

LEIGHTON HOSPITAL PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Chairman: Mr G R Steele MBE
Tel & Fax: 01606 553097
Email: chairman@prostateleighton.org.uk



Report of the Group Meeting and AGM held on 13th May 2017

Attendance : 53 members and guests.
Apologies : Bob & Shirley Almquist, Pradip Dattani, Jean Cruden.
Guests : Dave Riley (Chairman) and Stuart Marshall (Secretary)
from the East Lancs Prostate Support Group.
Graham Fulford from The Graham Fulford Charitable Trust.
Councillor Arthur Moran, Mayor Elect for Cheshire East Council.

Chairman's Report

Welcome everybody. The Raffle prize this time has been kindly donated by David & Wendy Laundon and as always tickets are in the hands of our own Win Bond at just £1 a strip.

So far this year we have tested 878 men of which 584 have come from the North West Freemasons Brethren, however, the cancer find is still between 8% & 10%, a figure that is far too high for comfort. The costing for these tests at £20 per man is £17,560, however the Masons do fund the cost for their members to be tested and those men do still donate to our funds on an individual basis, otherwise we ask for at least a £10 donation.

We do have a very good relationship with several organisations I have personally nurtured over many years in addition to local businesses, and funds are now donated on a regular basis.

The arrangements I have set up with sponsorships also provide funding on yearly and regular basis, the young school teacher, Claire Harrison who ran the London Marathon in just under 4 hours and between us we raised £1,506. Only 6 members however donated which is quite disappointing.

Also coming up is our famous canal cyclists who again will spend a week's holiday along the paths of the Four Counties Ring with visits to the local inn's along the way. They generally raise the wonderful sum of approx. £3000. There are sponsor forms on the table should you wish to sponsor them.

I have arranged once again with The William Stanier School in Crewe we sponsor to have another Enterprise Challenge, which has realized a further 6 schools to take part which is expected to raise more funds for the Group. We will be judging their efforts on Thursday 18th May at the William Stanier School from the challenge we set them starting at 4:45pm, which will last for just 1 hour. The winners will have a trophy and also the best fund raising idea will be set for 2017 Father's Day.

The total sports wearing our logos promoting our awareness campaign is a very considerable 1100 youngsters, also the training staff, footballers, including girl's football team, cricketers, netball team. So our message is quite visible at venues all over Cheshire and in some instances beyond.

We also have the Cheshire East Council Mayor Elect, Councillor Arthur Moran who has adopted us as one of his 2 charities during his year in office which the Mayor Elect making ceremony is set for Wednesday 17th May at Tatton Park. So the finances are in good shape for the coming year, however, it will at some

time require members to help and support these people who arrange events etc for the Group either in physical help or some financial support throughout the year.

This is our 17th AGM and we are still the most known Group in the UK and one who has probably done more to provide men with the opportunity to be tested for early detection prostate cancer and realize the importance of early diagnosis if treatment is to be successful, in addition to ensuring our hospital has funds for necessary equipment. Just recently we have provided Phlebotomy chairs in the MRI Medical Imaging Dept and also in the new Ambulatory Care Unit at a cost of £1750. These chairs were desperately needed as each patient is required to have blood taken prior to treatment. We also recently provided funds to fit out a room for Adult Learning Disability which is now frequently used, also the new chairs in Pathology which now can accommodate 38 seated patients and both rooms we provided TV's , pictures etc. cost £5000. The Pathology is of course used extensively by prostate cancer patients having blood tests. The Ambulatory care Unit is promoting a month of awareness to prostate cancer beginning in June and would like us to provide the necessary promotional material.

Last week I was asked my opinion on BBC Radio Oxford regarding the new initiative of a blood test taken from men with advanced prostate cancer which targeted a gene and could signify if that man was suitable to have either Abiraterone or Enzalutamide, the only 2 drugs available. They found multiple copies of this particular gene did not respond to either of these two drugs commonly used to treat advanced cancer in the prostate. This would of course prevent thousands of men undergoing treatment and those awful side effects that go with such drugs. However I did point out that there is no other hormonal treatment available for men to have in the circumstances, so naturally the scenario would be to do NOTHING, and of course the man would die from the over developing cancer in addition to suffering terrible BONE PAIN, so until the void is filled with something else the man will always take his chance with either of the two drugs.

My one disappointment throughout the past 18 years is the fact that we in the UK have still not introduced screening for early detection prostate cancer even though screening has proved to have considerably reduced mortality in those countries with a more regular PSA testing facility and/or screening programme.

I was rewarded for my efforts in the Queen's 2012 Birthday Honours List with an MBE, but I still feel that my best achievement has been helping to save men's lives with our PSA testing arrangements for early detection prostate cancer.

Treasurer's Report – AGM 2017

Current Account Balance - £ 28,510.76

Funds raised March/April/May - £ 15,325.59

Total Costs - £ 8,536.42

My thanks to all of you who have supported me over the past 18 years. It was most appreciated.

