

EDINBURGH AND LOTHIAN PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 2020
CONDUCTED BY EMAIL
LED BY
CHAIRMAN IAN HAY

WELCOME ALL MEMBERS IN BOTH CENTRES TO OUR FIRST, AND HOPEFULLY OUR LAST, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ELECTRONICALLY DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON FACE TO FACE MEETINGS.

THE NORMAL RULES HAVE BEEN RELAXED BY THE CHARITIES REGULATOR OSCR TO AUTHORISE US ON THIS OCCASION TO HAVE A VIRTUAL AGM.

AS THESE AGM PAPERS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS, ALL ARE DEEMED TO BE PRESENT AND APOLOGIES ARE NOT APPLICABLE.

THE MINUTES OF OUR AGM HELD ON 13th JUNE 2019 WERE FORWARDED TO MEMBERS ON 6th MAY 2020 AND COMMENTS INVITED ON OR BEFORE 13th MAY. AS NONE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THESE MINUTES ARE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THOSE WHO WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

GROUP ANNUAL REPORT BY CHAIRMAN IAN HAY

2019/20 HAS BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR OUR GROUP IN BOTH CENTRES. UNDER THE EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP OF CHARLIE HOGG, WEST LOTHIAN CENTRE SEAMLESSLY COPEd WITH A MOVE TO A NEW MEETING VENUE WHILE CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN A HIGH AND RESPECTED LOCAL PROFILE. EDINBURGH CENTRE SIMILARLY HAS EXPANDED ITS REPUTATION AND IS RAPIDLY OUTGROWING THE CAPACITY OF THE MUCH LOVED VENUE AT MAGGIES. THIS IS MY FOURTH AND LAST YEAR AS GROUP CHAIRMAN AND I AGAIN HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE RECEIVED OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FROM OUR DEDICATED HARD WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS. FOR MANY YEARS NOW THE GROUP COMMITTEE HAS COMPRISED EDINBURGH MEMBERS WITH CHARLIE HOGG BEING THE ONLY REPRESENTATIVE FROM WEST LOTHIAN. WE ARE OF COURSE ONE GROUP WITH TWO VERY SUCCESSFUL CENTRES AND AS SUCH WE SHOULD LOOK TO GET AN INCREASED WEST LOTHIAN REPRESENTATION ON THE COMMITTEE IN THE FUTURE. IF ANYONE FROM WEST LOTHIAN IS INTERESTED PLEASE LET ME OR CHARLIE KNOW OR EMAIL elpcsg@gmail.com. OUTWITH THE COMMITTEE WE ARE INDEBTED TO ROB LESTER AND ALASDAIR FERGUSON WHO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGING EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND OUR WEBSITE RESPECTIVELY. WITH YOUR APPROVAL I WILL CONTINUE AS BUDDY CONVENOR FOR ANOTHER YEAR DURING WHICH WE WILL HOPEFULLY FIND A VOLUNTEER TO TAKE OVER THIS VERY ENOYABLE AND MUCH APPRECIATED ROLE. LOCKDOWN IN MARCH MEANT THAT BOTH CENTRES HAD TO CANCEL MEETINGS AND THAT IT BECAME NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS GROUP AGM BY EMAIL.

WEST LOTHIAN CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT BY LEADER CHARLIE HOGG

THE WEST LOTHIAN CENTRE MOVED TO A NEW MEETING VENUE AT CROFTHEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE, DEDRIDGE, LIVINGSTON ON 1st AUGUST 2019 AND HAS HELD OTHER MEETINGS SINCE THEN ON 10th OCTOBER AND 8th FEBRUARY. THE VENUE HAS ALLOWED MORE SPACE FOR PRESENTATIONS AND GREATER ROOM FOR CATERING AND PRIVATE GROUP MEETINGS. A RECENT QUESTIONNAIRE TO OUR MEMBERS SHOWED A HIGH APPROVAL FOR THE MOVE AND THE NEW VENUE FACILITIES. IT ALSO PROVIDED IDEAS FOR FUTURE SPEAKER SPECIALITIES AND

