

CANCER SCREENING

Men flock to session for vital checks on prostate

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Men who missed out on a vital prostate screening session at Burton Albion were offered another chance to get the potentially life-saving test at Saturday's game.

Burton Albion Football Club and Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust again joined forces to offer over 50s the chance to get tested at the Pirelli Stadium for free.

The session was for those who missed out on the first one which was over-subscribed.

The tests were run by trust clinicians in partnership with the club and with support from the charity Prostate Cancer UK.

The team is also set to appear on TV as a film crew from the BBC's One Show were there to cover the event. On the pitch, the Brewers drew with Barnsley 0-0.

Dr Magnus Harrison, medical director at Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Queen's Hospital, said: "This is massively important for gents of a certain age who may not engage with us in a traditional way. They may not want to see the GP to talk about symptoms.

"With a football club we can reach a different demographic and get more men to have the test so if they are diagnosed, we are in a position to get them treatment.

"This is also about the hospital and not just practicing behind the four walls. We are getting clinics out there and into the community.

"They may feel frightened and scared of the unknown

but the team here is fabulous and will put them at ease. If something is wrong then it is better to get it diagnosed early.

"We are already talking about how we will run it next year and get the screening out in to the community."

Jyoti Shah, consultant urological surgeon for the Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said she was pleased that the sessions was now getting men to talk about their health more openly.

She said: "We have found that men are not very forthcoming with their health and don't go to the doctor so we are bringing the health service to them.

"They are very comfortable in the football ground and we are offering them the opportunity to chat to us about their prostate health.

"It is phenomenal how many people we reached earlier in the year and the response we have had.

"Men are also starting to get that dialogue going and people are now talking about their prostates as men do not normally talk about their health."

Martin Abrams, change delivery manager for Prostate Cancer UK, welcomed the hospital running tests in a venue appealing to men and hoped it would encourage more to seek advice.

He told the Mail: "Prostate Cancer UK is really supportive of events that raise awareness of prostate cancer as there is an increased risk in men over 50.

"It is great that the local hospital is involved in this event which means that qualified and experienced professionals are efficiently run-



Derek Taylor was one of those taking advantage of the screening at the Pirelli Stadium.



Trust clinicians Almee Hassett, Sarah Minns and consultant urological surgeon Jyoti Shah were at the sessions for the testing.

ning the clinic at a local football club and they can offer information, the test and counselling for men about prostate cancer and the choice about having the diagnostic test."

Ben Robinson, chairman of Burton Albion, said: "We ran this exciting programme in March and 100 men over 50 took part. Sadly eight were diagnosed with cancer. Many of the men said they attended

because it was being held at the stadium and they would not have been able to make time to visit the hospital.

"We are really delighted to have the success we continue to do. Next Friday we are holding a charity dinner to raise funds for another screening with the hospital in the new year."

At the session earlier this year more than 100 men from across East Staffordshire,

including Burton Albion Community Trust chairman John Jackson, were tested as part of the free screenings.

The clinic was so successful that the men who could not get an appointment the first time round were invited to this second one to get the test.

Derek Talyor, 74, of Tutbury, was one of them. He said: "I originally asked for the test last time but I couldn't get in so they rang me to see if I would like to come.

"It is a good idea if it is possible to take pressure off the hospital a bit. I would hope that it would mean that more men come along definitely and I would recommend it to others."

Garry Middleton, 72, of Castle Gresley, said: "It is a good idea. No-one knows they have it if they don't have any symptoms. It is free so you might as well go and take advantage. I would like to think it would encourage more to get tested as it is not the most pleasant of things and it is invasive but I would urge others to come along."

CRIME

Thieves take cars after stealing keys

A councillor had two cars stolen from outside his home in Brizlincote.

Conor Wileman, Staffordshire county councillor for Brizlincote, woke up to find two cars were stolen from his drive in Carpenter Close on Saturday morning.

He said his house was burgled and the keys to two cars stolen from inside the house before the thieves made their getaway with the cars. One was his car and the other his father's.

Councillor Wileman said: "Please be extremely vigilant and that way we may be able to deter the criminals from making our lives a misery."

"You never think it is going to happen to you! But on this occasion it has. We are absolutely sickened by this burglary which was most probably carried out by an organised gang."

Staffordshire Police confirmed that the two stolen cars from Carpenter Close had been reported to the force. Anyone who has any information is asked to call police on 101, quoting incident number 93 of Saturday, November 5.

COURT

Man failed to attend test

A man admitted failing to take part in a test to establish any drug addiction.

Daniel Michael James Aston, appeared at Southern Derbyshire Magistrates' Court recently.

He admitted failing to attend an initial test in Burton on September 8 to establish whether he was addicted to a Class A drug.

A sample had previously revealed cocaine may have been present in his body.

He also admitted failing to attend court on October 3.

Aston, 27, of Balance Street, Uttoxeter, was fined £120 with £85 court costs and a £30 victim surcharge.

ALERT

Missing man is found safe

A man who went missing in Burton has been found 'safe and well', police have said.

Luke Gregory, of Goodman Street, Burton, went missing in the town centre on Thursday, November 3, after he failed to return home from work.

However, Staffordshire Police has now confirmed the 24-year-old was located 'safe and well' on Saturday afternoon.

A police spokesman said: "Officers would like to thank members of the public and the media for sharing our appeal."

WHAT WE ALL NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PROSTATE CANCER

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men.

More than 47,000 are diagnosed every year in the UK - that equates to 130 men every day.

Every hour one man dies from prostate cancer, which

is more than 10,800 every year.

One in eight men will get it in their lifetime.

Men aged 50 or older, men with a family history of prostate cancer and black men are more at risk of getting

prostate cancer. Often there are no symptoms at all.

However, if there are any changes in the waterworks then it is a good idea to raise them with the doctor. Any changes, no matter how minor, may be a sign of a

prostate problem.

Currently in the UK every man over the age of 50 is entitled to a PSA test or blood test if he has discussed the pros and cons of the test with a health professional.

Men 50 and older should

speak to their GP about their risk and whether the PSA test is right for them.

Black men and men with a family history of the disease are at higher risk and should consider having that discussion from age 45.