

MS THERAPY CENTRE

AGM 22nd OCTOBER 2009 at 2.00 pm

CHAIR REPORT

First of all I would like to thank the Centre Manager and all members of staff who deal with the day to day running of the Centre for all their hard work and effort during the past year. It is much appreciated by us all.

I would like to present my report for the past year under two categories:

- Profile Awareness
- Fundraising

Profile Awareness

Building on our DVD last year we have continuing to update our promotional material in order that we can continue to keep raising the profile of the Centre amongst Healthcare professionals, Funding Bodies as well as the wider local community. The past few months has seen the production of a foldout card as well as several supplementary factsheets providing more detailed information. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian Hill for his help with both of these promotional materials as well as his help with setting up a local webpage for the Centre.

We have also invested in two pull out banners, which already seen good use within the Eastgate Centre during two separate awareness raising events – 15th August and 8th / 9th October. I would like to thank all those who gave up their time to help at these events.

Currently, the preparation of a Fundraisers pack is underway.

In the future it is also hoped that we can strengthen our link with the local Inches Primary School.

Fundraising

With regard to fundraising, this has been extremely difficult, but we have had access to a Funder Finder spreadsheet giving details of 57 Trusts and Funds. This has been a useful tool, but it has involved a lot of time to ascertain the eligibility of the Centre as well as to plan / meet the deadlines set by those that are appropriate. This is still underway.

We have also managed to undertake various events as follows:

- Coffee morning (November 2008)
- Christmas lunch and Hamper raffle (December 2008)
- Scottish Quiz held at the Recreational Hall, Raigmore Hospital (March 2009)
- Barbecue (May 2009)
- Street Collections

I would like to thank all those who supported the above events. In addition, I would like to thank all the participants in the Great Wilderness Challenge on 22nd August as follows:

June MacLennan, Jim Murie, Fiona Murie Wright, Carol Pelham, Dan Jenkins as well as Donald Aird and Julie Maclean.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the following:

- Jim and Aileen McCormick for organising the Scottish Quiz ;
- Helen Hamilton for her sponsored slim (up to 1st December);
- Carol Mackenzie for her sponsored haircut;
- Kevin from A & I Butchers for his two marathons in three weeks;
- Jim and Mary Allen who held a collection at their Golden Wedding Anniversary in lieu of receiving presents;
- Ron and Maggie Wynton who held a collection at their Ruby Wedding Anniversary in lieu of receiving presents;
- James Harvey for his help in organising the barbecue and in particular arranging for Andy Murray to provide the musical entertainment;
- Kenneth Macleod for providing the new upgraded computer system;
- Other fundraisers too numerous to mention, but I would like to acknowledge the donations received from the funerals of Martin Murie and Helen Calder.

During the coming months we are planning further fundraising activities:

- Ceilidh at the Waterside on 28th November (organised by HBWC)
- Hamper raffle on 18th December
- Coffee morning during January / February 2010
- Annual Dinner of HBWC on 12th March 2010
- 24th – 28th May 2010 – The West Highland Way.

Further suggestions for fundraising have included:

- Casuals Day (Schools event)
- Disco Night at Dino's
- Murder / Mystery event
- RAF 1940's night
- Ghost Hunt (staff only)
- Midsummer event - longest day theme?
- Go Karts in Golspie
- Car Treasure Hunt - ending with Barbecue at the Centre in early May

During June 2009 the Centre was awarded a one off (never to be repeated) payment from the Inverness Common Good Fund of £25 000. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to those Inverness Councillors who were involved in the decision to give this donation to the Centre.

During July 2009 we welcomed Councillor Janet Campbell to the Board, while during September 2009 we received the resignation of Alistair Smith. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alistair for all his help at the Centre as well as liaising with MS Therapy Centres (Scotland) Ltd. This spanned several years. I wish to acknowledge the fact that Alistair has also previously held the position of Chairman.

Penultimately, I would like to thank all the Directors for their help and support over the past year.

Finally, I would like to emphasise the importance of us all – the Board and Centre members – to work together as a team, and to encourage everyone to help the Centre gain a sound financial base.