



TAPS ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

TAPS is now 3 years old and after a cracking start in the first 18 months, we have been hit hard by Covid restrictions. For the past year we have only been able to meet by Zoom and this has clearly been unsuitable for many of our members. As a result the Zoom meetings have mainly been attended by the 6 Steering Group members plus 2 or 3 others. At last we are back to meeting in Callington Town Hall but the momentum has been lost. We must now re-assess what TAPS is for and where is it going.

1. Members Meetings in 2020-21:

Date	Location	Speaker	Topic	Total attending	TAPS Members
2020					
Oct	Zoom	AGM		7	7
Nov	Zoom	Pat Smith Nurse, PCUK	What happens if my PCa returns?	44	8
2021					
Jan	Zoom	Andrew Gabriel	Living with & surviving HT	36	7
Feb	Zoom	Sarah Gray Tackle	Tackle's support for people with PCa	5	5
Mar	Zoom	Robert Butler Gard & Co	Financial estate planning: Wills & LPA	19	10
Apr	Zoom Plymouth PSG host	Medical Detection Dogs	Using dogs to detect cancers	13	4
May	Zoom	iMEDicare	Physical aids for post-treatment effects	11	4
Jul	Hybrid PPSG	R Edgington Exeter Univ	RaNT laser detection & treatment	12	9
Sept	Hybrid	Dr D Harris TVH GP	Managing side effects after treatment	21	10

There were 9 meetings in the year, all by Zoom except for the last 2 in Jul and Sept, which were held in the Town Hall but also with Zoom connections for those who could not attend in person. Plymouth hosted April and July. Most of the meetings were open to other groups across the country and the Total Attending column includes attendance from anywhere. The TAPS members column shows the numbers from our own group. Sharing meetings generated much larger audiences making the event worthwhile for speakers. Medical talks related to prostate cancer were by far the most popular although financial estate planning was also popular. However it is not easy to find specialist medical speakers.

The low attendance by TAPS members for Zoom meetings is evident with a slight upturn for the hybrid meetings. Overall 15 TAPS members attended at least one

meeting and those 15 are the people who have re-registered their membership this month.

2. Steering Group meetings:

The Steering Group has met 11 times, initially by Zoom and F2F since June. Its discussions initially focussed on finding speakers for meetings and making collaborative links to Plymouth and Torbay. In recent months the focus has been on analysing the current position of TAPS and then developing potential new directions. The Strategic Planning paper is available to any member on the TAPS website (www.tamarareaprostatesupport.org). Nigel Allam has moved to Somerset and stood down from the SG. We thank him for his valuable input over 3 years and wish him and Cindy well in their new life.

3. Publicity:

Due to Covid all leaflets were withdrawn by the NHS from hospitals and surgeries. The local newsletters stopped hard copy publications, but we have put a standing notice in their online versions pointing readers to our website for information on Zoom meetings. As a result, our publicity activities have stalled. However we have published 3 editions of The Faucet newsletter which has received good feedback.

4. TAPS Finances:

The Treasurer's Report is attached from which you can see that there has been little financial movement this year. The small loss is well covered by Reserves.

As meetings resume in Callington Town Hall, so will the monthly rental charge of £25. Depending on the decision on the way forward, there may be a need for relaunch expenditure on updated flyers and posters and also the possibility of holding external road shows.

5. Social Activities:

Inevitably social activities fell by the Covid wayside.

6. Changes to Constitution and AGM matters:

The AGM is requested to authorise one change to the Constitution which is to add in an aim of fund raising to support research into prostate cancer.

Steph Williams joined the Steering Group at the last AGM bringing the total to 6 members. However Nigel Allam has already stood down and I shall stand down as Chair at the AGM. The remaining 4 members are happy to stand for re-election. In particular there is a need to elect a new Chair and a volunteer would be most welcome.

Given the relatively small number of members who have re-registered, there is an urgent need to discuss and agree a new direction for TAPS. What should be its aims and how should it achieve them with limited resources? This will be the major item for discussion at the AGM and possible options are given in a paper attached to the Agenda.

Chris Greensted, Chair TAPS
10 October 2021