



CHILTERN PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016

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Our Next Event

You will shortly be receiving details of our forthcoming Christmas Social which will be held on Thursday 8th December at High Wycombe Cricket Club. Our Chairman Terry and all the Committee look forward to welcoming you there so please come and join us.

Secretary's Update

Our Secretary Keith now has received much positive feedback from members who are willing to help at future awareness events or to provide support to the newly diagnosed. We are very grateful for all offers of support as the Committee cannot hope to provide everything themselves, and indeed future events will only be run if there is sufficient support from our volunteers. If you have not yet responded to Keith then please contact him.

Progress on our Plans for 2016

In our last newsletter we outlined our plans for the year – this is what we've done.

We bought distinctive sweatshirts bearing the CPCSG logo to raise our profile at awareness events – These were worn at the Marlow Town Regatta, Chalfont St Giles Show and at the presentation at the Cherrymead GP Surgery evening.

The purchase of urinary flow meters is still ongoing whilst the clinicians determine the most appropriate for their needs.

We helped our sister group, Aylesbury Vale, by providing funds to support phlebotomists at their PSA testing events

We have printed new leaflets and we will have new banners ready for the 2017 awareness season.

We bought trollies to transport our heavy promotional equipment and material to awareness events.

We manned information stands at the Marlow Town Regatta and the Chalfont St Show.

We purchased some promotional ballpoint pens with the CPCSG logo for distribution at awareness events.

We have managed to obtain space in a secure storage centre where all our equipment and promotional material is now stored.

We provided a donation to the Tackle Prostate Cancer (The National Federation of Prostate Cancer Support Groups) to assist with its research and development projects.

Meetings

Your Committee has met twice during the year, in May and September, in order to maintain the organisation. The Annual General Meeting was also held in September when Chairman Terry, Secretary Keith and Treasurer Alan were each re-elected.

In July the Summer BBQ was held at High Wycombe Cricket Club and proved a highly successful and entertaining evening. It was well attended and it was good to see some new faces.

On 29th September an open meeting was held at Wycombe Hospital where the Guest Speaker was Roger Wotton who is Chairman and Trustee of Tackle Prostate Cancer. He addressed three topics:

1. Tackle Progress and Plans

He reminded us that Tackle is the Voice of PCa Patients and their Families. Its strategy is to support patients, to raise awareness and to campaign on issues. Tackle now has a network of 86 groups in the UK, it has established a national helpline, it has developed a group publicity pack and can provide templates for new groups to help them to start up.

Its main initiative in 2017 will be the Tackle Bus to raise awareness nationally and an initiative with Jason Leonard, David Gower and Damian Hopley.

Tackle has been appointed a consultation partner by NICE and this has already had a positive impact. Success with drug campaigning has resulted in significant drugs now becoming available to patients with advanced PCa including Enzalutamide, Abiraterone and Cabazitaxel

2. Working with PCUK (Prostate Cancer UK)

There is overlap between the two charities who each have different but complementary strategies. Tackle and PCUK will continue to work together but the new PCUK focus will be on funding and driving research rather than support. The charities will play to their strengths and work together where they can add value.

3. Best Practice and Support

Support groups can become “partners” with PCUK and can work towards becoming a “Best Practice Support Group”. Aylesbury Vale PCaSG has already qualified and CPCSG already meets the majority of the requirements.

Remember – the next meeting is the Christmas Social on 8th December at High Wycombe Cricket Club.

Donations

We are very grateful to all our donors as without their support we would be unable to provide our services to the local prostate cancer community. With this in mind it is good to be able to report that, apart from the equipment purchases reported above, we are

using their money wisely on other projects or initiatives.

We responded to an appeal from Tackle who was seeking support from its constituent groups.

We are presently considering making a donation to the Scannappeal which is seeking funding for a 3D theatre stack system which will allow for greater precision and shorter operations for laparoscopic surgery and is being encouraged by Neil Haldar, Consultant Urologist.

We have agreed to provide some funding for the training of urological staff where the Trust’s limited resources do not allow.

The first recipient was Claire Watson who wrote to us saying; *“As a Uro/Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist I was fortunate to receive funding from CPCSG to attend BAUS 2016. The British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) holds an annual scientific meeting, this year in Liverpool. It attracts leading urologists from around the world and aims to give delegates a comprehensive overview of the latest developments in Urology. For me this included an interesting session from an Oxford Oncologist presenting the results of two UK trials for PCa – ProtecT and Promis which provided evidence to support PCa care in the future. The conference was a fantastic experience and will enable me to expand my knowledge in this field. At a time when such funding is reduced I am grateful to CPCSG who supported me attending this event”*

Future Plans

Your Committee plans to repeat the Summer BBQ in 2017 as this is such a success. Awareness events are also planned for Marlow Town Regatta, Chalfont St Giles Show and we are investigating other appropriate venues – however our participation is, of course, predicated on volunteers coming forward to help.

If you would like more information, or you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact the CPCSG Secretary, Keith Gordon, 29 Adam Close, High Wycombe HP13 6BY.

kfgordon@bcs.org.uk

www.chilternsprostatecancersupportgroup.co.uk