Gary Steele MBE - Chairman Leighton Hospital PCSG

Secretary's Report

As our Secretary Shirley Almquist was away on holiday, David Laundon presented the Secretary's report.

Since 20th July 2016, when a group of members met for an Emergency Committee Meeting and formed the present committee, we have tried to share the workload, and support Gary in the administration of the Group. We have met regularly to help enable the smooth running of the Group and update all the members with minutes of Group meetings to keep them informed of progress and activities. We hope this has been of interest to you.

Following Gary's announcement earlier this year that he intended to resign as Chairman at this AGM, the rest of the Committee met to decide how to take the group forward. They agreed that, if the Group wanted to continue successfully, it needed new members, and many of these would normally have been referred by Leighton Hospital who, in the past, had provided newly diagnosed patients with information provided by our Group.

However, since the last AGM a year ago, we have had no newcomers wanting to join the Group and receive advice and support. In fact we have lost somewhere around 15 members over the year, for various reasons. After some investigation, we discovered that our promotional literature was not being given to newly diagnosed men in the Urology department at Leighton Hospital. They were not even being made aware of the existence of our Support Group.

As you have probably heard us say before, we need to remedy that situation and re-build the relationship with the department. That will be given our immediate attention.

The Committee also decided that, until the handover from Gary had been successfully completed, and the running of the Group had settled down under its new Committee, we would hold no further PSA testing sessions after the May and June sessions already arranged by Gary. However, as five of the Committee members regularly attend and assist at the PSA sessions, we wish to be able to start these up again in the near future, hopefully with the assistance of the present phlebotomists.

It has always been the wish of the Committee to continue the Group, following Gary's retirement. We all agree that he has done an incredible job starting it, running it mostly single-handedly, and raising the vast amounts of money that he has done. The Group, and Gary Steele MBE, are well known in Cheshire and far beyond. With the best will in the world, the Committee can never hope to emulate Gary's work, but we do want the Group to continue offering support to as many men and families as possible who have been diagnosed and are suffering the effects of Prostate Cancer.

 The relationship with Waitrose at Sandbach has again proved worthwhile. As you know they accepted us as one of the three favoured charitable works for inclusion in their Community Matters Scheme for March, and I am pleased to announce that their customers raised through token distribution the sum of £ 693.00, which Waitrose has donated to LHPCSG. Out of the £1000 available to be shared amongst the 3 charitable causes, for us to take almost £700 of that means that our cause must have touched a nerve with many of the Waitrose customers.

Finally can I remind you all that membership fees are now due for the 2017/18 year. John & Maureen will be only too pleased to take any monies from you before you leave. Alternatively, please make a cheque out to "Leighton Hospital Prostate Cancer Support Group" for £5/person and post it to:

Mr & Mrs J Lovatt, 4 Spinney Close, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 3UB

Funding is going to be an important issue for the Group as we move forward into what will prove to be a challenging but interesting year, and we hope to be able to rely as ever on your ongoing support as members. Thank you and we hope that you will enjoy the rest of the meeting today and stay on at the end for refreshments and a chat.

Our thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Jacob's Table today, which we hope that you will enjoy.



We would like to welcome brand new members to our Support Group today.

They are **Graham & Pam Poole** who live in Wheelock, and **David Moore** from Church Minshull.

We are so pleased that you have chosen to join us and hope that you will find our help and support particularly useful.

After the Secretary's report, Arthur Moran, Mayor Elect of Cheshire East Council, took the floor and expressed his high regard and support for the work of the Group and in particular for Gary and what he had achieved over the years, with his fund-raising and PSA testing.

AGM Business

Gary then took charge of the AGM business which included the nominations from members for election of a Chairman and supporting committee for 2017/18.

David Laundon, was proposed, and overwhelmingly accepted as the new Chairman and Treasurer for 2017/18.

Assistant Treasurer nominations were received from Robin Creed and Nigel Barrington-Smith.

Shirley Almquist was nominated and elected as Secretary with Bob Almquist as Group Webmaster.

John & Maureen Lovatt were nominated and elected as the Membership Secretaries.

Other Committee members nominations were received from Stuart Ogden, Wendy Laundon, Charles Cahill and Janet Addenbrooke.

Discussion of the nominations for the posts of Assistant Treasurer and other general committee members will take place at the next committee meeting.

In AOB, a question was asked by Nigel Barrington-Smith regarding the financial handover. Gary confirmed that he will remain as Treasurer until the end of June, at which point the six-monthly accounts will be prepared, and the Treasurer's role would then be passed over to the new Chairman.

The raffle took place with the main prize ticket draw being made by Arthur Moran. The winner was one of our guests for the day, Graham Fulford. The remaining prizes were raffled off with a grand total of £100 being raised.

Presentation to Gary

As all business for the day had been concluded, we then moved on to our farewell to Gary as our Group Chairman. The membership wished to express their wholehearted appreciation for all the effort that he has put in to forming the Support Group initially and working tirelessly for the Group ever since.

