

## **Edinburgh & Lothian Prostate Cancer Support Group**

### **Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday 16 June 2016 at Maggie's Centre WGH Edinburgh**

Meeting chaired by Mike Shaw who started the meeting by welcoming the members.

#### **1. Apologies.**

Apologies received from Chris Garner, Les Alexander, Charlie Hogg, Iain More, Donald Ferguson, Ian Dickson, Larry Foster and Steven Dryden

#### **2. Registration.**

There were 27 members present, including three new members

#### **3. Minutes of AGM on 4 June 2015.**

The minutes of last year's AGM were accepted and proposed by Ian Hogarth and seconded by Bob Scott.

#### **4. Chairman's Report.**

Mike Shaw (MS) reported that our chairman, Larry Foster (LF), was unable to be present, so MS presented the report on his behalf. MS took the opportunity to thank LF for taking on this role for us last year and contributing to our last members' meeting here in Edinburgh in April.

MS added that individual committee members and colleagues would present related reports on the group's External Affairs, Buddying, Web and Administration, and Walking Group.

This had been another extremely busy year for the Group, now in its 6th full year as an independent charity. Attendances at Edinburgh and West Lothian meetings have been very high - a tribute to the group and to our high profile throughout the Lothians. Articles about our group and members have featured in newspaper articles for 'The Scotsman'. It also reflects the sheer volume of need for information out there that we have done our bit to help identify and which we must keep up in the months and years ahead.

**a) Edinburgh Group** The Edinburgh group has had a rich and varied agenda since last year's AGM. 'Members' Personal Stories' have been featured, including inspiring contributions last September by Peter Phillips, Chris Garner and Ian Hogarth. In November our speaker was Professor Alan McNeill, Consultant Urological Surgeon, and a leading expert on prostate cancer, who shared his insights on surgery and the new robot technology. In February Consultant

Clinical Oncologist Duncan McLaren took centre stage to talk about new and continuing developments in his sphere of interest, including the use of Radium 223. In April we had contributions from Sandra Bagnall of SCAN (South East Scotland Cancer Network) Dr Mike Capaldi, CEO of Sunergos Innovations, on his work in research and development, including commercialising innovative technologies in healthcare, and Larry Foster on the skills he gained from our group now using with glaucoma patients. MS added that only two days ago the first meeting took place in Lasswade of the Midlothian All-Cancers group and we send best wishes and look forward to collaborating with them.

**b) West Lothian** Charlie Hogg (CH) who could not be present this evening, but reports a very good year for the West Lothian Group with an average of 60 in attendance at each of four meetings. The Buddy Programme continues to be a great success and a recent presentation to 37 GPs helped expand the awareness of the work of the Group. During the last financial year a sum of £3260 was received in donations from local fundraising events. Next year is the tenth anniversary of starting the Group and an event to celebrate this milestone will be planned.

**c) External Representative** Report Rob Lester (RL) reported that this has been a very significant year for ELPCSG as our members have been working closely with the Scottish Medicines Consortium. This has resulted in review panels approving both Abiraterone (Zytiga) and Enzalutamide (Xtandi) for extended use in the earlier treatment of advanced prostate cancer where standard hormone therapy is no longer effective. We also saw acceptance of the new drug Radium 223 (Xofigo) for treatment of multiple bone secondaries. The SMC announced this month that Cabazitaxel (Jevtana) has been rejected as second line chemotherapy for men who have had Docetaxel (Taxotere) and hope that this decision will be reversed in the near future. RL congratulated Prostate Scotland on their successful Blue Horizon Appeal which resulted in Glasgow starting Robotically-assisted prostate surgery in February 2016 and Edinburgh expected to be operational before the end of the year. We are grateful to Prostate Scotland for the excellent information provided on prostate cancer and thank them for the support they have given ELPCSG throughout the past year. We are pleased to continue our involvement with the South East Scotland Cancer Area Network (SCAN) and appreciate the care given by the highly specialised clinical team. A major development has been the introduction of chemotherapy with Docetaxel (Taxotere) as standard treatment for men newly diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer. Also special thanks to Sandra Bagnall for coordinating our links with SCAN and keeping us informed on the Transforming Care After Treatment (TCAT) project for men recovering from prostate surgery.

**d) Buddying** Ian Hay (IH) reported that the group has received over 50 enquiries over the last year. The group has currently 14 buddies, some longstanding, and we have six new volunteers who will receive training.

**e) Administration** Alasdair Ferguson (AF) reported that his role as membership Secretary involved maintaining our membership contacts database and adding new members. There were regular communications with members about meetings and issues of interest. The group currently has 221 members and another 77 individuals in medical and professional organisations we keep in regular contact with. Our current membership total is 27 more than 2015. Your committee meets six or seven times a year to consider issues of interest to our members. The committee communicates with members in a number of ways: a) by e-mail – we receive and respond to e-mails from local, national and international organisations and from individuals providing or seeking information, plus we receive requests for buddies which are passed on to Ian Hay. We send out e-mails about forthcoming members' meetings and current issues related to prostate cancer to members in the E&L area b) we maintain a website which includes in addition to lots of information about the group, links to other websites which provide information about prostate cancer and treatment, plus regular news updates from the press and c) we are also on Twitter and Facebook and members were encouraged to follow us!

**f) ELPCSG Walking Group** Iain Sime reported another very successful year with five walks ranging from the Scottish Borders to Holyrood Park in Edinburgh. New members have joined the group over the last year and these events are very enjoyable for members. The group featured in the Scotsman article about prostate cancer and exercise published earlier this year.

**5. Financial Report.** Jim Woodhead, Treasurer, prepared a written report of the Group's accounts for the year 1st April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. Donations of £5,313.68 over the year were received, with expenses for both Groups totalling about £8,500. Excess receipts and payments amounted to £3,063. The opening year bank balance was £16,359.69 and the closing year bank balance was £13,296.92 and the finances of the group are well placed. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Bob Geddes and seconded by Ian Hogarth.

The report was independently examined by Mr T M Mackin. Members approved the honorary re-appointment of Mr Mackin as independent examiner for the current year, subject to his agreement which Jim Woodhead will seek. This was proposed by David Patterson and seconded by Roddy McLean.

**6. Election of Chairman.** Ian Hay has agreed to act as Chairman of the Group. This was proposed by Joe Walker and seconded by Stephen Hunt.

**7. Election of Committee Members.** Mike Shaw explained that the group structure introduced last year, whereby each committee member had a specific role, appeared to have worked well. The current committee members were prepared to stand for re-election and two additional group members had agreed to join the committee (Iain More and Bob Scott). The Committee standing for election are:

Ian Hay

Charlie Hogg

Rob Lester

Mike Shaw

Jim Woodhead

Roddy Maclean

Iain More

Alasdair Ferguson

Support for all these names was carried by a show of hands having been proposed by David Patterson and seconded by Bob Scott

**8. Election of Trustees** Larry Foster and John Bishop are stepping down as trustees, and Alasdair Ferguson and Ian Hay have agreed to become trustees. The trustees will therefore be:

Charlie Hogg

Rob Lester

Mike Shaw

Jim Woodhead

Alasdair Ferguson

Ian Hay

This was agreed by a majority of a show of hands.

**9. Any Other Competent Business.** There being not other business the meeting concluded.

Alasdair Ferguson, Secretary