

# Buzz Bulletin



January 2026  
Edition 1 Vol 11

Newsletter of the  
North Hampshire Prostate  
Cancer Support Group

## Chairman's Chat



*Keith Jones*

**G**ood day to you all, I hope you all had a great Christmas, it is already over a month in the past and we now look forward to the spring and hopefully less rain!

## Group News

### Partners Group

As some of you may have heard, the Gaberdine Bar has closed its doors and as of now the Partner Group meetings have been suspended. Pat Twigg is actively investigating alternative venues and will be in contact with the group members when there is an update.

### Fund Raising

As I reported in the last Buzz, Ollie Parsons, the son of member John Parsons, has chosen to raise funds for our group by signing up to run a 55 kilometre Ultramarathon. Ollie set a target of raising £500 and when I last checked, the total pledged is £2,240. What an incredible amount.

Ollie will undertake his run on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February and it will start at 10am in the War Memorial Park. Ollie hopes to finish by 5pm and will be welcomed by supporters at The Riverdene pub, which is in Windrush Close, off London Road. If you have any time available

## DIARY DATES

**Thursday 5th February  
Pint and Chat  
Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke**  
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**Thursday 12th February  
Partners Group Meeting  
TBC**  
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**Thursday 26th February  
Group Meeting  
John Noakes  
The Royal Observatory  
Greenwich**  
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**Thursday 5th March  
Pint and Chat  
Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke**  
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**Thursday 12th March  
Partners Group Meeting  
TBC**  
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**Thursday 26th March  
Group Meeting  
AGM**  
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**Thursday 2nd April  
Pint and Chat  
Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke**  
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**Thursday 9th April  
Partners Group Meeting  
TBC**  
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**Thursday 30th April  
Group Meeting  
Mission Aviation Fellowship**  
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*Group Meeting 2.00pm – 4.00pm  
Pint and Chat – 7.30pm-9.30pm  
Partners Meeting - 11.00am*

on the day, it would be great for members to either be at the start or the finish to give our support.

A link to Ollie's JustGiving page is below. Please share it with friends and relatives and help boost Ollie's total.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ultra4awareness>

## Archivist

The group is looking for someone to take responsibility for collecting together our various photos, press cuttings and publicity materials such as Buzz and keeping them centrally stored. If anyone would like to volunteer for this task, please contact Allan Roper at [info@nhpcsg.org.uk](mailto:info@nhpcsg.org.uk).

## Prostate Cancer in the News

### National Prostate Cancer Screening Campaign

I attended the January Tackle Prostate Cancer Support Group (PCR) Leaders call on Zoom and David James, the Director of Patient Projects and Influencer at Prostate Cancer Research (PCR) was the speaker. David James has been heading up the PCR campaign for a national screening service for prostate cancer.

David started by explaining how the National Screening Committee (NSC) operate. They advise all governments using criteria: -

- Benefits v Harms
- Strength of Evidence
- Cost effectiveness
- Deliverability by the NHS

The decisions of the NSC are presented to the Health Secretaries of the four governments, England Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for their individual decisions.

In the last edition of Buzz, I wrote about the initial recommendations of the NSC which was to offer screening only to men who carry a BRCA1 or BRCA2 genetic variant. The NSC then continues its review for a further 12 weeks before issuing a final recommendation. It will then be reviewed by Wes Streeting, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

After being notified of the recommendation, PCR commissioned the York Health Economics Consortium (YHEC) based at the University of York to conduct an independent

review of the original proposal and the modelling scenarios that the NSC based their review on which was considered to be out-dated.

Rolling forward to the end of January and I like I am sure many of you will have received an email from David James saying that the YHEC review found that the model is not fit for purpose and should not be relied upon, in its current form, to inform a decision of this magnitude. At that moment, David was off for a meeting with Wes Streeting, the Health Secretary, and Professor Sir Chris Whitty, England's Chief Medical Officer (a name familiar to all of us from the dark days of COVID), to review the evidence related to screening.

The latest update I have is that after the meeting, Wes Streeting was quoted as saying *"I'm grateful for the valuable perspectives shared which will inform my thinking as I await the independent UK National Screening Committee's final recommendation. I know how important it is to get this right.... I want to see screening in place for prostate cancer, but any decision must be guided by the evidence."* (Source Daily Mail 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026)

So perhaps a little flickering light at the end of a very long tunnel.

Meanwhile PCR are continuing to work carefully with YHEC to finalise the full review and prepare PCR's formal response to the UK National Screening Committee. Related to this PCR initiated a campaign to get 100,000 signatures calling for reform of the PC screening process. To date there are 98,871 signatures, just a small number needed to hit the target.

If you haven't done so already, please sign up today.

<https://act.prostate-cancer-research.org.uk/a/say-yes-to-screening>

## **PC News – Good News on Drugs (1)**

### **Abiraterone**

In a reverse by the NHS, about 7,000 men in England diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer that has not spread outside the prostate will now be given Abiraterone every year. Abiraterone is a type of hormone therapy that blocks the production of testosterone. The daily tablet costs about £2.50 per day. This roll-out will start within weeks for these men. This reverse has been called for a long time and shows things can change.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwywez86nko>

## PC News – Good News on Drugs (2)

### Talazoparib

Meanwhile NICE, the National Institute for Care and Health Excellence, which provides evidence-based recommendations for the health and social care sector, developed by independent committees, including professionals and lay members, and consulted on by stakeholders has reversed a decision to reject Talazoparib, a tablet taken daily, which it previously said was not cost effective.