DETAILS ABOUT OTHER LOCAL GROUPS OF HIGH INTEREST WITH OUR MEMBERS. THE NEW FACILITIES ALLOWED US TO LAUNCH OUR NEW LADIES GROUP WHICH MEETS IN A PRIVATE AREA AFTER THE MAIN MEETING. THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT SUCCESS AND SUPPORTED BY A LADY FROM MY TEAM AND OUR NURSE SPECIALIST (AVERAGE 8/10 IN GROUP). THE ATTENDANCE LEVELS FOR OUR MAIN MEETINGS HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT AT THE NEW VENUE WITH ON AVERAGE 70 ATTENDING. WE HAVE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF £2184 IN DONATIONS IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR. OUR MAIN CAMPAIGNS THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN AROUND BUDDY/GROUP ADVERTS IN NEWSPAPERS AND LOCAL MAGAZINES THAT GO INTO EVERY HOUSE IN WEST Lothian. WE HAVE ALSO ORGANISED AND BEEN PART OF JOINT WEST Lothian LOCAL GROUP EVENTS TO WORK TOGETHER TO HELP OUR MEMBERS, NOT ONLY ON PC TREATMENTS AND RESEARCH BUT TO BE AWARE OF OTHER LOCAL SERVICES THEY MAY NEED WHETHER THROUGH CARE/FITNESS-HEALTH/FINANCE/BENEFITS-LEGAL SERVICES.

I WAS INVITED TO MAKE A PRESENTATION ABOUT OUR GROUP AT THE MACMILLAN WEST Lothian ABOUT 'CANCER INFORMATION SERVICES' AT A CONFERENCE ON 13th NOVEMBER IN BLACKBURN ATTENDED BY LOCAL GROUPS, GPs AND OTHER PRACTICE MEMBERS. OUR SUPPORT GROUP CENTRE HAS AN ADVERT THAT APPEARS ON THE LOOP SCREENS THAT HAVE BEEN SET UP IN EACH GP SURGERY IN WEST Lothian.

WE ARE CONTINUING TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OUR MEMBERS DURING THIS CRISIS WITH EMAILS PROVIDING INFORMATION ON CORONAVIRUS AND ITS POTENTIAL LINKS TO PROSTATE CANCER TREATMENT PLUS VARIOUS NEWS ITEMS FROM OTHER WEST Lothian GROUPS AND INFORMATION ON MANY EMERGENCY SERVICES OFFERED DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

EDINBURGH CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT BY LEADER IAN HAY

OUR MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER, NOVEMBER AND FEBRUARY WERE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL WITH CAPACITY ATTENDANCES. THIS IS A TRIBUTE TO THE QUALITY AND STANDING OF OUR SPEAKERS WHO ARE IDENTIFIED AND RESEARCHED BY IAIN MORE.

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING WAS ADDRESSED BY DR JOE SULLIVAN OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST WHO IS CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF NORTHERN IRELAND CANCER CENTRE. JOE NOT ONLY ENTHRALLED US WITH HIS PRESENTATION BUT CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY ENTERTAINING US, SINGING SONGS HE HAD COMPOSED WHILE PLAYING A MINI GRAND PIANO HIRED FOR THE EVENING! IN NOVEMBER FORMER SCOTTISH MINISTER FOR JUSTICE KENNY MACASKILL GAVE A PRESENTATION CENTRED ON HIS BOOK 'THE LOCKERBIE BOMBING' AND THE PRESSURES HE WAS UNDER DUE TO THE RELEASE OF ABDUL Baset AL MEGRABI ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS AS HE WAS SUFFERING FROM TERMINAL PROSTATE CANCER.

