

Newsletter



Chairman's bit:

Well! I think it's time to get the red suite on and get the reindeers hitched up! Okay I'll use the bike then.

It's that time of year again, I'm sure someone is moving time quicker than they used too, doesn't it come round quick?

Anyway, it's time to wish you all a FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS and to thank everyone single of you for the brilliant work you have done throughout the year, God knows how many people we've helped or if we've actually contributed to saving a life or two, and I don't suppose we ever will, but this year has seen our call outs go through the roof. We smashed through the 9,000 mark in mid November and 10,000 is likely to be well before May 2015, which will give us an average of over 5,000+ per year, far more than any other Blood Bike group in the UK & Ireland, but that's not the reason we do it, we simply try to help. That said the feedback from every Hospital is "AMAZING", yes that word is used a lot. "YOU GUYS ARE AMAZING", or "IT'S

AMAZING WHAT YOU PEOPLE DO". I know you are amazing because I still can't get over how passionate about helping the sick & needy you guys are. Never in my wildest dreams did I think it would take off like it has, and I think I speak for all the founders.

Okay enough praise I'll be filling up soon ☺

November 2014 and the N.E.C. Motorcycle Live show was on. NABB had a stand right next to the ACU stand, and the arena where two motorcycles regularly did stunts for the crowds.

On Wednesday 26th Denise and Paul Brooks were stationed on the NABB stand along with some guys from Midland Freewheelers, Severn Freewheelers and Devon Freewheelers. The idea being to spread the word about Blood Bikes Nationwide of course, but we all found punters from our own areas and of course tried to get them to join us, and several of our members turned up too.

Saturday and Sunday 29th & 30th Lee & Toby Townsend were doing the same thing. Notice the posh shirts ☺



Lee used to have a race team and consequently knows a few of the riders. He managed to grab hold of Leon Haslam for a photo call.....



Letter of Thanks from Gordon Downie of NABB

Dear All

A massive THANK YOU for your sterling efforts at this year's Motorcycle Live, we had representatives from: Severn Freewheelers, Warwickshire Freewheelers, SERV OBN, NWBB Lancs & Lakes, SERV Norfolk, West Midlands Freewheelers, Yeovil Freewheelers, Notts BB, NWBB – M/chester, Shrops & Staffs BB, SERV SSL

You did your own regional group and NABB proud, you should be very pleased with your efforts. The team pictures were great and were faithfully posted across social media every day.

Bucket collecting isn't our primary goal at the show as you know, but you managed to collect £471.70 during the nine days. More importantly you presented Blood Bikes to over 117k visitors – and you delivered the message in spades. The new Enquiry Form via PC worked well and I feel we will get somewhat more 'qualified' leads from that exercise.

The National Lottery

As you may have seen on the TV, and in the last newsletter, the National Lottery celebrated it's 20th year of running in November and they set up a meeting at No. 10 Downing Street, hosted by the Prime Minister, for one representative from each of the 100 charities chosen to appear on the celebratory poster for the 20th anniversary.

Well, our Chairman was chosen to go and meet him on Wednesday 3rd December 2014.

Paul says: "I got a letter through the post and looked on the back and saw '10 Downing Street'. I immediately thought, 'This is a wind up', but inside was the invitation, I was truly gobsmacked".

He went on to say, "What a feather in the cap for all of us at NWBB Lancs & Lakes. Whatever you think of the current Prime Minister, at the end of the day, it's good for Blood Bikes across the country to be recognised for the great work we all do" (he even managed to get one of our NWBB mugs inside number 10 for the PM's personal use).



Website

Greg Riley, our Web Master is working on a new android friendly website for us and from what I've seen so far, it's going to be a great one. I know many have mentioned the jumble in the Members Docs, so Greg is addressing that. The techies will know and technophobes won't, but there is a lot of work involved, so please be patient.

On that note, if anyone has a photo of someone in hi viz on his/her own bike alongside a liveried bike, please let me have a copy as we want to try and get the message across that we don't just use liveried bikes.

Donations:

Even though winter is here, we are still getting donations in from various people or organisations. Here are some which have been received since 1st November:

£276.45	Chapel Styles Bonfire & Fireworks
£500.00	Mr M Campos (via Baxi and Nigel Bibby)
£100.00	Lancashire Trikers
£300.00	SLAM session (from Paul Hatton for his FBOS training)
£1050.00	Matthew Ryder Clinic
£200.00	Blackburn Rotary Club
£100.00	Private donation from John Nixon (customer of Mark and Julie Gibson)
£450.00	Our Lady Opera & Drama Group (via John Chantry)
£480.00	Beaverbrooks Charitable Trust (via Andy Fox)
£365.86	Mobile Chaos MCC (presented to us at Morecambe Community Fire Station)

So please remember you can claim the contribution towards fuel for Riders and electric/phone for Controllers.

Winter is well & truly here:

Yes it is! Some of our riders got covered in hailstone on Sunday whilst on runs. Yes the gritters come out, but it can still be dodgy on two wheels, and salt is a bike's worst enemy.

If any rider considers it too dangerous to use the bike when on duty just let the Controller know. If a car is available and you are willing and insured to use it great, but there are likely to be times when even a car is not enough.

We are re-kindling contact with local 4 x 4 clubs in case we get really severe weather, but they will only be used in Emergencies and will be accompanied by our duty rider.

All our Hospitals are aware that we will do our best, but Mother Nature can put a stop to it at any time.

The last thing any of the Trustees or Committee want to do is go and visit an injured rider, so take care.



Okay! Bike or car, or back to bed? 😊

Volunteers:

We still need more Riders, especially in the East and West. We have many members who have not been on the Rota for ages, please if you can, go on the Rota and give your friends a nudge to join us either as a Rider or Controller, because we need both.

Area Managers Meetings:

Just a reminder, it is great that Area Managers have regular meetings with their Riders and it goes a long way to addressing problems/concerns. When you have one please let the Manager Co-ordinator have a copy of the minutes. At the moment that is Graham Jones (Vice Chairman)

Take care **HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR** and remember, **"NO JOURNEY IS SO URGENT TO PUT YOUR OWN LIFE AT RISK"**.

Paul

Chairman & Trustee.

Want something including in the newsletter? Feel free to mail your copy (text and images) directly to either me chairman@nwbb-lancs.org, or Paul Grange at grangey@gmail.com