Talazoparib made by Pfizer blocks certain enzymes from repairing damaged DNA in cancer cells, causing the cells to die. Taken alongside Enzalutamide it is suitable for patients with advanced prostate cancer who cannot have chemotherapy or other standard treatments. Talazoparib will now be recommended for 2,400 men a year.

[Thousands could benefit from new take-at-home treatment for advanced prostate cancer | NICE](#)

## Tackle Prostate Cancer News

Tackle have appointed a new Chair - Paul Davies. Some of you may remember that back in the spring editions of Buzz, I reported that Paul and a fellow trustee were taking part in the 2025 London Marathon to raise funds for Tackle.

- A semi-retired television and digital app producer, specialising in both children's and adult education.
- Has been a trustee of a number of charities in the past as well as running his own companies.
- Was diagnosed with PC in June 2023 and had a prostatectomy.
- Paul has completed many long distance runs and post-surgery he ran in the 2025 London Marathon.
- Little known fact - Paul won a BAFTA 10years ago.



You can see Paul's full profile here.

[Paul Davies - Tackle Prostate Cancer](#)

## Some Diary Dates

### PSA Testing Events

Spring is around the corner and with that a number of local organisations have arranged PSA testing events with the support of the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust. We hope to attend most if not all of these events.

- 7<sup>th</sup> February - Tadley Rugby Club
- 7<sup>th</sup> March - Basingstoke & Deane Community Leisure Trust @ Basingstoke Aquadrome
- 20<sup>th</sup> March - Royal Winchester Golf Club
- 25<sup>th</sup> April - Lodden Lions at Tadley
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Hook and Odiham Lions PSA testing event at Odiham Cottage Hospital

### Group Meetings

Our speaker for the February meeting will be John Noakes. His subject will be - "The history, role and relevance of The Royal Observatory, Greenwich and the Prime Meridian". Since retiring in August 2023, John has been a volunteer at The Royal Observatory, Greenwich and conducts talks and tours of the Observatory.

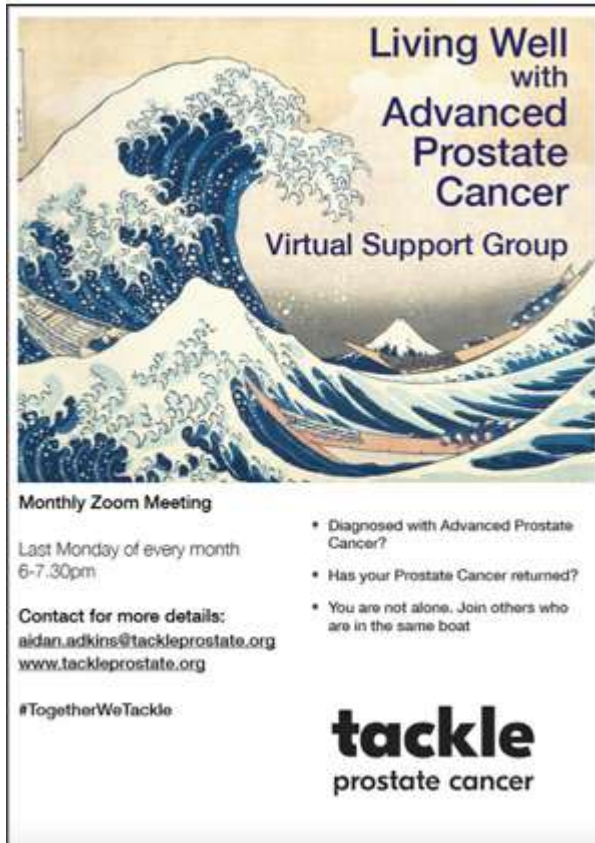
Prior to retiring, John worked continuously for 50 years in 2 very different sectors, 14 years in the Merchant Navy and 36 years in Big Tech computing.

### Annual General Meeting

As always, the March group meeting will be our AGM at which the elected officers, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will present their annual reports together with the financial results for the year. We have been very fortunate in getting a volunteer from our members, Julio Robles, who has had a career in Finance, to review the financial records and reports. Thank you in advance, Julio.

## Other Support Groups

### Advanced Prostate Cancer



**Living Well with Advanced Prostate Cancer**  
Virtual Support Group

Monthly Zoom Meeting

Last Monday of every month  
6-7.30pm

Contact for more details:  
[aidan.adkins@tackleprostate.org](mailto:aidan.adkins@tackleprostate.org)  
[www.tackleprostate.org](http://www.tackleprostate.org)

#TogetherWeTackle

- Diagnosed with Advanced Prostate Cancer?
- Has your Prostate Cancer returned?
- You are not alone. Join others who are in the same boat

**tackle**  
prostate cancer

For those diagnosed with Advanced Prostate Cancer.

