Welcome to the Q2 edition ‘tackle talk’ for 2018, designed as a way of keeping support groups across the Federation up to date with National developments and plans.

Hugh Gunn

It is with a sad heart we learnt of the passing of Hugh Gunn on 18th June. This was a blow to all of us who have worked with Hugh over the years and we are so aware of how much we owe to his tireless drive and commitment for the cause of prostate cancer in general and as a Trustee of the Federation in particular. A number of close colleagues attended Hugh’s funeral on 6th July. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Kate and his family. A full tribute will be published in the next edition of Prostate Matters.

Staying in Touch

I wanted to mention the three visits I made to Reading, Bedford and Solihull support groups since the last edition of ‘tackle talk’. Yes, I do talk about what Tackle stands for, what we are doing and where we are going but it always strikes me the most valuable part of these support groups meeting is the opportunity to discuss personal experiences, share concerns and learn from each other. I am so pleased we have as Tackle’s mission statement “To be the voice of prostate cancer patients and their families” as I meet as many wives and partners at these events as I do men themselves. This is most encouraging. I am convinced it is because women would not put up with the slow progress we see in raising awareness and getting support for screening for prostate cancer compared to what they have achieved in breast cancer over the years. So, come on guys, let’s get pushing for a better deal for prostate cancer! We owe it to Hugh and the others who have passed before him.

AGM and Conference

This was another successful event at Edgbaston, with the theme “Healthy Mind, Healthy Body”. Feedback was excellent (apart from some venue issues) and a full report will be in the next edition of Prostate Matters. If you want to look at any of the excellent speaker presentations please go to www.tackleprostate.org and follow the conference item.

Raising Awareness

As part of our involvement with the Unionised community I was invited to speak at the Prison Officers Association annual conference at Southport in May. Along with Andrew Spencer of our Derby group we pitched up with Tackle publicity, banners, badges and leaflets and the talk was well received. It struck me there would be value in doing this at every Union Conference if we had the resources! Anyway, I have written to the Secretary General of the TUC asking about their policy on
prostate cancer and PSA testing. As a result of the Southport event we have been asked to speak to prisoners themselves at Ipswich prison. Watch this space!

I attended a meeting at the House of Lords, hosted by Lord Bernie Ribeiro, past president of the Royal College of Surgeons, along with Frank Chinegwundoh MBE and Chris Booth, both of our Clinical Advisory Board, and Rebecca Porta, CEO of Orchid Male Cancer. The aim was to explore how we could raise awareness and get men to be tested before symptoms present themselves, and also how we can influence those holding the purse strings to do more. It was agreed to make a start with the Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) community. I will report more on this as it develops.

**Cycle to The Moon, Save a Dad**

At our last Board meeting we reviewed this initiative and decided to keep it going for at least 2018. Originally meant to encourage support groups and others to get cycling and raise funds for “Save a Dad”, we have seen a good response from cycling clubs and gyms, mainly through our use of social media. Close to 2 million people have been reached (yes two million!) as we have used Facebook and Twitter to spread the word. Therefore, we have decided to keep this as our major fundraising theme going forward. Also, as a result of one our Trustees meeting up with the ship’s Captain and discussing Cycle to the Moon while on a cruise we are now an official charity partner of Saga Cruises. This is really exciting for us - watch out for more detail in the next edition of Prostate Matters. However, it’s never too late for a support group to participate in Cycle to the Moon, and remember, a local support group can retain 25% of any funds raised. If you have any questions you can call free on 0300 365 4080 or email saveadad@tackleprostate.org

**Other matters**

One other thing I wanted to mention. I attended the Europa Uomo meeting in Dublin in June where I helped run some training workshops on how to set up and sustain support groups. Some 19 countries across Europe were represented. The workshops were well received and I based most of what I used on my experience of working with Tackle support groups – So, positive feedback for you and your groups!

*Best wishes for now,*

*Roger Wotton*

*Chairman, Tackle Prostate Cancer*