

Monthly Newsletter

SCUDERIA
FERRARI



Welcome to all our readers.

Chairman's bit:

Hi all,



It's 22:15 hrs on Friday evening, 14th November 2014, and the Police call for our help. There has been a large chemical incident at Royal Preston Hospital in the Path Lab and it had to close, meaning that all samples, blood, etc., could not be analysed or distributed at/from the main hospital in the centre of Lancashire. All analysis of samples had to go to other hospitals, mainly the sister hospital at Chorley, but further afield too.

We put out an appeal within our charity and 5 guys, Graham Jones (Vice Chairman), Graham Miller (Secretary), Lee Townsend (Fylde Area Manager), James Robinson (Rider/Controller) and Chris Smith (Rider) all volunteered and spent the night based at RPH A&E ferrying samples and other items between RPH and other hospitals, all of which were very urgent. Matt Phillipson (Controller manager) took over as Duty Controller, whilst others volunteered to be called out if necessary, showing exactly the spirit in which we do what we do.

All of this was praised, not only by the hospital, but by the Police too. Without us, the Police would have had to escort very urgent samples and the delivery of blood. Calling us out was the idea of a Constable at the scene, who was praised by his bosses for his initiative. Well done PC Mattock.

NWBB Lancs & Lakes helped the Rickshaw Challenge for Children in Need, but more about that in the next newsletter....

Rider John Walker writes;

The Keswick to Barrow (K2B) Walk is a 40 mile sponsored walking and running event in the English Lake District. Teams of between 6 and 12 members test themselves on a challenging route, to raise money for charities and good causes. Trophies are awarded in various categories for individual and team achievements, including fastest runners in the official K2B race, fastest teams, the teams and individuals raising the most sponsorship money, and a special achievement award.

This year 2014 was the 48th year, having originated in 1966 as a result of a statement made by the late U.S. President, John F Kennedy, that "every American should be capable of walking 50 miles a day".

In 1966 the first Royal Naval Polaris Submarine, HMS Resolution, was under construction at the Barrow Shipyard where several American experts were involved with the project. The idea of the walk was conceived and plans were soon under way to organise it and build relationships between the submarine crew and the Shipyard workers. The initiative was taken by the Installation Manager (Submarines) to formally challenge the Commanding Officer of HMS Resolution to form a team and walk from Keswick to Barrow, approximately 50 miles, on 1st April 1967.

The route takes in some of the finest Cumbrian landscapes from the peaceful banks of Thirlmere at the foot of Helvellyn, winding up and over Dunmail Raise and down through the beautiful villages of Grasmere and Elterwater.

From there the walk passes Yew Tree Tarn before reaching the head of Coniston Water, where the quiet east bank of the lake is followed. There are fine views of Coniston Old Man as the route passes Brantwood, the former home of the Lakeland poet John Ruskin, then continues through the tranquil village of Nibthwaite before arriving in Lowick.

The most challenging part of the walk is the progressive ascent up Kirkby Moor to the highest point of the route from where breathtaking views of the Furness Peninsula can be gained, out across Morecambe Bay and the Irish Sea. The route then descends through the village of Marton into the historical town of Dalton before reaching the finish on the outskirts of Barrow-in-Furness.

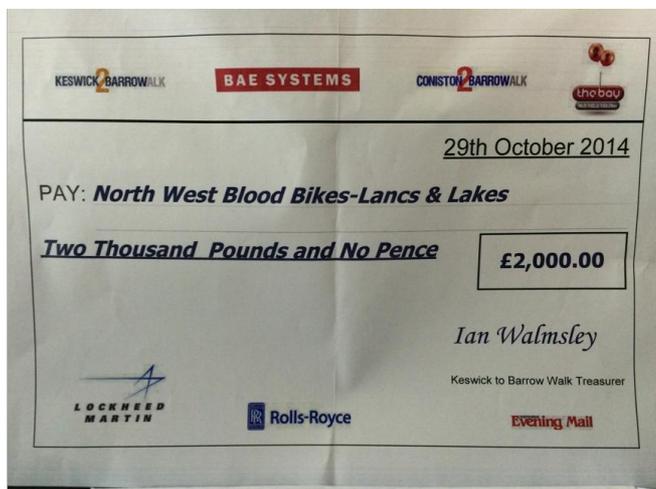
This year there was a total of £345,000 collected in sponsorship. In comparison, in the first 20 years they collected £280,000 in total. This year alone it was almost 1 ½ times as much.

