

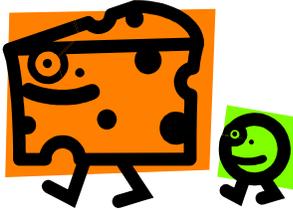
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*.... and don't forget to go to [www.avpcs.org.uk](http://www.avpcs.org.uk) for more news*

## Welcome from Brian



Our group is certainly thriving. We had some 30 members and wives/partners attend our recent lunch meeting. We are continuing with our PSA testing and we have an exciting programme for the rest of the year. On the matter of our lunches, I would like to remind members that the lunches are open to wives and partners. We would welcome members inviting their “other halves”, particularly as we know they are often as keen to learn more about what is going on, to offer support and meet other wives/partners.

## Sid Nicholl

*We were sorry to learn of the passing of one of our members, Sid Nicholl of Tring, after a brave fight against advanced prostate cancer. Sid was a testament to making the most of life after prostate cancer, but it was such as pity he was diagnosed so late, reminding us of the need to have an early diagnosis, particularly if one has a relatively low PSA, as in Sid's case. Roger and Susan attended his funeral, as he had wished. Our condolences go to his wife Janet and her family.*

## A Day at The Dons

At the end of February our intrepid gang of volunteers, along with members of the MK support group visited the MK Dons vs. Shrewsbury Town game to shake the bucket and raise funds for prostate cancer. All had a good time and enjoyed watching the game afterwards. Along with the MK Group, we benefitted from the charity collection to the tune of £250, organised by Prostate Cancer UK.



## Patients Symposium



At the end of March Tackle Prostate Cancer (of which Roger is chairman) organised a patients symposium at the Excel Centre in London. Brian, Bruce and Roger attended, and heard four excellent speakers talk about the latest developments in prostate cancer treatment, raising awareness in the black ethnic community, the importance of bone health and the push towards more widespread PSA testing. All four of the presentations can be found at [www.tackleprostate.org/tackle-symposium-2017.php](http://www.tackleprostate.org/tackle-symposium-2017.php). One of the speakers talked about the emergence of multiparametric MRI scanning (mpMRI) as a popular diagnosis tool to avoid unnecessary biopsies. These are more powerful scanners offering a more detailed view of the prostate, but requiring more expertise in interpreting the scan results. This view was echoed in a recent presentation at Wycombe Cricket Club given by Mr John Kelleher, one of our local urological consultants. Readers may have seen the following article in The Times from 11 March, echoing the need to update MRI scanners in general use.

### Ageing MRI scanners put patients at risk

Chris Smyth Health Editor

Almost a third of MRI scanners in the NHS are out of date and putting patients at risk of inaccurate diagnoses, according to the Royal College of Radiologists. The college said that hospitals were not putting enough effort into upgrad-

ing ageing equipment, with half having no plans to replace their scanners. MRI scanners use strong magnets to produce images of the inside of the body and are increasingly crucial to the diagnosis of serious illness. In one study this year they were found to be twice as effective at spotting prostate cancer as

biopsies. Nicola Strickland, the college's president, said: "Older scanners produce inferior images with much less detail and clarity than newer scanners... Greater computing power and clever new software on newer scanners means that radiologists can get much more diagnostic information."

## PSA Testing Report

We held another successful PSA testing session at the Masonic Hall in Aylesbury on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Our thanks go to the local Lodge for use of the hall. 85 men were tested in conjunction with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust. Some £555 was donated by men attending which reduced the cost to us for the day to £931. This was well worth the effort and we will look to do more testing in the local area.



## Awareness at Tesco



*On May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> we set up stall at Tesco in Broadfields, Aylesbury. Our volunteers, organised by Alan Kerr, helped raise awareness over the two days. Many shoppers stopped to enquire about our group and we almost ran out of leaflets! We were well looked after by the Tesco store manager, who welcomed us back at any time in the future. One interesting encounter was with a local police officer who was so intrigued by*

*the stand he asked for a supply of leaflets for his local police station! Although fund raising was not the aim of the day, shoppers donated a total of £126. See the picture above of Bruce and Brian on duty.*

## Recent Donations



We were very grateful to receive £250 from Haddenham Masonic Lodge and £500 from the Vale Masonic Lodge, Aylesbury. The Worshipful Master of Vale Lodge, Peter Thomas, made a further personal donation to us in memory of his uncle, Sid Nicholl. We are grateful for the continuing support we receive from the Masonic community in Buckinghamshire in raising awareness and promoting PSA testing. Michael Brisley, one of our group members, also personally donated £100 towards our efforts. We are now in a strong financial position such that we can consider further PSA testing locally.

## Bucks County Show

*We are pleased to announce we will be back at the Bucks County Show which celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 31<sup>st</sup>. This will be a very good opportunity for us to raise awareness in our local community at what is a very popular and prestigious event. We will be looking for volunteers to man our stand in two hour slots from 8am to 6pm. If you already know you are free and want to help out please email Alan Kerr at [adrkerr@gmail.com](mailto:adrkerr@gmail.com)*



## Future events

*Please make a note of these events in your diary for the rest of the year .....*



- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June** Tackle AGM at Winterbourne Gardens, Edgbaston
- Sat 15<sup>th</sup> - Sun 16<sup>th</sup> July** Chiltern Support Group awareness stand at  
The Rebellion Brewery, Marlow
- Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> Aug** Aylesbury Vale Awareness Stand at Bucks County Show
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Sep** Late summer lunch meeting and BBQ at Thame Football Club
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Nov** Autumn Quiz at The Chandos Arms, Weston Turville
- Monday 11 Dec** Christmas lunch meeting at Thame Football Club

Brian

Roger