Dear colleague,

Welcome to the first edition of ‘tackle talk’ for 2019. Your Federation continues to work hard at raising awareness, growing our support network and campaigning on behalf of all those affected by prostate cancer. Although we are a small charity, I believe we are making a difference, particularly in our continued efforts to lobby for earlier diagnosis and more informed PSA testing.

**The National Lottery**

I am pleased to report our application for National Lottery funding has cleared the first hurdle. We made an application for bringing on a full-time resource to help us grow our support organisation with a three-year programme to try and make sure every man diagnosed with prostate cancer is signposted to a support group. This means looking at all the urology and oncology centres across the country and working with Clinical Nurse Specialists to set up additional patient-led support groups. Having a full-time resource will also give us better coverage instead of relying on the goodwill of Trustees.

**Cycle to the Moon/Bike to the Moon!**

This year we are relaunching our Cycle to the Moon campaign, aimed at raising £250,000 in support of our #Save A Dad campaign. We have secured a number of Tackle places on two prestigious charity bike rides in 2019 – The Liverpool Nightrider event in July and the London to Brighton ride in September. These are available on a first come, first served basis. See [https://www.tackleprostate.org/cycling-events.php](https://www.tackleprostate.org/cycling-events.php) for more details.

In addition, we are targeting the motorcycling community this year with “Bike to the Moon”, encouraging the motorcycling community to take part, raise awareness and funds at the same time by promoting Tackle at their events. We are hoping to have a presence at several motorcycling events this year. See the latest news at [https://cycletothemoon.tackleprostate.org/](https://cycletothemoon.tackleprostate.org/)

**Pushing the Screening Debate Forward**

You will be aware there is increasing media coverage about screening for prostate cancer, why we do not have a screening programme and the need to have more widespread, earlier and better testing. This is nothing new. We have been pushing for earlier diagnosis for some time, and through our efforts with Chris Booth, one of our Clinical Advisers and head of the CHAPS charity, together with the ORCHID male cancer charity, we have embarked up on a number of initiatives to raise awareness in the political arena. We recently held an event at the House of Commons, with invited speakers from UK and Europe, to share the latest thinking on prostate cancer screening. I have to say the passion with which some of our speakers talked about the need to do more on
earlier diagnosis certainly made an impact with the politicians present at the event. We are also participating in a new All-Party Parliamentary Group on Male Cancer to try and push the debate further.

**AGM and Conference**

This year, we have set our theme of the annual conference as “**Prostate Cancer – To Screen or not to Screen**”. Groups should have seen a recent email from our Secretary, Ken Mastris about signing up to attend. The AGM and Conference will be held on Thursday June 13th at Hornton Grange Conference Centre, Edgbaston, the same venue as last year (but with improved facilities!). There is a new hotel next door, should members have to stay overnight if they are travelling a distance. As usual, we will reimburse expenses for up to two people per support group. We have assembled a really good set of speakers on the topic and I know it will be an informative and stimulating day – not everyone has the same view on screening! We have speakers from Europe, from those conducting studies in the UK, from the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust, from a GP and from Prostate Cancer UK. For more details go to [https://www.tackleprostate.org/2019-agm.php](https://www.tackleprostate.org/2019-agm.php)

**#Save A Dad**

You will have heard me mention previously about our wish to try and influence the next generation to get their Dad to be more aware of prostate issues, what to look out for and the importance of getting tested. This is a challenge, but we are in discussion with secondary schools in the North West, building on some earlier work undertaken by Phil Ormesher, one of our stalwarts in that region. This looks promising, as we would like to get prostate cancer on the National Curriculum, just as breast cancer is today. To this end we have reviewed and updated our merchandise and we now have a wider range of material available. We have Tackle beer mats (for the dads!), Tackle origami paper aeroplanes, wrist bands, larger badges, and a new credit card sized leaflet to get the message across. My plan is to send a selection to each support group to kick-start the awareness message. At the same time, I’m working with ORCHID Male Cancer to produce a leaflet specifically aimed at encouraging conversations between teenagers and their dads about prostate cancer. Watch this space for more information.

**Looking forward**

I see this year being another busy and successful year, supported by our local hard-working local member groups and our Trustees. I hope to see as many support groups represented as possible at this year’s AGM/Conference and I look forward to meeting friends old and new.

*Best wishes for now,*

Roger Wotton

*Chairman, Tackle Prostate Cancer [roger.wotton@tackleprostate.org](mailto:roger.wotton@tackleprostate.org)*