**AGM – 03 NOVEMBER 2020 – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

I have now been chairman for 3 years and I am pleased to report that your support group continues to operate in the most difficult times.

Your Support Groups main aim has not changed: to support men with prostate cancer and their families.

**MEETINGS LAST YEAR:**

December: Panto Experience and Quiz

January: Meet & Chat

February: Mohit Mitra, iMedicare – cancelled due to sickness at St John’s

March: Steve Larner - cancelled – Covid-19

April: Zoom Chris Skilleter, iMedicare

May: Zoom Phillip Delaney, musculoskeletal physiotherapist

May: Zoom Pat and Sue Boyes from PCUK

June: Zoom Chris Kent, Oncologist Leicester

July: Zoom Pam Ferrar, Macmillan and Breakout Rooms Trial

August: Zoom Andrew Gabriel, Surviving Hormone Therapy

September: Zoom Dr Steve Allen, Changes

October: Zoom Rachel Lovesy and Yvonne, NGH Patient Experience and Engagement

We will continue to try to vary meetings with speakers in matters related to prostate cancer but also hold the popular “Meet and chat” meetings.

**SO BEFORE COVID (BC)**

Prior to the March 2020 lockdown, monthly meetings at St John’s continued to be well attended with an average of around 35 attendees.

We held a prostate cancer awareness event at **Nationwide Building Society** Head Office in Moulton and attended the **Brixworth Library Christmas Fair**. Many thanks to the staff of Nationwide for their help and for the funds raised. £505.40

At the **Christmas meeting** we offered members heavily discounted Gas Monkey T-shirts which had been donated and we also confirmed our donation of £357.58 to St John’s for an outdoor garden chair and table in memory of our Honorary President Bernard Kelly.

We purchased a stock of **Travel John** portable urinals (I hope you enjoyed Barrie’s Review) and a supply of the disabled toilet keys. Our intension was to offer then to members at discounted prices but unfortunately covid-19 intervened.

In 2019, the organisers of the **Rust Bucket Rally** contacted us. They were considering nominating our support group as a beneficiary of the 2020 rally. I felt we would have a greater chance of being accepted if we proposed Prostaid, a registered charity, who are considerably larger than us and has a good track record of fund raising and supporting prostate cancer.

So, whilst our support group would take an active role in promoting the Rust Bucket Rally, we agreed to do it as Prostaid.

We expected the Rally to generate a donation in excess of £30k which would have been just under half the funding necessary for the new Prostaid Prostate Cancer Support Nurse at NGH.

Well events have overtaken us and the rally is postponed until next year, but I believe Prostaid have still received over £6k from sponsors.

I should also mention that last Christmas we received a donation of £1,254 from the John Lewis Distribution Centre.

**APRIL 2020**

Unlike many other support groups who have simply stopped, we have tried to continue operating during the Covi-19 crisis and in April 2020 held our first Zoom monthly meeting.

Under the circumstances, attendances at our first zoom meetings were great with around 30 attendees but it is dropping off a bit over time. I guess this is to be expected as zoom is not the best medium for having a chat which I think is one of the main benefits of a support group.

However, what I would say is that zoom does have one advantage in that it allows us to get speakers from all over the country so, with the help of PCUK, we do get access to more quality speakers than usual.

With a relatively large group, having a chat is very difficult in zoom. So, we will continue to use the “Breakout Rooms” facility which brings down the number in each room to a more manageable level.

Unfortunately, despite all of our efforts to promote our group, such as attending events before covid-19 , we are still relatively unknown in Northampton. With covid-19 stopping events and the cancellation of our St John’s meeting, promoting ourselves to the public, other organisations, and new members is increasingly difficult.

So, we are going to trial a new approach; **advertising.**

**To target the general public,** we are going to advertise in the 5 district magazines from Northampton magazines. These are delivered to homes in Abington, Duston, Kingsthorpe, NN3, Upton, St Crispin, Harpole. We will also advertise in their “Over 50’s” magazine which is distributed via supermarkets.

**To target Corporate**, we are going to advertise on the Northampton Saints 2021 Wall Planner which will be distributed to all of Saints Business Contacts and Sponsors.

We will try to monitor the success or otherwise of the advertising with a view to perhaps extending it during the covid-19 crisis. I don’t have invoices but will approach Tackle for a grant to cover the cost.

We are now offering a zoom meeting every Wednesday except in Monthly meeting week: **Barrie’s Zoom Decaf Coffee Morning.** It’s just for a chat about all things.

**ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

The following committee members are standing down: John Baxter and Jim Sharman.

In principle, due to the current situation, I propose that we rollover myself and the following Committee members to the new year:

Chairman: Richard Truby

Deputy Chairman: Barrie Lloyd

Committee members: Peter Earl, Brian Phillips, Jayne Phillips, Pam Ferrar

I would like to propose a new committee member Alice Knight.

I would also like to propose John Baxter as Honorary President of our support group to recognise all the great work he has done since the group was formed.

Richard Truby

Chairman

Northampton Prostate Cancer Support Group

3rd November 2020