OUR SPEAKER IN FEBRUARY WAS DR ALEXIS WEBB, SENIOR RESEARCH FUNDING MANAGER IN EARLY DETECTION AT CANCER RESEARCH UK. SHE GAVE A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF FUNDRAISING AND SPEND IN CANCER RESEARCH AND HOW SOME CANCERS WERE PRIORITISED. PROSTATE CANCER RECEIVED £22M PER ANNUM OUT OF A TOTAL SPEND OF £400M

JOHN RUTHERFORD, FORMER SCOTTISH RUGBY INTERNATIONALIST WHO HAS SUFFERED FROM PCa WAS TO HAVE BEEN OUR APRIL SPEAKER BUT HAS NOW BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2021.

WE ARE INDEBTED TO OUR MEMBERS WHO SUPPORTED THE MAIN SPEAKERS BY RELATING THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF LIVING WITH PROSTATE CANCER. OUR GRATEFUL THANKS ARE DUE TO MAGGIES PARTICULARLY ANDY AND LISA

FOR THEIR CONSTANT HELP AND CONSIDERATION AND TO OUR MEMBERS WHO HELP OUT AT MEETINGS ESPECIALLY EDDIE AND STUART ON RECEPTION AND BOB FOR ORGANISING THE CATERING, SUPPLEMENTED BY HIS OWN OUTSTANDING HOME BAKING

DAVID MILNER REPORTS THAT THE WALKING SECTION HAVE ENJOYED FIVE WALKS IN THE PAST YEAR, ALL OF WHICH INCLUDED THE INNOVATION OF HAVING A SHORT OPTION FOR THOSE WHO FELT UNABLE TO TACKLE THE FULL LENGTH OF THE MAIN WALK. THE JUNE WALK STARTED IN INVERKEITHING AND ENDED IN ABERDOUR AND WAS LED BY ROB LESTER. THE AUGUST WALK WHICH STARTED AND ENDED IN MELROSE WAS LED BY IAIN SIME. THE OCTOBER WALK, LED BY ERIC MARCH, WAS BASED MAINLY IN THE GROUNDS OF GOSFORTH HOUSE, STARTING IN THE BOTHY CAFE AND ENDING AT CRAIGIELAW GOLF CLUB. DAVID MILNER LED THE DECEMBER WALK WHICH FOLLOWED THE WATER OF LEITH WALKWAY FROM SLATEFORD TO LEITH. FINALLY IN FEBRUARY THE WALK WAS FROM PENICUIK TO ESKBANK, WITH LARRY FOSTER LEADING. AT THIS POINT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FORECAST WHEN THE WALKS WILL RESUME AS MEETING IN A CAFE AT THE START AND EATING IN A PUB OR RESTAURANT AT THE END WILL BE PROBLEMATIC FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE

ADMINISTRATION

AFTER FIVE YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY ALASDAIR FERGUSON STOOD DOWN FROM THAT ROLE BUT STILL MANAGES OUR WEBSITE. KEN HOWEY JOINED THE GROUP COMMITTEE IN 2019 AND TOOK OVER THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY DUTIES WHICH HE HAS CARRIED OUT EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY. HE GETS EXCELLENT SUPPORT FROM DAVID MILNER AS MINUTE SECRETARY.

BUDDY SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

REQUESTS FOR BUDDY SUPPORT INCREASED AT BOTH CENTRES OVER THE YEAR UNTIL THE LOCKDOWN IN MARCH TO COMBAT COVID 19, WHEN DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENTS WERE CURTAILED DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. BOTH CENTRES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO MEMBERS AND NEWLY DIAGNOSED PATIENTS WHEN REQUESTED. NEW BUDDIES HAVE BEEN RECRUITED AND EDINBURGH CENTRE IS GRATEFUL TO ANDY ANDERSON, HEAD OF MAGGIES, FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT IN TRAINING NEWCOMERS TO THE BUDDY ROLE.

