**KIDDERMINSTER & WORCESTERSHIRE PCSG**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BY ZOOM**

**MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2024 AT 7.00 P.M.**

**Registered Charity No.1100718**

**Chair/Secretary Report**

**The past year had been the most active of our charity, throughout the county and beyond. Our open meetings have been successful with good speakers, helping our members to learn more about how to cope with their diagnosis.**

**We started with our open meetings in March at the Wychavon Civic Centre, Pershore, when Paul Rajjayban talked about robotic surgery in Worcestershire. He returned to our group also in the Harriers Social Club, Kidderminster in October, and was warmly welcomed their also. Paul is a very open and easy to listen to as a Speaker, and he talked with confidence about the future of Robotic Surgery in the county. Our next meeting was in the Harriers Social Club, in April when Aidan Adkins came and talked about his own experience with prostate cancer. Aiden is a Trustee of Tackle and also Chair of the Solihull support group. He also offers services to our group, and did a Buddy training course for us in June. Our next meeting was in Pershore and the speaker was Dr. Simon Murphy who is the Non-executive director on the board of Worcestershire NHS Hospitals Trust. He explained how they were now working with Wye Valley Herefordshire Hospital, South Warwickshire, and, George Eliot (Nuneaton) as an independent Trust.**

**At Kidderminster in July we invited a new member of our group Neil Austin, a retired Detective Superintendent in the west mercia police force. He was very honest in his talk and sharing his own post op problems, and the audience were grateful to hear him being honest about his experience.**

**In September we had Tony Collier in Pershore, who spoke as an Ambassador of PCUK, tackle Trustee, and ultra marathon man. He spoke openly about his diagnosis with advanced prostate cancer, and explained how he had several years treatment and was glad to share his experience. However, his determination, and attitude has meant that he finally got back to doing marathons.**

**We continue with our committee meetings throughout the year, either by Zoom in the winter and at Leapgate in Wilden, Stourport in the summer months.**

**Di fox continues with her exercise classes on Monday mornings 9.30-10.30 a.m. She ensures that attendees can do the exercises either sitting, or upright, and encourages the members to work at their level. All members from our group, and their partners, are welcome to join us.**

**Our committee members have been hit by the loss of Peter Spencer, from a long illness. He was one of our Buddies to so many other men and was always keen to help other members. We have some loss of committee members with Gordon Kingston, Richard Langley and David Underhill, stepping down from their roles for the group. We are lucky to have join us Gerard Kenny (Co-opted), although he is away for the summer season, is very much involved with helping us whenever he can. Also another new member Alison Hanson, (Co-opted) on the basis of starting a partners group for, which she is proving very good for the future following the first meeting at the Perdiswell Leisure centre, next meeting, will take place there on the 23rd February. Alison has also been an attendee for the Tackle meetings, which I cannot always make, and consequently we would like to propose Alison to a Trustees role, if she will take this over from David.**

**Nicky Langford has been a co-opted member of our committee while working for the Worcestershire Acute NHS Hospitals, but is now retiring from the full time job to part time. She is willing to take on the Secretarial Role for our Charity, to reduce my workload as Chair, she should be proposed as a Trustee.**

**Daniel Cook joined us as a co-opted member, but his work has grown from organising our zoom meetings, videoing our open meetings, website responsibility and has now agreed to take on the advertising work from Richard Langley. Again, with this extra responsibility we would like to propose Daniel as a Trustee.**

**Peter Corbishley (Trustee), as well as being our editor of our wonderful magazine that gets better every issue and will continue.**

**Paul Markall (Trustee) will continue as Treasurer for the group, but also works hard raising money for our charity and involved with the annual Tractor run on Boxing Day in Stourport-Bewdley. He is also the man behind the Shed, which is always ready to greet new members at Leapgate Farm.**

**Val Markall (Trustee), the lady who keeps everything together for our paperwork, and supporting her husband in his role as Treasurer. Val does, also, help with organising the labels and putting the magazines in the envelops with myself, Margaret Shakespear and Hilary Brothwell (both volunteers).**

**Derek Scully (Trustee), continues his work as Support Co-ordinator and database, helping the Support Contacts when they have issues, and will be arranging a meeting in March soon. He may have some news by then regarding a course that could be supplied by Tackle for our Support Contacts.**

**Dick Herbert is Vice Chairman (trustee) to help support my role should, I ever not be able to cover every event. His medical knowledge as a retired GP is always of great benefit to our group.**

**We are grateful also for the input of Mark Hall as our Minutes Secretary, who offers so much support to the group, and never lets us down.**

**We have also throughout the past year done 6 Coffee & Chats around the county, which has helped to improve our registration of more men in our group for many years. We have agreed to continue with these events, one in Ledbury and one at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club to start the year.**

**Also, for the first time since I retired, and had to stop doing PSA testing, we did two sessions with the Graham Fulford Trust, one session in Kidderminster and one in Pershore. We have tried to get the message out to the public about the missing men, who were not diagnosed statistically during covid lockdown. This is meant that a higher numbers of men, with advanced prostate cancer were being diagnosed in the county since covid lockdowns were stopped.**

**We have also with the help of volunteers, been able to increase our events, and are extremely grateful for their support. The south part of the county has signed up several volunteers for their area, but we would appreciate a little bit of help in the north part of the county.**

**All the best for 2024.**

**Mary Symons (Chair/Secretary to the group)**