



The NHS in the North West
Excellence in Supply Awards
2015
WINNER

OUR NEXT RIDE MAY SAVE A LIFE. WILL YOURS?
IN ASSOCIATION WITH **NHS** ENGLAND

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021

To date our Calls: & Runs completed:

Sad, Sad, News: I really wish I didn't have to put this in.

One of our own has gone to the great highway in the sky: **Rob Newsham**, (1956 – 2021) friend and fellow Blood Biker collapsed on Monday 8th March 2021 at home where he lived with our Jacqui Clemson-Heath and although Jacqui tried to revive him with CPR, as did the Paramedics, he was taken to RPH ICU but sadly died on Wednesday morning.

This is earth shattering news, especially to all of us who knew him, and our thoughts and prayers go to Jacqui and Rob's family.



Jacqui tells me that: "Rob's final ride is to Speke where his tissues will be donated and the donation team know of us and have said that they will take great care of him because he was a Blood Biker".

Personally, I have known Rob since he started with us in the early days and Jacqui. It was obvious that the two of them were perfect for one another.

Rest in Peace My friend and fellow Blood Biker. Duty done; you can stand down.

Jacqui recently received this letter:

*In recognition of Robert's tissue donation, we would like to send you the **Order of St John for Tissue Donation**. This posthumous Award is available to all deceased tissue donors in the UK and recognises their gift to others. The Order of St John is an order of chivalry of the British Crown and an international humanitarian charity most known for their St John Ambulance Service. Preserving human life is the fundamental purpose of the Order of St*

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John and this shared ethos with the NHS Blood and Transplant underpins this unique recognition award. Tissue & Eye Service.

<https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/helping-you-to-decide/real-life-stories/order-of-st-john-uk-award/>

The funeral was held at Preston Crematorium on Friday 26th March 2021, and well attended Covid safe of course, unfortunately. Complete with Triumph Motorcycle and hearse sidecar.

Links to Funeral and Rob's tribute site:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V6CeKgmrbtg6yWRYaJCnkMBW6_7UePJ/view

<https://robertnewsham.muchloved.com/>

How did NWBB Lancs & Lakes start? A question asked many times:

Two people many of you know, had the same idea, Graham Jones and Paul Brooks, but unbeknown to each other at that time. Graham had done a lot of work and had meetings with other people from far and wide, many months before he and Paul got together, whereas Paul, like Graham, a keen biker, had seen an advert on TV involving a Blood Bike and made enquiries because he'd never heard of them.

Paul then spoke to the same person Graham had, i.e. John Stepney at NABB, but several months later, and John told him about Graham and gave Paul Graham's contact details.

Paul & Graham and 2 others met at Rivington Barn and set the ball rolling. Interviews with LTHTR first, at Chorley hospital, and advertised for volunteer Riders. Then a go live on 2nd May 2012 with Haydn Williams sleeping on his sofa all night in his leathers but didn't get a call, and so it went on for a few nights. Paul had to keep ringing the switchboards to remind them that we were available and the very first ride was towards the end of the first week. Unfortunately the original records have been lost, but the very first Rider must have been either, Graham Jones, Haydn Williams, ex NWBB Rider Dave Sammons, (now a Paramedic) ex member & founder Kevin Taylor, or ex NWBB Rider Norman Corke (now Merseyside & Cheshire BB's) because although we had other members by then, Scott Miller, Andy Gilroy, they lived too far out initially, as we only had LTHTR hospitals at the start.

At this time, we were not a registered charity, and we had to find a minimum of £5,000 and open a Bank account. We managed it and Graham Jones and Paul Brooks went to the HSBC Bank in Leyland and set it up. Graham then registered us with the Charities Commission.

From then on, with the help of Maria Burn (pre-analytics Manager at RPH & now an associate Member) we got other Trusts on board and put out adverts for Riders in those areas and the rest is history.

As you can see, the figures above are what we've all done, thanks to all members present and past for what you have all done to make it all possible.

There's far more, but that's it in a nut-shell.

For further insight go to:

<https://nwbb-lancs.org/members/document.php?s=history-of-nwbb>

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The Good, The Bad & The Ugly: From a West Rider Alan Douglas (BBR753).

I can't simply 'share' a post on Facebook so I'm adding it here as well, simply to warn other riders, in our high-vis' we can also be seen as a 'target' by some! I'm sharing this because there might be a chance someone knows who may be responsible and can help?

I am a Blood Bikes voluntary motorcycle rider (info here <https://nwbb-lancs.org>)
I was on-shift on Sunday 21st March 2021 and had just picked-up life-saving medical items from Ormskirk Hospital, urgently needing to get them to Southport Hospital.