ANNUAL REPORT ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BY ROB LESTER

ABIRATERONE (ZYTIGA): THIS YEAR SAW A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT WHEN, IN JANUARY 2020, THE SCOTTISH MEDICINES CONSORTIUM (SMC) ANNOUNCED THAT ABIRATERONE HAD BEEN APPROVED AS A FIRST LINE TREATMENT BY THE NHS FOR MEN LIVING IN SCOTLAND. ELPCSG HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH SMC AS A PATIENT REPRESENTATIVE GROUP SINCE 2012 (WHEN ABIRATERONE WAS INITIALLY ACCEPTED FOR LIMITED USE ONLY) AND IT IS VERY SATISFYING TO SEE THE CURRENT SITUATION WHERE ABIRATERONE IS NOW BEING USED FOR EARLY TREATMENT OF ADVANCED PROSTATE CANCER.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE VALUABLE WORK BEING DONE BY OUR FRIENDS, THE MUCH RESPECTED CHARITY, PROSTATE CANCER SCOTLAND. FOLLOWING THE MAJOR RECENT SURVEY OF MEN LIVING WITH PROSTATE CANCER IN SCOTLAND WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THEIR INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR MEN WITH PROSTATE CANCER

WEBSITE ANNUAL REPORT BY ALASDAIR FERGUSON

THE ELPCSG WEBSITE PROVIDES A WEALTH OF INFORMATION ABOUT DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF PROSTATE CANCER IN EDINBURGH AND THE LOTHIANS AND ABOUT THE WORK OF THE GROUP ITSELF. IT IS UPDATED REGULARLY WITH NEW INFORMATION AND LINKS TO NEWS ABOUT PCa INTERNATIONALLY, NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY. THE WEBSITE UNFORTUNATELY CRASHED AND DISAPPEARED FROM THE INTERNET IN FEBRUARY 2020, BUT THANKS TO OUR WEB DESIGNER, LESLEY DUNCAN, ALL WAS RESTORED VERY QUICKLY. CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO MOVING TO A MORE RELIABLE WEBSITE HOSTING COMPANY.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

AS ALWAYS WE ARE HUGELY INDEBTED TO OUR TREASURER JIM WOODHEAD FOR THE EXEMPLARY MANNER IN WHICH HE LOOKS AFTER THE GROUP FINANCES. OUR FINANCES WERE CONSIDERABLY STRENGTHED BY A VERY KIND AND GENEROUS LEGACY RECEIVED FROM LONG TIME EDINBURGH CENTRE MEMBER IAN HOGARTH WHO DIED IN 2018. IAN WAS A REGULAR ATTENDEE AT MEETINGS AND SOCIAL EVENTS AND HIS CHEERY AND HELPFUL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SADLY MISSED.

THE CERTIFIED INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED ACCOUNTS TO 31st MARCH 2020 WERE CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS ON 6TH MAY AND ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS WERE INVITED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE TREASURER ON OR BEFORE 13th MAY. NONE WERE RECEIVED AND BILL PLATTS HAS PROPOSED THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ACCOUNTS AND THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MR MACKIN AS INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR. THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN SECONDED BY LARRY FOSTER. THE PROPOSAL IS THEREFORE APPROVED.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

AS ADVISED EARLIER I HAVE COMPLETED FOUR YEARS AS CHAIRMAN AND I (IAN HAY) AM PLEASED TO NOMINATE IAIN ANNAND FOR THE ROLE OF CHAIRMAN OF OUR GROUP. IAIN HAS BEEN A COMMITTEE MEMBER AS WELL AS A BUDDY FOR TWO YEARS. HE HAS AN EXCELLENT UNDERSTANDING OF THE GROUP AND THE SUPPORT IT GIVES TO MEMBERS. JIM WOODHEAD SECONDS THIS NOMINATION AND IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER NOMINATION IAIN WILL TAKE OVER AS CHAIRMAN WHEN OUR AGM PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

ROBIN MCLEAN WAS CO-OPTED TO THE COMMITTEE DURING THE PAST YEAR AND MUST NOW STAND FOR ELECTION. ROBIN HAS ALREADY MADE A GOOD CONTRIBUTION TO COMMITTEE DUTIES. DAVID MILNER PROPOSES THAT HIS ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE IS CONFIRMED AND IAIN MORE HAS SECONDED THE PROPOSAL. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL THE MOTION IS CARRIED.

