

Crohn's Disease Jonathan, Berkshire



Before his diagnosis in 2004, Jonathan, 49, was a successful business man in the IT Corporate sector and the Chairman of his local football club, Maidenhead United – The Magpies. He had experienced none of the typical symptoms of Crohn's Disease until he started to lose his appetite and weight, which he initially thought was due to stress caused by extensive International travel. After a series of investigations, an abnormality was found in his small intestine and he was eventually diagnosed with Crohn's Disease.

The diagnosis severely affected his life. As a result of his active Crohn's Disease, he needed seven weeks off work during 2005 and in February 2006 was made redundant. The effects of the disease placed huge pressures on his close family and he was forced to give up his role as the Magpies' Chairman, which was a major loss.

However, Jonathan regards himself as relatively lucky since he has managed to avoid surgery, and medication has held his disease in check. He is now married and back in full-time work as a Credit Manager, once again enjoying a very successful and challenging career.

Jonathan believes that there should be a far greater awareness and understanding of Crohn's Disease and the other inflammatory bowel disease Ulcerative Colitis among the wider public. He was surprised that his previous employer had so little knowledge of his disease and how to accommodate the effects of the illness on his job. His condition is now successfully under control on regular medication and he has had no further time off work.

Messages:

- Crohn's Disease can occur at any age
- Crohn's often causes abdominal pain, diarrhoea and weight loss
- Crohn's can have a substantial effect on all aspects of life until brought under control
- An understanding employer is important
- Patients often see surgery as an undesirable outcome when sometimes it may be the most effective treatment.