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HEALTH



Brewers' screening could have saved yet another man's life

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It appears that yet another life could have been saved thanks to a pioneering cancer screening event at Burton Albion Football Club.

The Mail revealed how two men, Rod Gent and Elfyn Parry, were diagnosed with prostate cancer and given life-saving treatment as a result a screening event at the Pirelli Stadium earlier this year. Now a third man has come forward to tell his story.

The Mail reader, who wants to remain anonymous, contacted us through our website to say he is full of praise for the campaign – and the news-

paper for reporting on it. "Rolleston Resident", his chosen username, wrote: "I, too, would thank the Burton Mail, Burton Albion Football Club and Miss Jyoti Shah and her team for providing the screening event in March.

"I, too, was diagnosed with an aggressive prostate cancer. The treatment recommended for me was 37 sessions of external beam radio therapy in Derby, which I have just completed.

"I now await the results but am very optimistic. I still do not know why I signed up for the screening as I had no symptoms other than needing the loo in the night, which I had put down to age.

"I was walking for at least two hours a day with my dogs and felt perfectly fit. The

radiotherapy did not affect me at all, other than in the late evenings when I was a little tired.

"I am now a vocal advocate that all men should get tested just in case and do hope that another screening can be held at the football club."

Burton Albion's link-up with Queen's Hospital in offering cancer screening over a weekend in March, saw more than 100 men examined. Abnormalities requiring treatment were found in nine.

Demand was so high that doctors even had to turn some people away at the time because it proved impossible to screen everyone that came along.

The hope now is that screening will return to the

stadium, and that the service is made more available to men on a national scale.

Both the club and hospital confirmed they were working to arrange another screening at the stadium next year.

Elfyn Parry, 73, from Oakthorpe, was given the all-clear following surgery and said in his interview with Mail: "I want the message to get out there of how important prostate cancer screening is. The Burton Albion screening was well organised and there should be more like that.

"There will be others in the Burton area who have prostate cancer but don't know it. We need more of these screenings and when they do take place people need to take advantage of it."

MP's all-clear after prostate scare

Barton MP Michael Fabricant has revealed he has received treatment for prostate cancer.

In Prime Minister's Questions this week, Mr Fabricant, aged 66, also the MP for Abbots Bromley and Lichfield, revealed he had been treated and had now been given the all-clear.

Speaking in the House of Commons he said: "Because it was caught quickly, I have not needed any drugs or chemotherapy, nor have I needed any radiation, thank goodness.

"The changes in my prostate were at an early stage and following a prostatec-



MP Michael Fabricant.

tomy in June, I am now in the clear.

"I chose to raise this matter at Prime Minister's questions because early diagnosis is

vital and I hope by highlighting this issue, it may have saved a few lives."

In the last year the Burton Mail has helped promote a campaign led by Burton Albion and Queen's Hospital, to raise awareness of prostate cancer.

Screening took place at the Pirelli Stadium and, as a result, nine of 100 men screened were found to need further treatment. Many have now been given the all-clear.

Mr Fabricant told Prime Minister Theresa May the cancer had been picked up at a general check-up and said: "I was immediately referred to the Queen Elizabeth hos-

pital in Birmingham, whose staff were simply wonderful. After a period of surveillance, I had a prostatectomy.

"In the next 10 years, there will be a shortage of specialist prostate and urology nurses, as many are due for retirement."

Mrs May told parliament: "We will look at the training of nurses – 50,000 nurses are in training in order to make sure specialisms have the support they need."

A report from Macmillan has shown the provision of Cancer Nurse Specialists is the lowest per head for prostate cancer than for any other cancer.