

tackle talk

Q1 2017

Welcome to the first quarterly edition of Tackle Talk, designed to keep our support groups up to date with Federation progress and plans. We will continue to produce Prostate Matters, our quarterly magazine focused very much on our support groups, but the Tackle Talk bulletin is designed to brief you on National matters, news from the Board of Trustees and a summary of how the Federation spends its money.

We know a number of support groups have expressed an interest in understanding our financial position, so in addition to what we report annual at the AGM, we will include a summary here each quarter for those groups who would like to see a little more detail. The figures in this edition relate to end February, the latest figures signed off by the Board. The idea is to have no more than two pages of news, plus a summary of financial data. I do hope you find this additional communication initiative useful, but please tell us what you think!

2017 AGM and Conference

This year the theme for our AGM & Conference is “Trials and Tribulations”. The event will be held on Tuesday 13th June at the Winterbourne Gardens Conference Centre at Edgbaston, Birmingham. Some of you will have been to this venue before. We are lucky enough to have Professor Nick James of Birmingham University and STAMPEDE fame talking to us about new developments in the clinical trials field. On the “tribulations” topic we will have Julian Shah, a Consultant Urological Surgeon from University College Hospital London talking about some of the side effects and solutions for men suffering with prostate cancer. He will be joined by Victoria Muir, a Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, talking about some practical steps men can take. PCUK are once again generously helping financially with the conference and we are pleased to have speakers from PCUK talking about Erectile Dysfunction and issues we are facing with the lack of sufficient Clinical Nurse Specialists. This promises to be a very interesting and stimulating conference – don’t miss it, and look out for more details shortly!

Trustee Vacancy

The Board were very sorry to receive the resignation of Mike Harrison, who has had to regretfully step down as a Trustee. The demands of now being a full-time carer for his wife Pat means he has to support her in the same way she has ably supported him since he was diagnosed over 10 years ago. Mike and Pat hope to continue to attend important meetings like the AGM and Mike will continue as chair of his local High Peaks support group which he helped to set up in 2010. The Board would like to thank Mike for his valuable contribution over the years, and he also wishes us every success as we continue to be the voice of the patient. This means there will be a vacancy for a Trustee and members will receive nomination details in time for the AGM.

Patients Symposium

At the end of March we were asked by Europa Uomo (the European Patient’s Coalition) to organise a half-day patient symposium to coincide with the European Association of Urologists Congress, which this year was held in London. We were fortunate in assembling four excellent speakers for what turned out to be a very informative event. Some 55 of our members attended and we received good feedback. The sessions on

latest research developments, Bone Health, Awareness in the Black community and the drive towards screening can be found [here](#), as well as a video of the proceedings.

Fund Raising

As you will know, with our income significantly reduced as a result of the planned ending of the transitional funding arrangement from PCUK, we have had to secure our future with funds from other sources. I am pleased to say we are now in a sustainable position for 2017, due to the generosity of our support groups, and our partners in the pharmaceutical industry. Efforts will continue on fund raising as we will need to ensure a longer-term future for the Federation. We will keep members informed of developments.

Grants

Just a reminder to groups – the Board agreed to continue for 2017 the policy of offering small grants to groups to help them get established or support their initiatives focused on the local community. For more information on small grants to groups please email simon.lanyon@tackleprostate.org or look at the [small grants](#) page on our website.

Working with other charities

During the past quarter we have initiated discussions with [Orchid Male Cancer](#) to explore ways of working closer together in the interests of prostate cancer patients. There are opportunities to make use of some of the resources Orchid has in areas of fund raising, project management and public relations, where our objectives overlap. We hope to report more progress at our AGM in June. We are also staying in touch with [Cancer Black Care](#) led by Professor Frank Chinegwundoh, MBE and the men's charity [CHAPS](#), led by recently retired consultant urologist Chris Booth. Both Frank and Chris are members of our Clinical Advisory Board. As an example of working together, we are jointly attending the TUC Black Workers Conference in April to raise awareness and offer PSA testing.

Over recent weeks we have seen a ramping up of activity of the various cancer coalitions in which we participate. For example, with the affordability cap on cancer drugs proposed by NHS, we have been signatories to a letter in The Times, we have written to MPs, the coalition has asked a question during a recent House of Lords debate and then pitched up at NHS England to hand in a petition of almost 30,000 signatures lobbying against the proposals. We will continue to play an active role in these type of campaigns on behalf of prostate cancer patients.

Staying in touch with grass roots

Just a final word, and an offer – if your support group would like me to talk to them about what Tackle is doing and share some experiences I would be only too glad to pop along to one of your meetings. Just let me know at roger.wotton@tackleprostate.org

Best wishes for now,



Roger Wotton

Chairman, Tackle Prostate Cancer