

tackle talk

Q3 2017

Welcome to the third edition of 'tackle talk', designed to keep our support groups up to date on National Federation developments and plans. Topics in this edition include an update on two initiatives – The Tackle Bus and Cycle to The Moon, Save a Dad. There is also an update on our work with Trade Unions, campaigning for Radium-223 treatment and our involvement with the National Prostate Cancer Audit. Planned workshops with PCUK are also mentioned. On page 3 you will find a summary of our income and expenditure, a regular feature for each edition.

The Tackle Bus

Our discussions continue with Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (QEHB), It's a Man Thing and the Unite Trade Union with a view to having a Tackle Bus, probably better referred to as a Tackle Man Van but the title is yet to be finalised. The good news is that the QEHB Charity has agreed funding for the project, which now has to go before the local NHS Trust for approval. The idea is for the vehicle to offer "Wellman" checks as well as PSA testing. We have decided to pilot the service with QEHB staff in the first instance before rolling it out across Unite works venues and Tackle support groups. At the moment we are investigating the various options for procuring the vehicle.

Cycle to the Moon, Save a Dad

In the last issue I mentioned this initiative for 2018. Following Board approval, we are currently seeking to identify a resource to manage the event, which is likely to take place in April or May 2018. All of our support groups will be invited to participate, as we strive to raise £250,000 (the distance from here to the moon at £1 per mile). I have



written to our Ambassadors to ask if they can help. Watch out for more information on the project in **Prostate Matters**.

Trade Unions

This year we were invited to attend the TUC Black Workers Conference and the ASLEF Annual Delegate Meeting, where we organised PSA testing in conjunction with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust. Next year we have been asked to speak at the Prison Officers Association AGM. With these contacts, and as a result of working with UNITE Trade Union on the Bus project, the Board agreed I should write to Frances O'Grady at the TUC to ask about their policy on PSA testing and awareness in general across their affiliated Trade Unions. This could provide valuable insight into what is a significant population of men across the country.

Radium-223

This is a treatment for men with prostate cancer bone metastases. In some areas of the country patients are being required to travel some considerable distance to receive this treatment at a nominated hospital. The NHS could make more hospitals available where this treatment can be offered and we were approached to see if we could lobby for more widespread availability. I wrote on behalf of the Federation to the specialised Commissioner for NHS England in support of a letter from several leading NHS hospitals asking for more hospitals where Radium-223 could be offered. I will keep members posted with developments.

National Prostate Cancer Audit

This is an annual audit of all NHS Trusts in England and Wales. I sit as a patient representative on the Clinical Reference Group. As part of the audit there is a patient survey and an annual report. Recently we were asked to give our views on how this survey might be improved for future years. I mentioned several possible improvements including collecting more data on the psychological and mental impact of prostate cancer, as well as asking in the survey if every patient is

signposted to a support organisation. I also pointed to the value of linking data on PSA testing to the survey, to give a better overall picture of trends.

Regional Workshops

Over the last couple of months I have been in touch with our regional focal points and directly with some support groups about their interest in a workshop devoted to developing and sustaining support groups, including the sharing of good practice. Looking at the feedback and voting on topics there appears to be a good level of interest for a workshop somewhere in the North and one in the London area. Prostate Cancer UK has generously offered to fund these workshops and we are likely to have them running in February 2018. Look out for more information shortly.

Staying in touch

Just to keep you up to date – since the last edition I have visited the Mount Vernon support group, and Hugh Gunn and I visited the Somerset and Plymouth groups. Feedback was good from all three. There are several more requests in the wings – let me know at roger.wotton@tackleprostate.org if you would like me or others to speak at one of your meetings.

Best wishes for now,



Roger Wotton
Chairman, Tackle Prostate Cancer