

Minutes of meeting No 70, 6th October 2016
Venue: Burnley Gen. Hospital Mackenzie Centre 2 – 4pm

Present: 26 people including 2 new members David J and Alan S. Apologies from John Heyworth.

Dave, Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming the new members and explaining that there was no speaker for this meeting and asking if anyone had any ideas for speakers. He explained his quest to get a speaker for this meeting, but in this instance had been unsuccessful.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Dave and Stuart attended the Walnut Group in Preston in September. He reported on the meeting. There were 26 people present and they had 3 new members who had recently been diagnosed. Almost all the meeting was taken up with as much information as could be gleaned for the new members.

The Walnut Group (Preston) are going ahead with the PSA testing event at Preston Football Club on **Saturday 12th November**. Barry Kilby has offered to donate £5,000 to help towards the cost. Following the success of the blood testing events in Burnley Stuart and Dave have been helping the group with information on how we organise our blood testing events and some people from our support group will be helping on the day of their event. Barry Kilby also has contacts with Yorkshire Cricket Club & a Rugby Club and is hopeful of holding blood testing events there. More information about this if and when we get it.

There is to be a PC 'road show' at Morecambe on the 27th October. To be organised by Cancer Research UK with the help of the Bay Support Group. It is from 1.30 – 5.00 p.m. and there will be speakers and should be plenty of time for networking.

There is to be a football collection coming up for Prostate Cancer UK at Accrington Stanley next March. John Heyworth will be looking for volunteers to help with this event.

Dave gave his report on the trip to see the Detector Dogs at Milton Keynes. This was very impressive and interesting and well worth observing. We had a speaker from this organisation a few months ago and we gave her a donation but this trip was free.

An interesting item was discussed about Ben Stiller, an American actor who is now 50 years of age. He had a prostate test when he was 48 and was found to have the disease. If he had lived in the UK he would have been under the radar. He credits the PSA test with saving his life and has started a petition for younger men to be tested for Prostate Cancer.

An item from Roger Wotton, Chairman of the Prostate Cancer Federation, has been forwarded to us. As the Federation is not getting funding from Prostate Cancer UK anymore he has asked that each support group donates to the Federation – any amount they can afford. Prostate Cancer UK has a lot of paid employees. The Federation has done a lot of

very good work and it was felt that it was negative to Prostate Cancer Sufferers if they fail. It was put to the members about how much we should donate. More about this at the next meeting.

Two new members. Alan spoke about his cancer “journey” and was offered advice by Colin Stott. We then heard from David J who told the meeting about his cancer “journey” and treatment.

BREAK FOR BREW

The Raffle was drawn and made £38.00.

In the absence of a speaker, for the second half of the meeting a radio recording was played about a man called Kevin Varley from Appley Bridge who had Prostate Cancer. He had been to his doctor and asked for a PSA test and was refused. Eventually he was tested positive for Prostate Cancer. After his death his widow was interviewed about his campaign to trial a new treatment and at the time of his death he was tirelessly working with the University of Central Lancashire on this more specific treatment. Dave had e-mailed the University – a Dr Carole Rolfe – to see if we could arrange a talk from her and perhaps make a donation – but to date he had not had a reply.

A general discussion took place about treatments for Prostate Cancer and Colin Stott gave lots of information about treatments and spoke about research which is on-going on a new test he has heard about which no one has put a name to yet.

Dave closed the meeting with one of his famous Prostate jokes and a reminder that the **Next meeting will be Thursday, 3rd November at 2 – 4pm** at the Mackenzie Medical Centre when the Christmas ‘Jacob Join’ will be discussed.