



February 2016 Newsletter



Chairman's bit:

BANG! Straight into 2016 and the call-outs keep coming. If this carries on we may need more than one Controller on duty at any one time ☺

In January we were invited to Preston Hospital radio for two hours to discuss Blood Bikes between songs, hopefully more than the patients will hear it.

We have also had an interview with Rock FM in conjunction with The Lottery Fund and their launch of Volunteers they have helped, so maybe we'll get even more volunteers.

Most of you know my background, I have seen life and death in the most desolate ways and have conversed with down and outs and some well known and wealthy people, but it never ceases to amaze me what many of our members have seen and done in their lives and it's quite obvious that there are many more good people in the world than there are bad, if there weren't we wouldn't be doing what we do.

Discounts:

One of our members recently asked if we get discounts from anyone, well the only ones we get directly are those sorted by the individual, but as a Blood Bike member you can apply for a Blue light Card: See the link below, it covers all the Emergency Services and Military.

<https://www.bluelightcard.co.uk/newsletters/20thjanuary2016/20thjanuary2016-akslmaiaiaik.php?mid=158405&nid=201>

There are also the following:

- 1) Craig Thomas of J&S Accessories Ltd, 383-389 New Hall Lane, Preston, PR1 4SY is giving Blood Bikers discounts on all their gear.
- 2) Shorrocks Motorcycles, 84-86, Leyland Rd, Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 9XS, discounts on all their gear.
- 3) Ghost Bikes, 5 Deepdale Mill Street, Preston, PR1 5BY discounts on all their gear.

AND Finally (for now) during the month of February **Michelin are giving £25 off all their bike tyres.**

If you know anywhere let me have a list and I'll try and get a directory together ☺

Here's a story from one of our riders, Malcolm McDowell:

"A funny thing happened to me on the 22nd January whilst on the evening shift for Kendal. I was contacted by our duty Controller, Yvonne, at 22:34hrs to collect samples from WGH to deliver to RLI, which I did as normal.

The next day I was contacted by my 2nd son who informed me that my eldest son, Gary, had gone to

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WGH around 22:00hrs, as a result of an adverse reaction to chemicals he infused in his workplace.

This was a severe reaction, which resulted in him being transferred to RLI by ambulance, which, coincidentally I passed on my way to the path lab.

It could have been his samples that I transported as I had no other calls that evening. Could this be a strange coincidence perhaps and I wondered what the 'odds' would be about this sort of thing happening!"

PB: *We never know what we are transporting and for whom, but the odds are in favour of you doing just that Malcolm. I hope he has now recovered.*

The state of our roads:

LCC have had to pay out massive amounts in compensation for damage caused by the County's roads and below is a prediction from Street Repairs:

Colin Mahoney, founder of Leyland-based streetrepairs.com, said reports to his website about pothole damage in the county have become more and more regular.

He said: "Potholes and pothole damage has become more and more apparent in the three years the site has been running.

"Without a shadow of a doubt going forward we're going to see roads getting worse.

"The road infrastructure in this country is in a really bad state at the moment.

All I can add is take care and report any dangerous areas through the website <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/fault-search.aspx>

OR

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/reporting-problem-on-highway/reportandtrackafaultonline.asp>

Question:

What have submarines and Motorbikes got in common?

Well some of our guys make submarines and ride motorbikes and are great ambassadors for us at BAe Systems Barrow.



(L-R) David Kerr, Tony Richardson & John Walker.

BAe Systems at Barrow have raised quite a few £'s for us over the past 12 months, so big thanks to them.

From Steve Dunstan (North Area Manager)

Caroline and I attended an auction and hotpot supper at the J36 Auction Mart (near Kendal) last night. This is an annual fundraising event held by the Rough Fell Sheep Breeders Association and this year their chosen charity was NWBBLL. We had a fantastic time meeting the sheep farmers and hearing about life on the fells as well as enjoying

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a superb lamb hotpot (no we didn't feel guilty at all!) followed by apple crumble and custard.

Following the meal we had a couple of games of bingo after which they held an auction of over 80 donated items which was run by one of the livestock auctioneers - now that was an experience - followed by a raffle and cake sale. We staggered home after 11 o'clock feeling full and overwhelmed by people's generosity - again!

Next morning we made our way back for the formal cheque presentation accompanied by Bob Bryne and Mike Wilkinson on the two northern liveried bikes. Again we were made very welcome by all present and enjoyed watching a sheep judging competition, which was different to say the least.