At 2.05 pm, I was riding along Wigan Road towards Ormskirk town centre, about to pass the end of Mill Street where I observed a 'gang' of youths, 8'ish in number, possible 15 -18 year olds, some brandishing scooters, when I was on the receiving end of 'objects' thrown at me.

I was hit on the shoulder and pulled-over outside the former Windmill Inn pub. I watched the youths set-off up Mill Street, one of them stood watching from the bottom of Mill Street whilst I rang the Police, before scooting-off up Mill Street in the wake of his mates. Time being of the essence, I continued my ride to Southport Hospital.

At first I was feeling angry, soon that changed to 'disgust'. These youths are our future generation and the action of one or more of them could easily have resulted in a more serious incident, adversely affecting me, any nearby road users or walkers, as well as the person relying on the medical items I was transporting.

Maybe someone local saw this gang on Wigan Road or Mill Street and knows who they might be? Maybe a Mum or Dad, who's Son was around the area at that time, might ask their Son if they know anything about it?

I'm not after retribution or revenge. I would like to think this sort of event is unlikely to happen again, although I despair, it can.

Donations, or lack of: From Michelle Hines (BBR692)

"A neighbour of ours called round a couple of days ago, he'd seen us passing in our kit heading out on a shift & wanted to make a donation to such a worthy cause. Tonight, we popped round and Joseph Bithell has kindly donated £20 to NWBB which we accepted on behalf of the charity and Tim has now made a bank transfer for this amount."

Ed: I think he just wanted to meet you Michelle 😊



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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Blood by motorbike



Whether it's making your own hand-gel or transporting blood 200 km

by motorbike, the role of pharmacy manager in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo, is never dull. **Marc Wilkinson** tells his story...

My job was making sure our teams had the medicines and medical supplies they needed, when they needed it. That meant a lot of stock analysis, figuring out what we had and how long it would last. That might sound a little dull and straightforward, but in Democratic Republic of Congo, nothing is dull or straightforward...

Supply and logistics within the country is difficult at the best of times. You've got a minimal road network connecting different provinces, problems with air transport and considerable bureaucracy. And then there's the weather.

Say I want to move medicines to our project in Walikale. The only

way to get there is by plane, but you have to fly for an hour beyond Walikale and then take a six-hour car journey back. So that's two days minimum. But because of the weather, it can either be too dusty to land the plane or else too wet, so everything gets cancelled and you're back to square one. In situations like that, you have to improvise.

BLOOD BY MOTORBIKE

There have been times when we urgently needed to send blood to Walikale. I had supplies ready to fly, but then the flight was cancelled. That's when you hit the phones and start calling around different organisations to see if they can help. I managed to hitchhike a few bags of blood with a person from another organisation who was heading into the area. Then, through somebody who knew somebody, we were able to organise a motorbike to travel 200 km to collect the blood and drive it to Walikale.

In situations like that, you just have to do your best and then cross your fingers and hope

everything comes together – which in this case it did. Doing that job, you get a lot of calls at 5 o'clock in the morning.

As difficult as it sounds, pre-COVID everything was relatively stable in terms of supply and what we had and didn't have. There were a few things we were running out of, but we could always manage. But when COVID hit, that all changed.

Supply and shipments dried up. There are cargoes we were expecting back in April that still haven't arrived. We really had to innovate.

MAKE YOUR OWN HAND-GEL

One of the immediate shortages was of personal protective equipment (PPE) and alcohol gel. I was chatting to a colleague about the alcohol gel and we said: 'It can't be that difficult to make.' We found a recipe online, visited some chemical factories for the raw materials, and then made a batch of it in the kitchen, which went well. I have a background in manufacturing, so I put together a worksheet ensuring that each of the steps in the process was repeatable and safe and that we'd end up with a good quality product.

We began to work with other organisations and a manufacturing lab and, to cut a long story short, the lab now has the capacity to produce 500 litres of alcohol gel a week and is distributing it to the community and to health centres.

KNOCK-ON EFFECTS

That's the sort of improvisation that MSF specialises in, and as the pandemic continues to have terrible knock-on effects throughout the region, MSF will have to continue finding new ways to meet people's desperate medical needs. But with your support, we will ensure people can get that all-important medical care."