Please email [aidan.adkins@tackleprostate.org](mailto:aidan.adkins@tackleprostate.org) if you wish to attend.

6.00pm start

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> March

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June

### National PC Partner Support Group,

The national partners group has now issued dates for its 2026 meetings supporting partners of those diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. If you wish to attend, email [janetldaykin@gmail.com](mailto:janetldaykin@gmail.com) or [carolineopcs@gmail.com](mailto:carolineopcs@gmail.com)

- Monday 2nd March
- Tuesday 28th April
- Monday 15th June
- Monday 27th July
- Tuesday 15th September
- Monday 26th October
- Tuesday 15th December

6.30pm start with room opening at 6.10pm

## The Prostate Brachytherapy UK Support Group

This group meet on Zoom and is aimed at those who have had, or who are considering Prostate Brachytherapy.

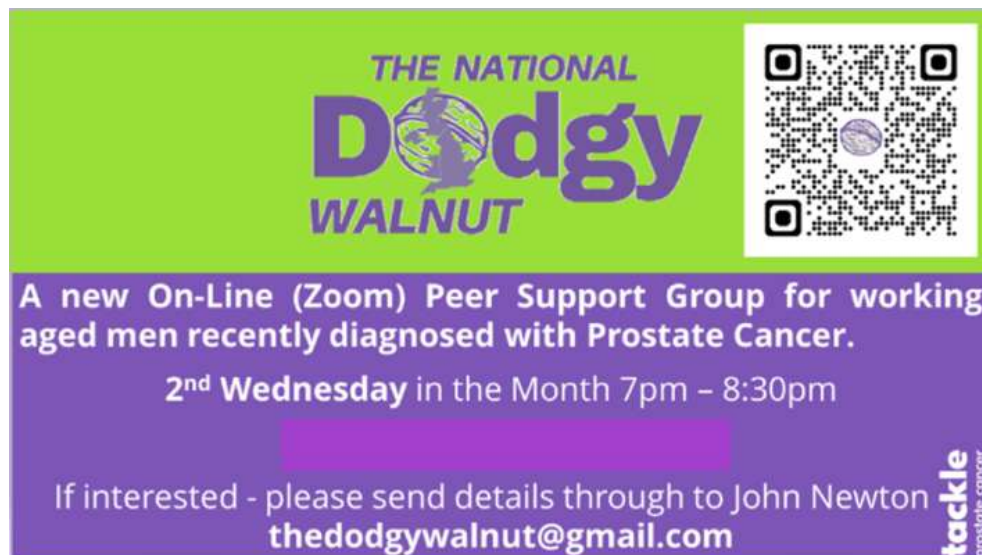
If you are interested in joining this group and the Zoom meeting, please email [support@prostate-brachytherapy.uk](mailto:support@prostate-brachytherapy.uk) for connection details. Meetings take place on the second Thursday every other month with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 18:45 for 19:00

## Working Aged Men and Partners

Finally, there is now a national group aimed at supporting working aged men and their partners. I know that often when we speak to working men, they say they are unable to attend our monthly group meetings as the meetings are held in the afternoon and they are at work at that time. The group is called The Dodgy Walnut, what a great name! Meetings are to be held on Zoom in the early evening. If you are interested in joining the next Zoom call, please contact John Newton at the email address below.

Dates of the next meetings are:

- Wednesday 11th February



Until next month.

**Keith**  
Keith Jones  
Chair

*North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group (Registered Charity No 1215156)*

## Meeting Report

Clinisupplies is a company which specialises in continence issues, urinary and bowel. The company has around 30 years experience in this market, originally as GreatBear, now known as Clinisupplies.

Their web site <https://www.clinisupplies.co.uk/>.

They also have a home delivery service under the tradename. Web site <https://www.nightingaledelivery.co.uk/>

Today we had a presentation by Isabel from Clinisupplies who spoke about their product range, demonstrated some of the products and had samples available for the audience to get a closer look.

All Clinisupplies products are available on prescription.

There are three ranges of sheath catheter, and bags:

Libra – the normal or entry level products

Livfria – more discreet products and eco-friendly packaging

Prosys – more variety of sizes

There was considerable discussion about the difficulties of getting prescriptions updated and finding your way onto the Nightingale delivery. Particularly if you live in Hampshire where you will need to go via your continence advisor to see what is available to you.

Isabelle indicated that if members had a medical question that she was unable to answer, they could contact the Clinisupplies nurse. The contact email address is [natasha.groganhellin@clinisupplies.co.uk](mailto:natasha.groganhellin@clinisupplies.co.uk).

**Richard White**

## Group Meetings

**Brighton Hill Community  
Association Hall**  
Gershwin Court  
Basingstoke  
RG22 4NN

Meetings are held on the last Thursday  
of every month except December




## Contact

### For More Information

Call or text: 07377 430 242

Email: [info@nhpcsg.org.uk](mailto:info@nhpcsg.org.uk)

Website: [www.nhpcsg.org.uk](http://www.nhpcsg.org.uk)

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