



August 2017 Newsletter



Welcome to the new formatted newsletter

Well July certainly went out with a Bang, loads going on events here there and everywhere, thanks to all those who made it all possible.

Maybe the icing on the cake was this: *Yes, I hear the groans* 😊

Cakes Galore

Sunday 24th July and a day Becky Newton had been planning arrived, a vintage Tea Party, at Euxton Community centre near Chorley.

Understandably Becky had been very worried about it, “would people turn up”, “will there be enough cake”, etc., she needn’t have worried because within the first 20 minutes there wasn’t a chair left vacant.



Chairman Paul Brooks being served tea by Becky Newton



Just in case, Vice Chairman Lee Townsend, who had baked two Date and walnut cakes from his Nana’s 70, year old recipe, did an emergency cake run to Euxton and handed them to Becky Newton and Karen Carton:

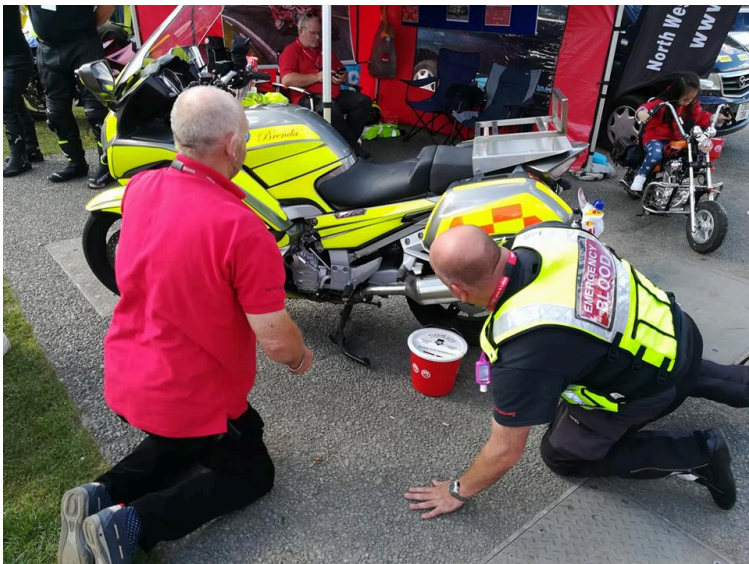


Volunteers Who Care”

NWBB-Lancs & Lakes, Willowbank House, The Clough, Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley. PR6 7DG
Registered Charity 1147282

Our Lord “Up North”, commonly known as Brian, did a radio interview for Lakeland Radio early in August. Unfairly someone commented that Brian has the perfect face for Radio, I think that was very cruel, I didn't say a lie though 😊

And here he is again with Russ Curwen praying to his idol.....



How are we doing?

38,000 successful call outs completed by us all and we're averaging 12,000 a year. When you consider we did 812 in the first year, 5 years ago, it's astounding. That's a lot of miles done by our Riders, a lot of phone calls and texts received and sent by our Controllers and a lot of money raised by our Fundraisers.

How many people we've helped get diagnosed, made better even saved, we don't know. What we do know is that we've saved the hospitals a fortune and we've made some good friends, what more can we ask?

3 Sisters? Total wash out

Each year we have had an event at 3 Sisters Race Track in Wigan and this year was set to be no different. Wigan Councillor Bob Brierly, looks after the track.

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There was fear a few months ago when the firm running the business there went bust, but they didn't own the track, Wigan Council do. Bob took it upon himself to get it running again and the Council have bought a few dual seat Go-Karts so that Dad & kids can go on together or the disabled can be chauffeured around the track at break-neck speed (well fast anyway).

We arranged for the second Tuesday in August, (the second Tuesday in each month is when they open the track to charities). Of course, riding a bike around a race track in wet weather is not ideal so in the interest of safety we abandoned it.

Thanks to everyone who came along ready to help. We have been offered another couple of dates, 23rd August or 13th September, but it is unlikely we will be there this year.

New Bikes

Many of you will know that we have had issues with Yamaha, which still haven't been fully sorted, but suffice it to say we are not happy with Yamaha.

Thanks to Aviva and our member Ian German, we were able to purchase not 2, but 3 new Honda Cross Runners from North West Honda at Blackpool discounted to us allowing us to buy 3. NW Honda already supply us with a Cross Runner every 6 months.

The very latest addition is the very last Honda ST1300 in the Country again arranged via NW Honda, but paid for by the Rotary clubs across the North West.

Malcolm Baldwin, was the District Governor for all clubs in Lancashire and Cumbria and his charity for his year in office was North West Blood Bikes. In May 2016 Malcolm asked me how much a new bike would cost fully kitted and at that time we were looking at buying another Yamaha, which would come to us at £14,000 fully kitted, but like anything else the prices rise. Added to this is the dispute with Yamaha, so it was agreed to go for this Honda Pan European, beautiful bike, but I'm very biased as I've owned Pan's since 1995.

The Rotary raised over £17,000 which in agreement with Malcolm, will not only buy the bike and kit it, but also run it for a year. So, a Massive THANK YOU to the Rotary.

Illuminations Ride Out:



Picture courtesy of Kevin Sansom.

Great ride out & BIG thanks to all who came to support it. Special thanks to Simon Carter NW Honda for his continued support, Gareth Cole, Winter gardens and Chris Pope Blackpool Council for opening up the pedestrian area in St John's Square and turning the illuminations on (although unexpectedly the sun was so bright you could hardly see them).

The run was designed to advertise the forthcoming Bike show at the Winter Gardens, the following weekend 25th to 27th August 2017 as well as supporting NWBB Lancs & Lakes.

There were approximately 500 bikes, ranging from big tourers, muscle cruisers, down to Honda C50 and a 125 scooter, with the odd Trike thrown in 😊.

NW Honda have helped us financially in many ways, but most notably with 3 new Cross Runners and the very latest a Honda ST1300 (The very last one in the UK) embarrassingly named "Paul". That said, the Central Cross Runner is called "Denise", which when my wife was told she was well chuffed. Thanks to all.

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WHAT'S NEXT?

The new Headquarters is coming on. Unit 5, Momentum Place, Bamber Bridge, Preston. PR5 6EF. The mezzanine floor is in and the next step is the downstairs office being built, well once all the rubbish left by the mezzanine builders is removed by me into a skip being donated by Pete Marquis Demolition 😊

Then there's building upstairs and a need for electricians, plumbers, joiners, painters, etc. Scott Miller (Trustee) is organising the work as it goes, when he's not on holiday that is 😊.

Statistics

We all know about statistics, well for those of you who can, here is a link to see the latest statistics from the Controller manager, Duncan Oag, and I think you'll agree we are helping in a massive way. Keep up the good work and thank you all for what you do.

https://nwbbll-my.sharepoint.com/personal/paulgbrooks_nwbb-lancs_org/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fpaulgbrooks_nwbb-lancs_org%2FDocuments%2FStatistics

Remember

NO JOURNEY IS SO URGENT AS TO PUT YOUR OWN LIFE AT RISK

Paul (Founder, Chairman & Trustee)

If I've missed or forgotten something, forgive me, (but let me know, I can always do another supplement) also, his wife if you want something including in the next newsletter? Feel free to Email your copy (text and images PLEASE) directly to me, chairman@nwbb-lancs.org