

Hope for Tomorrow & Tenovus Update – October 2011

Fellow Lions,

Although I have no further additions to the totals I gave you last month, there is still plenty of news to give you all.

Because the deadline for submission of my update was a few days earlier than normal this month, I am unable to include commentaries from either charity. Nevertheless, I can assure you that this situation will be put right next month.

On 18th October, Vicky Rydborn, of Hope for Tomorrow, and myself had the pleasure of being able to show IPDG Lion Terence Mangan of 105I around the Hope for Tomorrow Mobile Chemotherapy Unit in Tewkesbury. This visit has come about as a direct result of the article placed in the last edition of the Lion Magazine and the many positive comments that have been given to me about the article just show what impact the fundraising for this Unit is having.

Lion Terence advises me that District Governor, Lion Sean Sandford, is looking to make the MCU/MCSU a District project for 105I. To give you some idea of the great need that 105I has for such a Unit, IPDG Lion Terence explained that patients are having to make a round journey of anywhere between **200 and 400 miles** for their Cancer treatment – largely because the Cancer services have migrated much further South in their District. That, I believe, is a very sobering thought indeed! There are still many hurdles to go through to make the presence of a Unit a reality in Ireland (including the fundraising that needs to happen). In IPDG Lion Terence's words, if an MCU is operating in 105I in two years, they will be doing well. I will keep you posted.

I feel I should comment on some concerns that have been raised by our Lions in Wiltshire in respect of an article which appeared in the Wiltshire Gazette a month or so ago in respect of the MCU that is imminently due to start giving treatment in the county. The inference of the article was that the Masons had been largely responsible for the purchase of this Unit and, understandably, some of you were less than happy with this assertion. Having made enquiries with Hope for Tomorrow, I am able to clarify that the charity did **not** have sight of this article prior to its publication and it was put together purely between the Masons and the Wiltshire Gazette. Hope for Tomorrow have asked me to point out that a great many organisations, including the Lions, and also individuals raise substantial amounts of money for the building and equipping of these Units and it would be inaccurate for any one organisation to suggest that they are largely responsible for the purchasing of a Unit. I hope this clarifies the situation, but please do contact me should you require further information.

I am going to be presenting to Swindon Lions Club in November, which I am looking forward to a great deal. Please do come back to me if any of your other clubs would welcome a presentation on the MCUs/MCSUs by myself and I will be extremely happy to come along and talk to you.

Lion Tony Buchan

District Advisor

Mobile Chemotherapy & Oncology Units