This was collected by 2388 entrants, with one team raising £7968, and one individual raising £4044. The fastest finish was done in 4 hrs 53mins and last man in was 15hrs 53mins. Some real heroes on the day.

The money was then distributed on Wed 29th Oct 14. We (NWBB L&L) were in the privileged position to be invited to the awards night to collect a cheque.

On the night there were a total of 276 charities awarded cheques ranging from £250 right up to £28000. The top donation went to St Marys Hospice in Ulverston (£28000), FGH received £25000 for provision of a specialist birthing pool and Alice's Escapes £20000.

We received a very nice sum of £2000. Very gratefully received.....



So, where do we spend our money...?

Well, we have a new addition to the fleet:



Triumph UK, through NABB & Midland Freewheelers, have set up a deal whereby Blood Bike groups can purchase their bikes at 25% off, but only if they are going to be liveried blood bikes.

This new addition is a Trophy and would normally cost £12,999.99 or 13 grand to us normal thinking people, what can you do with a penny? It cost more than that to go to the loo, but 25% makes a huge difference. Chairman Paul has just finished striping it up and in the next two weeks it will have it's B&T's fitted, when Paul will have a nice time running it in.

According to the Motorcycle press, these 1250cc triple engines are un-burstable, so if looked after it should serve us well for a good few years.

Thanks Triumph, NABB and Midland Freewheelers.

Stepping down....

After 47 years of working as a Midwife and setting up the North West Milk Bank at Chester, Lynda Coulter finally retires.



Our Vice Chairman and founder of North West Blood Bikes Lancs & Lakes, Graham Jones, wished Lynda a happy retirement on 22nd October 2014 at the Milk Bank's new headquarters, now based at Chester University. Graham started

running milk on his bike back in 2011 and brought it to NWBBL&L.

A new home....



Morecambe Fire Station on an early Friday morning, and we got to keep the bike at Morecambe Community Fire Station. Many thanks to Fire Chief Rob Martin (middle) and our rider Steve Dunston (left). The Chairman, Paul Brooks, was asked to attend at 07:30 for an interview with BBC Radio Lancashire, which went out live at 07:50 (Yawn!).

That gives us another secure place for the bike, and all of Lancs Fire & Rescue have been good to us in that respect.

11 Northern riders have now successfully completed a health and safety induction to allow them access to Morecambe Fire Station, as the bike will be kept in the engine house next to the big red fire trucks. It's important that the riders understand the safety and security requirements associated with an operational fire station.

Watch Manager Steve Brown delivered the induction as well as a tour of the station and grounds. After the induction the riders were given a familiarisation session on the Triumph covering safety checks, equipment carried and the all important paperwork!

Having been installed in its new home the Triumph was soon on its way out for the night with Andy Houghton ready for his on call shift.



Here are the riders letting their hair down with a game of 'Hide the Triumph'.....

FBOS

Paul Hatton, our Training Manager, gave a First Bike On Scene First Aid Course at the request of South Lancs Advanced Motorcyclists (SLAM) of which I, and many more of our members, are also members of or have trained through them.

The course took place on Saturday 1st November 2014 at the Hartwood Hotel, Chorley. It was just the same as the ones Paul conduct for our own members, and 11 Advanced Motorcyclists attended, putting up with Paul from 9:30 till 4:30 pm. Very thorough!

