

MGO & PGO Club
Wednesday 5th April 2017 – V.W.Bro. Simon Thoday

Launch of The Graham Fulford Trust - PSA Testing

R. W. Brethren, distinguished guests, brethren all,

I am sure you will all have read the flyer on your place setting giving details of the Provincial initiative regarding Prostate Specific Antigen (or PSA) testing.

Some of the facts regarding Prostate Cancer Awareness are detailed on the flyer, but a man dies in the U.K. every hour from prostate cancer. It is equivalent to a Jumbo jet full of men crashing every 10 days.

In line with some other Provinces, Middlesex has enlisted the support and help of the Graham Fulford Trust who will be undertaking the testing at Twickenham and Harrow. They provide the phlebotomists and sample analysis and communicate directly with those taking the test on their results. The test is free of charge, the costs being paid for by the Middlesex Masonic Charity.

To date, 3,100 freemasons in 7 Provinces have been tested with 34 brethren having been found to have cancer of the prostate requiring prostate removal or radiotherapy.

Tomorrow, every member of the Province for whom we have an e-mail address will receive notification and booking for a test at either Twickenham or Harrow which could not be easier with just one click of a button on your computers being required.

Tonight we have a guest speaker to help launch this initiative and in a few moments I will hand over to Mr. Rick Popert, a consultant urologist at London Bridge Hospital who will give us a presentation on Prostate Cancer.

But it would be totally remiss of me not to thank our Provincial Almoner, Hugh Saville for the time and effort he has given to organise this initiative. And also our computer whizz kid, David North for preparing and tomorrow sending our e-mails to almost 4,000 brethren.

Now I would like to hand over to Rick but firstly on your behalf I'd like to thank him for his time and effort in coming to address us tonight which is most appreciated.

Conclusion

Rick, thank you again for your presentation which was most enlightening. Now brethren, it is over to you. Dependent on the responses we receive, we will as far as possible allocate time slots for everybody once we are aware of the take up. Brethren, let's not have the usual apathy to Provincial initiatives – your life could be at stake.