RE-ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IN ADDITION TO IAIN ANNAND AND ROBIN MCLEAN ARE:- IAN HAY, CHARLIE HOGG, KEN HOWEY, DAVID MILNER, IAIN MORE AND JIM WOODHEAD. THEY ARE ALL PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO SERVE ON OUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR A FURTHER YEAR. ROB LESTER HAS

PROPOSED THEY BE RE-ELECTED FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS AND ALASDAIR FERGUSON HAS SECONDED THIS MOTION SO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE IAIN ANNAND, (CHAIRMAN) JIM WOODHEAD (TREASURER) KEN HOWEY (MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY) DAVID MILNER (MINUTE SECRETARY) CHARLIE HOGG (WEST LOTHIAN) IAN HAY (BUDDY SERVICE) IAIN MORE (EVENTS AND SPEAKERS) AND ROBIN MCLEAN (MEMBER SERVICES).

THERE IS STILL A VACANCY ON THE COMMITTEE. ANYONE WILLING TO HELP, NOW OR IN THE FUTURE, SHOULD INTIMATE THEIR INTEREST BY EMAILING elpcsg@gmail.com. A MEMBER WHO ATTENDS WEST LOTHIAN CENTRE WOULD BE WELCOMED.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEE

AFTER GIVING LONG AND VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE GROUP AS A TRUSTEE, PAST CHAIRMAN MIKE SHAW HAS DECIDED TO STAND DOWN. DUE TO A STAY IN GALLOWAY FOR MIKE AND FLORENCE WHILE THEIR NEW HOUSE WAS BEING BUILT IN MORNINGSIDES FOLLOWED BY SPELLS WHEN BOTH HAVE HAD HEALTH PROBLEMS, MIKE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ATTEND MEETINGS FOR SOME TIME. HE HOPES THAT THIS WILL BE RECTIFIED SOON. WE HAVE MISSED MIKE'S CONTRIBUTION AND VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING HIM AGAIN TO MAGGIES.

TO FILL THE TRUSTEE VACANCY CHARLIE HOGG HAS NOMINATED DAVID MILNER WHO HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF EDINBURGH CENTRE FOR MANY YEARS AND A COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR THREE YEARS. HE IS MINUTE SECRETARY AND CONVENOR OF THE WALKING SECTION AT EDINBURGH CENTRE.

IAIN SIME HAS SECONDED THIS NOMINATION AND IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER NOMINATION THE PROPOSAL IS CARRIED.

RE-ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

CURRENT TRUSTEES ARE:- ALASDAIR FERGUSON, IAN HAY, CHARLIE HOGG, ROB LESTER AND JIM WOODHEAD WHO ALL ALL PREPARED TO CONTINUE AS TRUSTEES. KEN HOWEY HAS PROPOSED THAT THEY BE RE-ELECTED FOR A FURTHER TWELVE MONTHS AND THIS MOTION HAS BEEN SECONDED BY IAIN ANNAND. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER PROPOSAL THIS MOTION HAS BEEN APPROVED

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

AS THIS AGM IS BEING CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY THERE IS NO OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS BUT AS ALWAYS IF MEMBERS HAVE ANY ISSUES THEY WISH THE GROUP TO CONSIDER THESE CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE. MEETINGS AT THE CROFTHEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND AT MAGGIES WILL BE RESUMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PERHAPS NEXT YEAR WE MAY BE ABLE TO ENJOY OUR GROUP AGM AT CROFTHEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE?

IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES YOU WISH TO MAKE ON THE CONTENT OF OUR VIRTUAL AGM PLEASE SEND THESE TO elpcsg@gmail.com BY 2ND JUNE 2020
THESE PAPERS CONTAIN FULL DETAILS OF OUR VIRTUAL AGM AND AS SUCH WILL STAND AS THE MINUTES OF THE ELPCSG AGM 2020

