin spoke about the fact that Prostate Cancer NW are doing very well with all the groups in the NW at the moment. He said that Southport is regularly getting 70/80; there has been a group started up at Bury (Unitarian Church). They were people who didn't want to travel to Bolton so the church helped along with Prostate Cancer UK and a meeting group was set up in the evening between 7-9.00 p.m. At this point a general discussion took place as to the rights or wrongs of having a support group meeting in the afternoon. Some people stated that it was difficult for people to get off work to attend and when they had had their treatment they didn't attend again. Hazel felt we should give it a little longer but at some point we may have to decide whether or not to have the meetings at night or in the afternoon.

Dave reported on the fact that Stuart & himself went to the International Rotary Conference at the Imperial Hotel in Blackpool just to support the Walnut Prostate Support Group. Dave spoke to a Macmillan volunteer at the event who said he would be happy to talk at one of our meetings about his own Prostate Cancer 'journey', he is only 45 years old and has already had a Prostatectomy. His Father had passed away having had a PSA reading of 3000!

Dave mentioned the list that was going around about the visit to the Sanctuary of Healing on 15th April and asked if anyone else would like to go. There will be a cream tea & drink and a talk by Tony Clarkson the Proprietor.

Stuart made his report on the fund-raising that had taken place. Blackburn Rovers made £519 and Accrington Stanley £123. The Support Group will get half of these amounts with Prostate Cancer UK getting half. He made it clear that Prostate Cancer UK left the Support Group to organise everything which was hard work. Prostate Cancer UK are doing a lot with Rugby League & Golf Clubs this year. However, there is no reason why we couldn't approach football clubs personally to ask if we could hold a collection.

Stuart spoke about an e-mail he had received from Barry Kilby, former Chairman of Burnley Football Club, about a fund raising event for Prostate Cancer at the Burnley/Leicester game on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. Barry would rather the monies went to help Prostate Cancer patients in East Lancashire rather than nationally. The Robotic - HIFU method of surgery was mentioned – Barry asked if we could help with the fund raising at Burnley. Stuart again mentioned that Radio Lancashire would do a programme from Blackburn Rovers if we held a blood testing event there. However, as it takes a lot of organising this was deferred at the moment.

The world record for PSA readings is 24,500!!!!

He mentioned the fact that if you have Prostate Cancer your daughter is susceptible to breast cancer more than normal.

**BREAK FOR BREW**

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the meeting Dave thanked the ladies for making the Tea & Coffee; the raffle was drawn at the end of the first half and was reported as having made £33.

Our new member told of his journey through Prostate Cancer and that he had had radical Prostatectomy 3 weeks previous. That he had had his catheter removed 3 days earlier and that he had come to the meeting to ask if leakage goes worse. That was his question and Colin was able to answer & advise him.

Colin S told of a trial where following a Prostatectomy, Radiotherapy & Hormone Therapy is given as an 'extra' to help eradicate any small particles that may have been missed during surgery.

A discussion took place as to whether or not we could organise a mini-bus to take people to meetings at Christies or could any transport be arranged for future meetings at Christies.

Dave ended the meeting with an amusing account of the 2 days retreat which 6 couples attended at Penny Brohn, formerly Bristol Cancer Centre and then told one of his famous Prostate jokes!

**The next meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 the Mackenzie Medical Centre** and for a speaker we have a nutritionist from The Sanctuary of Healing.