Although Paul provided the course free of charge, donations were requested for our charity – each member donated £20 personally and SLAM donated £110 in addition which, if my sums are right, should make £330. SLAM also paid for the refreshments and lunch for all attendees.

So we now have more First Aid trained motorcyclist out there.... And a few more quid in our coffers, good news all round

Excellent feedback was received and they also tell Paul they have other members waiting to attend another course. He also managed to convince 2 more conscripts to join the blood bike cause.

Well done, Paul

Amanda Mason, one of the Area Managers, wrote this about rider Steve Dunstan;

Steve was running from Westmorland General to Lancaster. At 14:30 he called me to advise that unfortunately he had incurred a 15 minute delay in which he had used his Blue and Two's.

While on route to Lancaster Steve had come across a man who appeared to have fallen out of his wheelchair lying next to it by the side of the road. Steve stopped to offer his help to this man to discover that it wasn't the man that needed help but his wheelchair that had broken. Steve promptly fixed the wheelchair, assisted the chap back into it and continued with his journey. Blues and Twos were used to protect both Steve and this chap at the side of the road while the wheelchair was fixed. Steve still delivered well within the allotted time. Job Done!

A little later, I received another job for Steve again going from Westmorland General to Lancaster.

At 16:27 I received a call from Steve who was on the M6 around J36 with 3 ladies in a Renault car that had a flat tyre. They were insisting on changing the tyre as they were in a rush even though Steve had explained that it was dangerous to do so where they were. It was going dark and as their battery was also flat I believe

they had no lights. Steve put his Blues and Twos on to protect them and I reported the incident to Cumbria Police who said they would deal with it. At 16:59 Steve advised me that Highways Agency were on site so he was resuming his journey. Delivery was made a little late. However, Westmorland General were informed of the delay by myself and were okay with this saying that Steve was probably saving them more patient admissions this evening for what he did staying with the vehicle while the Highways Agency arrived.

Another pat on the back, and well done Steve!

Chapel Style Bonfire

Chapel Style is a Cumbrian Village in the middle of nowhere, but it's got a pub, so like last year Andy Dawson, (Northern Rider) organized a bonfire. And, like last year, Carl Farber went there on a liveried bike and money was raised for us to the tune of £276.

Carl mention there was a First Aid incident, but not a lot more, but it seems he was quite modest. Andy has written this about Carl:

"Carl did himself and the charity proud. The bonfire is held on a hill overlooking the pub, a ten year old on the bonfire hill stepped on a nail, which caused distress to the child, his grandma and other parents witnessed the incident. Carl was outside the pub at the bottom of the hill and was met with a very distraught grandma shouting out for medical assistance, he literally leapt into action, grabbed the first aid kit off the bike and ran like a gazelle (the actual words used by the boys mother) up the hill to offer assistance, so well done Carl "the Gazelle" Farber."

Some other notable occurrences over the last month or so:

6th October - Blackpool start regular run at 20:00hrs for Whitegate Drive and 'ad hoc' runs started with Clifton Rheumatology and Dermatology wards.

8th October - Cheque presentation by Penwortham Quilters

14th October - Poets in the Park cheque Presentation

15th October - Talk to Blackburn Rotary Club by Scott Miller

16th October - Cheque presentation from Wigan Pie Eaters MCC

22nd October - Lynda Coulter, the founder of the Chester Milkbank Charity retired

23rd October - Cheque presentation by Penwortham WI

28th & 29th - Talks to Tuesday Group and GASSUP

9/10 Nov The Chairman is romancing Denise in Paris, celebrating 45 years of wedded bliss. Congratulations to them both....

Take care and remember, **"NO JOURNEY IS SO URGENT TO PUT YOUR OWN LIFE AT RISK"**.

Paul Chairman & Trustee.

Need anything including in the newsletter? Email the Chairman or send your text (times new roman 12 pt) and photos direct to Paul Grange - grangey@gmail.com