An MSF motorbike team deliver measles vaccines in northern Democratic Republic of Congo, March 2020. Photograph © Caroline Thirion/MSF

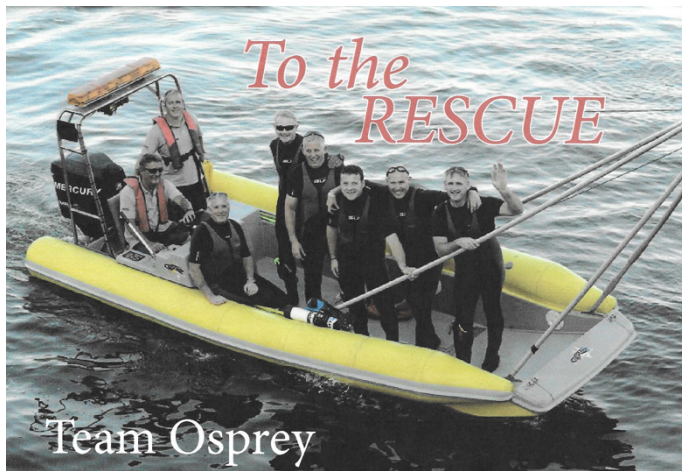
YOUR SUPPORT MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE PLEASE HELP US SAVE LIVES AND DONATE AT [MSF.ORG.UK/DONATE](https://www.msf.org.uk/donate)

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Our members get up to all sorts, even messing about in boats:

Sent in by Rob Irvine (BBR411) Fylde Area.



I am a member of **North West Blood Bikes Lancs and Lakes**.

I am also a member and Chairman of the **Osprey Powerboat Racing Rescue Team**.

I have been carrying out these rescue activities for over 35 years from my initial beginnings assisting with the rescue at the Windermere Powerboat Racing Club during their racing before the 10mph limit on

Windermere curtailed this. (hopefully restarting again soon)

The Osprey Team was awarded the **UIM Award for Safety in 2018 for the 2017** season which was also the Team's 50th anniversary. The previous recipient was **Jean Todt** former Ferrari F1 team principal and now President of the FIA.

Neil Naisbitt (BBR351) of NWBBL&L, East Area, is also a member of Osprey.

The links below are a detailed explanation of the Osprey Team's beginnings and activities.

<https://nwbb-lancs.org/assets/osprey.pdf>

<https://nwbb-lancs.org/assets/ospreydoc.pdf>

Something Very Strange:

Near the end of March every year something strange happens which is only noticed when you are on a night shift:

The duty Controller calls you at 01:45hrs in the early morning and you're en route at 01:50hrs. You arrive at Hospital for collection at 01:00hrs (eh? Scratch head) then deliver at 01:30hrs (15 minutes before you were called). No wonder they call bikes "Time Machines" (at least one day a year).

Of course, this is reversed in late October when it takes you twice as long ☺.

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Collecting Rubbish:



We are collecting empty tablet strip packs and taking them to Superdrug. Superdrug are working in conjunction with TerraCycle who will convert the packaging into reusable raw materials using its unique recycling process – preventing empty packs spending a lifetime in landfill. What's more, Superdrug are supporting **Marie Curie** as each empty blister packet that gets recycled as part of the '**Little Packs, Big Impact**' scheme. It's easy – it's free and it's a double whammy – recycling and

supporting a fantastic charity too. Can you help? Please start saving yours. It really is amazing as to how they add up very quickly. Contact us if you want to help too, simply [Click the link: https://www.facebook.com/soroptimistspreston/](https://www.facebook.com/soroptimistspreston/)

Another Relay Run:

From our Controller Manager, Sue Wolstenholme (BBC055)

This one was a Faecal transplant item for a very sick patient in Edinburgh, and was time sensitive (6hrs) from Birmingham to Edinburgh, so only 3 Riders were used. Steve Lithgoe being our Rider. 3 legs, Birmingham to Lymm, Lymm to Carlisle & Carlisle to Edinburgh. The package was delivered with 10 minutes to spare. Collected Birmingham 07:00hrs by CSSBB, handed to NWBB at 08:35 and handed to D&GBB at 10:25hrs. Delivered Edinburgh 12:50hrs. This is why we do what we do. Well done to all.



Meeting @ Lymm



Meeting @ Carlisle

Bit of Fun:

"Happy Days":

Back in the days of tanners and bobs,
When Mothers had patience and Fathers had jobs.
When football team families wore hand me down shoes,
And T.V gave only two channels to choose.



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Back in the days of three penny bits,
when schools employed nurses to search for your nits.
When snowballs were harmless; ice slides were permitted
and all of your jumpers were warm and hand knitted.

Back in the days of hot ginger beers,
when children remained so, for more than six years.
When children respected what older folks said,
and pot was a thing you kept under your bed.

