



At the recent AGM of Rugby Police Bowls Club, a cheque for £1500 was presented to Julie Bliss a Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Manager, based at the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire. The money had been raised by our members throughout the outdoor season. The charity was chosen, by members, at the club's pre-season meeting in April, for a number of reasons:

One of the topics for discussion on the agenda at the meeting was the Bowls England and Melanoma Society initiative 'Sun guarding from Melanoma in Sport'. This document discussed covering up your skin whilst playing sport and measures you can take to do it. During the discussion into the subject, it was discovered that at least two members had already been treated for melanoma (skin cancer) and that another member Mike Long had been diagnosed with it the day before the meeting and had been assigned a Macmillan Nurse immediately by his specialist, to allow him a better understanding of his condition and as a single point of contact for any ongoing issues and concerns surrounding his condition. It was therefore decided by the membership to support the player and the charity supporting him namely 'Macmillan' for the coming season.

Money was raised through various events and the clubs touring team with donations being made by other local clubs Oakfield B.C. and Rugby B.C. The fund was also swelled by a donation from Newbury B.C. and from one of Newbury's members, who the Police Bowls Club had played against when returning from their annual tour in September. There were also personal donations made by players and supporters of the charity.

After the cheque presentation Julie Bliss gave a short resume of what 'The Macmillan Nurses' role is in the care of patients diagnosed with various forms of cancer related illnesses and not just those nurses who are palliative care specialists. She thanked the club for its 'huge donation' which would go to helping numerous people suffering with various related cancer illnesses.

Mike then described being diagnosed with cancer, as being catapulted into a scary alien world and of becoming a nervous pioneer of the great unknown under attack from something unidentifiable. Only being able to make sense of it through his contact with the Macmillan nurses. The nurses helping him to put his mind at rest and concentrate on his treatment. Fortunately, his treatment appears to have been successful thanks to his specialist and both clinical and the Macmillan Nurses.

The chair of the Police Bowls Club, David Owen thanked everyone involved, in raising such a fantastic amount, and thanked Julie for her attendance and input, giving the membership a better understanding of what services Macmillan actually offers.

He also reiterated to the membership the need to cover up whilst on the green particularly in the sun.