



A 46-year-old Newcastle businesswoman has thanked BNI for saving her life – literally – after a major deep vein thrombosis was correctly detected by one of her new chapter colleagues, despite it being dismissed as ‘highly unlikely’ by hospital doctors and nursing staff!

“You could have knocked me over with a feather when Roz Cusack, the sports injury therapist in my new Falcons Chapter, told me to go straight to Casualty because she believed I had a serious DVT,” said Pummi Mattu. “But I was even more surprised when two doctors and a nurse then told me they were sure it was just a strain or torn leg muscle.”

In the event, Roz was right. “Fortunately, she’d told me to mention DVT and insist they give me an ultrasound scan, so when the doctors said it wasn’t too serious, I told them I’d been advised to have a scan. That’s when they discovered a six-inch blood clot that could have proved fatal,” said Pummi, pictured left with Roz.

A personal and corporate business coach, Pummi’s problems started when, after a workout at her gym, she felt an unusual pain in her left leg. “I dismissed it as a strained muscle, but over several days it got worse, so I phoned Roz and asked her to take a look. After examining the leg, she told me to put my feet up over the weekend and call her if I was no better by Monday.

“In fact it felt so bad that despite having a rare day off, I decided to go to my chapter breakfast that morning just to get further advice

from Roz, because I would never have gone to my GP over something I still thought was trivial. After the meeting, she checked my leg again and then ordered me to go straight to hospital, saying she believed I had a DVT,” said Pummi.

At the casualty unit, a nurse reassured her it was probably only a strain or torn muscle but when blood tests showed an abnormality, Pummi was sent to another emergency unit where another medical consultant dismissed Roz’s DVT concerns as ‘most unlikely’. “I told him I’d been advised to demand ultrasound scans and later, when this revealed a large blood clot, he was very shocked.”

Pummi was given immediate treatment to dissolve the clot, and she is now well on the road to a full recovery. “But I consider myself very lucky – especially since I’d only joined BNI a couple of months earlier. Had I not done so, I would not have met Roz, never gone to my GP, and could well have died,” she added.

Roz, whose Newcastle-based Blue Soul has become one of the region’s best-known sports injury clinics commented: “After examining Pummi’s leg, I knew there was no muscle tear and had a strong feeling it was a DVT. I also knew that her condition could easily be mis-diagnosed or overlooked, so I’m just glad she took my advice and demanded further investigations.” ●

Contact Pummi Mattu on 07890 646894 and Roz Cusack on 0191 276 0210. Photo courtesy of Kevin Weatherly.

BNI HAS SAVED OUR LIVES - LITERALLY!

We know that BNI is good for members’ businesses. We know it can be very good in terms of personal and business skills development. But did you know that BNI can also bring dramatic benefits to your health. Here, two members explain why, and say: BNI has saved our lives, literally!