The committee had received a letter addressed to the Group from Tracy Bullock, the Chief Executive Officer of Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. It was read out by David Laundon.

"I was recently made aware that Gary is retiring from the Prostate Cancer Support work and felt compelled to write on behalf of the Board of Directors of Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

I have known Gary for the 11 years that I have worked at the Trust, although I am aware he has been part of the support group for much longer. Over the course of this time I have had many opportunities to meet with Gary and to personally see the benefits of his fund raising.

Gary's retirement is well deserved but will be a sad loss, however; I am sure the Support Group will continue to thrive going forward. Gary's presence and engagement with the Trust means he will always be remembered by many of our staff and departments for the generosity he has shown to the Trust. Also, on behalf of our patients, who quite rightly benefit from these donations, I would like to thank Gary and the Prostate Cancer Support Group. Although they may not readily recognise this, the support from this group has greatly assisted many of our patients and not just those with prostate cancer.

I will personally write to Gary to thank him for his loyal and unwavering support to the Trust over the years".

Kevin Hammersley requested that the committee consider an honorary lifetime position for Gary of perhaps 'Founder & Patron' of the Support Group, and that this could be used on Group forms and correspondence. David Laundon agreed that this suggestion would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Win Bond then took the floor and read out a touching tribute to Gary, wishing him all the very best from all the members of the Group and expressing thanks for all his hard work over the years.

Funded by donations received from the members in appreciation of all his hard work and commitment, a presentation was made to Gary of £700 of Warner Leisure Hotel vouchers to enable Gary and Mary to take a well earned hotel break. A further gift of 160 euros was given to Gary to enjoy on their cruise holiday in July. Win also presented a large bouquet of flowers to accompany the gifts for Gary to take home for Mary.

There followed a standing ovation from the Group members and guests present at the meeting.



Claire Harrison, a music teacher at Sir William Stanier School in Crewe, ran the London Marathon on the 23rd April 2017 to help improve awareness and raise monies for our Group. On the 18th May she presented us with a cheque for **£1,506.00**.

'Very well done Claire and many thanks for raising such an amazing amount of money on our behalf.'

Claire is photographed presenting the cheque to Gary Steele and Wendy Laundon.



Calendar Update – 19th May 2017

May			
Wednesday 31st	7pm to 10pm	PSA Testing	Winsford Conservative Club, Ways Green, Winsford, CW7 4AN
June			
Saturday 10 th	11am to 2pm	PSA Testing	St Augustine Parish Church Hall, Tonge Moor, Bolton BL2 2LP
Thursday 22 nd	7pm to 10pm	PSA Testing	Congleton Golf Club, Biddulph Road, Congleton, CW12 3LZ
July			
Saturday 8 th	10am to 12noon	Group Meeting	Post Graduate Centre, Leighton Hospital
September			
Saturday 9 th	10am to 12noon	Group Meeting	Post Graduate Centre, Leighton Hospital
November			
Saturday 11 th	10am to 12noon	Group Meeting	Post Graduate Centre, Leighton Hospital

Since the AGM

Gary has sent out this to all members:

"What an amazing send off!!! My thanks to all my friends and members of the group who all contributed to this my "Last-Post" as the Chairman of our most famous support group. Especially thanks to Win Bond for her summing up of my time since the beginning of the group back in May 2000 and all the trials and tribulations fighting this awful disease which has returned on 5 separate occasions during those years, (where did she get all the information?) "warning to all members, better be careful what you say in the future".

It really was lovely to see so many members & friends and also those friends from afar, the lads from the East Lancs' group and of course my special mate Graham Fulford, our special guest Arthur Moran the Mayor Elect for Cheshire East.

So it's playtime now for a while relax take the Cruise and the week-end in a Castle and a then attack this bloody cancer.

Once again my thanks to you all and a good choice for David to captain the ship and continue our good work.

Gary Steele M.B.E.

And finally

The Sir William Stanier School in Crewe staged their "2017 Save A Dad Enterprise Challenge" on the evening of the 18th May. Three local schools, Sir William Stanier School, St Michael's Community Academy and Leighton Academy took part, providing a total of four teams of youngsters. They were charged with producing and presenting imaginative schemes to help raise awareness of Prostate Cancer and also fund-raising ideas for their schools to implement on Father's Day on 18th June.

Teams were judged on all the various aspects of their schemes. St Michael's Academy and Leighton Academy won prizes for presentation and promotional ideas, but the overall winner was Sir William Stanier School – Team 1.

Awards were presented by the judges Gary Steele, David & Wendy Laundon from LHPCSG and Catherine Harris from Adecco in Crewe.



Affiliated to: PCS North of England (Registered Charity No: 1092102)

Prostate Cancer Support Helpline: 0800 035 5302

Website: www.prostateleighton.org.uk

Secretary email: info@prostateleighton.org.uk

Webmaster email: website@prostateleighton.org.uk