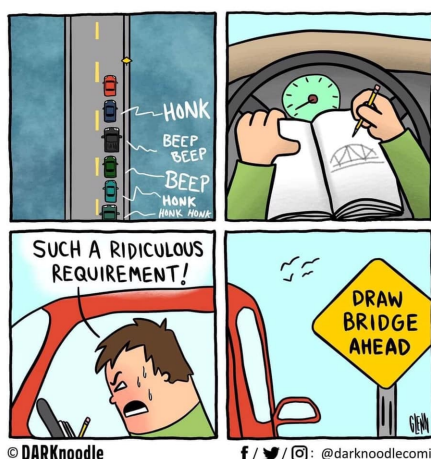
Back in the days of Listen with Mother,
when neighbours were friendly and talked to each other.
When cars were so rare you could play in the street.
When Doctors made house calls & Police walked the beat.

Back in the days of Milligan's Goons,
when butter was butter and songs all had tunes.
It was dumplings for dinner and trifle for tea,
and your annual break was a day by the sea.

Back in the days of Dixon's Dock Green,
Crackerjack pens and Lyons ice cream.
When children could freely wear National Health glasses,
and teachers all stood at the FRONT of their classes

Back in the days of rocking and reeling,
when mobiles were things that you hung from the ceiling.
When woodwork and pottery got taught in schools,
and everyone dreamed of a win on the pools.

Back in the days when I was a lad,
I can't help but smile for the fun that I had.
Hopscotch and roller skates; snowballs to lob.
Back in the days of tanners and bobs.

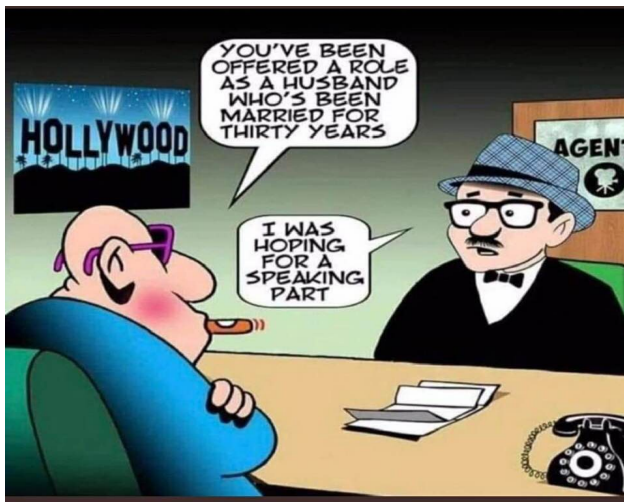
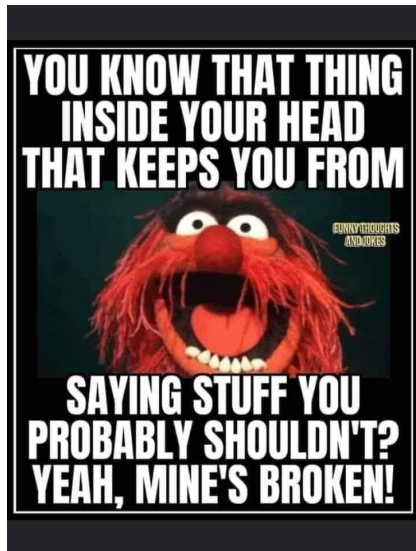


f / t / @: @darknoodlecomic



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"New to the Newsletter" For Sale:

Items which may be of interest to other members or our customers, especially Motorcycling or Motoring;

See next page:



From member Keith Bridge. Email: bbr529@nwbb-lancs.org

Set of 4 new indicators as shown (Mug there to show size) £20 or best offer



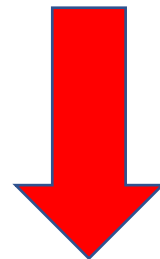
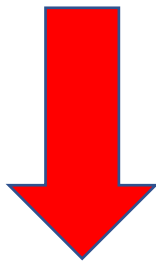
From member Gary Johnston. Email: bbr244@nwbb-lancs.org

Pannier inner bags: Unwanted and purchaser simply asked to make a donation to NWBB L&L



From Paul Brooks. Email: paulgbrooks@nwbb-lancs.org

Blindspot mirrors for 4 wheeled vehicles, (although will fit some bikes). Unwanted and purchaser simply asked to make a donation to NWBB L&L



Please Remember

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Your thoughts, your ideas, your stories, your Newsletter:

North West Blood Bikes Lancs & Lakes was built on **thoughts and ideas** and they are still as vital today as they were 9 years ago. Best practice always wins, so if you have any good ideas, speak to your Area manager. Likewise, your stories about Blood Bikes or even personal stories if you are willing to share them. If they are personal, [the Editor](#) will contact you before any publication unlike the National Press people 😊

STAY SAFE AND PROTECT OTHERS

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