Dear colleague,
Welcome to our latest update on what is happening here at the Federation. We continue to work hard at raising awareness, growing our support network and campaigning on behalf of all those affected by prostate cancer. We believe we are making a difference, particularly in our continued efforts to lobby for earlier diagnosis and more informed testing for prostate cancer.

AGM/Conference
I am pleased to report the feedback from our 2019 AGM and Conference was excellent. Many attendees commented it was one of the best conferences they had attended. This year we had a very good selection of speakers examining the issue of whether it is time for a screening programme for prostate cancer. Evidence presented pointed to that now being the case but how to proceed is still being debated. It is a complex issue and there are still differing views, even amongst clinicians. Nevertheless, our campaign continues. See the latest paper written by Chris Booth, one of our Clinical Advisory Board members, at www.tackleprostate.org/latest-news/110-towards-prostate-cancer-screening.php

Cycle to the Moon/Bike to the Moon!
Our major initiative continues, building on our efforts of last year. We have reached out to gyms and 250 have expressed an interest. This year we have extended the project to include Bike to the Moon and we have reached out to motorcycling clubs and 100 have expressed an interest. We have established a relationship with the famous “Ace Café” in London, with the Classic Motorcycle Club and with the “Purple Helmets” motorcycle display team. The plan is to be present at motorcycle races at Donington Park on 3rd/4th August and Mallory Park on 31st Aug/1st Sep. See the latest news at https://cycletothemoon.tackleprostate.org/
**Tackle Man Van**

For some time, we have been developing the concept of a Tackle “Man Van” to be used to offer prostate cancer testing and “Wellman” check-ups to be used by our support groups across the country. We are pleased to report the vehicle has now arrived and we are piloting the services in the West Midlands. Grateful thanks must go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham charity for purchasing and customising the vehicle. We will be sharing the Man Van with UNITE Trades Union who also would like to use the vehicle for health awareness at their work locations. Here is the van parked outside our conference venue in Birmingham.

**#Save A Dad**

We are continuing to push for prostate cancer awareness to be included on the National Curriculum in secondary schools. We have written to the UK Chief Medical Officer asking if we can have the topic included, just as breast cancer awareness is included today. We are still in discussion with a number of schools in the NW who are keen to spread the word and influence the next generation. We are producing a leaflet specifically aimed at encouraging conversations between teenagers and their dads about prostate cancer.

**Strengthening our Board of Trustees**

In line with our constitution, the Board is able to appoint additional Trustees to improve our representation and reflect the wider community. I am pleased to report we have appointed Alphonso Archer as one such Trustee. Alphonso is well known to most of our existing Trustees. After 30 years working in IT, he made the decision around four years ago to pursue his passion for music after being diagnosed with prostate cancer. He now uses music creatively to help change the lives of children and adults with autism and learning difficulties. He believes this endeavour and speaking to friends, family and anyone who will listen about the need to get checked early for prostate cancer is proving to be one of the most rewarding things he has done. He is delighted at being accepted as a Trustee. See more at [www.tackleprostate.org/latest-news.php#news_item_107](http://www.tackleprostate.org/latest-news.php#news_item_107). At the AGM I mentioned my wish to strengthen the Board of Trustees further by asking for nominations from support groups for a wife of partner member to become a Trustee. I firmly believe it is the partner, alongside the patient, who is the unsung hero
and does so much to help the patient. Having this perspective available at Board level would offer us the opportunity to better understand the range of issues and opportunities that emerge as wives and partners live with the trials and tribulations of prostate cancer every day. Please feel free to sound out your membership and let me know if you have someone you would like to put forward as a Trustee. We can then consider formal applications. I am more than happy to have an informal chat with anyone interested on 07818 404004 or email me at roger.wotton@tackleprostate.org.

**Walking Football**
Many of you will be aware of the growing trend for “Walking Football”, as it grows in popularity within a certain generation. Teams are springing up across the country. You will see Alphonso standing above in his walking football attire. As one of our Trustees he has a close connection with such an initiative in Wiltshire and we are looking to collaborate this coming season to raise awareness and funds. This could develop into a very useful way of encouraging men with prostate cancer to get regular exercise, stay healthy and have a better quality of life. This initiative, being run as a pilot exercise, will be reviewed in terms of cost and benefit by the Tackle Board to see if it is worthy of developing further, with help from our support groups.

**National Lottery Application**
Our application for funding a resource to help us expand our support network is still being considered by the National Lottery Foundation. We have submitted a business plan, with costings, benefits, measures and all the detail such applications require (and there was an awful lot to consider!). We now await the outcome of their review, which takes place against all other charity applications for funding in 2019. Watch this space!

**Financials**
As usual, a summary of our latest financial situation is shown on the following page.

*Best regards,*

Roger Wotton
*Chairman, Tackle Prostate Cancer*
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