

Welcome to the final edition of 'tackle talk' for 2017, designed to keep our support groups up to date with National Federation developments and plans. Topics in this edition include a look back over 2017, an update on Cycle to The Moon - Save a Dad, a reflection on my support group visits and a mention of the 'Tackle Tribute Concerts'. On page 3 you will find a summary of our income and expenditure, a regular feature for each edition.

2017 – A busy year

This past year we have seen the Federation membership grow to 90 support groups, with new groups covering Lincolnshire and Humber, Daventry, Nottingham, Plymouth and Derby. We also have a unique new member group – 'Prostate Peddlers', based in Hertfordshire which promotes cycling within the community. This growth is excellent news but more needs to be done to ensure every man diagnosed has the opportunity of joining a local support group wherever he happens to live. Hopefully this trend will continue.

Items I have mentioned before continue to be progressed – The Tackle Man Van and our awareness follow-up with Trade Unions. I have not previously mentioned our relationship with pharmaceutical companies, so it is worth briefing you. We work closely with several, and indeed they collectively help with financial support for our core activities, which is always welcome. I have met with representatives from Ferring, Astellas, Bayer, Ipsen, Sanofi and Janssen during the year and have attended various patient days and workshops, helping cement the relationship between Tackle and some of our important partners.

Cycle to The Moon, Save a Dad

The Board approved the plan and budget for this initiative to be run in May 2018. Dave Fergus, our project manager and fundraiser is currently preparing all the detail required in terms of publicity, registration, sponsorship and logistics. We hope many, if not all of our support groups will take part. Watch out for a note I will shortly be sending to each support groups giving more information. If we do well with the event it will secure the future of the Federation for the next few years.



Support Group Visits

I am constantly surprised by the real dedication and unstinting voluntary effort put in locally to help patients and their families. I shouldn't be, because that's what many of us do day to day in helping others. Nevertheless, it's so heart-warming and reassuring to see what local groups do to offer support, advice, counselling, or just a ready ear to listen to patients' issues. This past year I had the pleasure to join support group meetings in Chorleywood, Exeter, Stratford Upon Avon, York, Mount Vernon, Cheltenham, Taunton and Plymouth. I was lucky enough to be accompanied by Hugh Gunn, one of our Trustees, on these last two visits. I have several more visits lined up for 2018. I do think it is important to stay in touch with our grass roots membership, for it's one way of making sure we reflect issues on the mind of members when we meet at Board level.

Tackle Tribute Concerts

We were approached by Jackie Dijon, a concert promoter in the Manchester area, who wanted to show support for Tackle Prostate Cancer, having previously helped our Droylsden group. Jackie is the promoter for two tribute acts featuring Chris Perry as Phil Collins and Andy Lee as Simply Red. We now have an agreement in place with Jackie, who is organising concerts across the country in 2018. I had the opportunity to attend the first three of these concerts in the Manchester area, along with John Coleman, one of our Trustees in the North West. This is a very professional set-up and it is another way of raising awareness. Both Chris and Andy volunteered for PSA testing to help spread the word. We will receive a donation from each concert. John will be handling the arrangements for the Federation. Watch out for more details on future concerts.

Other matters

We continued to play our part in the European urology community through our membership of Europa Uomo. We have also contributed to the National Prostate Cancer Audit in the UK, as well as continuing to be involved with NICE submissions and appraisals. One sad moment was the recent passing of Gary Steele MBE, who was such a beacon for prostate cancer campaigning in his local area, and inspired many others to become involved.

Best wishes for now,



Roger Wotton

Chairman, Tackle Prostate Cancer