Bob and Mike manoeuvred the two bikes into the sale ring and then two sheep were also persuaded into position for the photo session, as well as various "officials".

We were amazed and delighted to be presented with a cheque for £865, which was half of the proceeds from the night before - the other 50% going into the Rough Fell Sheep Breeders funds.

What a fantastic experience to be contacted out of the blue, invited to a cracking night out and then presented with a substantial sum of money for NWBLL.

Makes you glad to be part of blood bikes when you get to meet such grand people.



AXA Insurance – Lytham Donation:

As part of a yearly local community charity initiative, the Lytham branch of AXA Insurance UK Plc offer local charities the opportunity to put themselves forward to become the nominated branch charity. This involves a presentation to the workforce and select committee in May, ending in a shortlist process and vote in June. I saw this as a great opportunity to put the charity forward and promote what we do. Even if we didn't win, it was time well spent. Well, I'm delighted to say we won the vote.

What did this mean?

We were represented in all charity activity meetings and events (included all forms of internal comms) for the second half of the year, with all funds collected going to the charity. Every opportunity was used to advertise what we do.

The Lytham branch really got behind us and a huge thanks also goes to Lee Townsend (Fylde Area Manager) who took time on a few occasions to further highlight our work.

Overall a fantastic sum of £2,627.92 was collected. The picture shows Lee being presented with the cheque from a few of the AXA team involved.



Many thanks to Stuart Bence, Blood Biker and AXA Employee and his colleagues.

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Donations and money raised:

Thanks to all those who've either stood there with tins at Supermarkets, those who go out regularly to give talks and those who do something special to raise awareness and raise a bob or two.

Without any of these we wouldn't be able to do as well as we are.

Email received from D&G Blood Bikes:

This is following a relay run on 3rd Feb:

Hi Paul. Many thanks to you and your team for the excellent response and the part you played in getting an important delivery from Dumfries to Porton Down, Salisbury.

The BB groups and times were as follows:

Contact from Dumfries Royal Infirmary to ask for the run at 10.15am

Picked up from Dumfries by Dumfries and Galloway Blood Bikes at 11.00 am and taken to Gretna

Handed over to Blood Bikes Cumbria at 11.34am who took the package to Forton services

Handed over to Northwest Blood Bikes at 13.09pm and taken by them to Keele services.

Handed over to Staffordshire Blood Bikes at 14.39 and then taken by them to Frankly services on M5 Jct3

Handed over to Severn Freewheelers at 15.35pm and taken by them to Swindon services.

Handed over to Wessex Blood Bikes at 17.00pm and taken by them to the destination at Porton Down Special Pathogens reference unit.

Package delivered at Porton Down at 18.15pm.

What an incredible effort by all groups to work so well together and achieve an excellent result for the performance of the Nationwide Association of

Blood Bikes.

*Regards - - - Ron Little, Secretary / Trustee:
Dumfries and Galloway Blood Bikes SCIO
SC045453*

And all for Free ☺

Some recent laws introduced: (you may or may not know)

1) If you buy a new (or new to you) car, under the new Consumer Rights Act 2015, motorists are now guaranteed **30 days to demand a full refund** if they buy faulty goods, a law which extends to buying both new and used cars.

2) Drivers who park their cars in a private car park are now entitled to a ten-minute 'grace' period after their ticket expires thanks to new legislation introduced January 2016.

3) It's now illegal in England and Wales to smoke in a car that's carrying an occupant aged 18 or under, otherwise drivers face **fixed penalty fines of £50**.

Trackers on Fleet Bikes: (Just for Info)

As all the riders of the Fleet Bikes know, the bikes are fitted with Trackers for the riders safety. Just for information, these trackers send messages to either the Fleet Manager or Committee when the B&T's are activated, or there's an over speed, or there's a break in transmission, etc., and if the vehicle has a collision we will be able to track the bike so that we can get to the rider ASAP.

New bespoke system: (Neil McCall)

As some members know, I am currently in early discussions with a team of software developers

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regarding the building of a bespoke system, which will be held on our own server.

This system will incorporate membership, rotas and dispatches all in one place and hopefully all linked to each other.

I need your help though. What would you like to see on the system? How would you like it to look?

Membership is pretty standard as it involves a database, but is it better in a list format or an address book format?

Currently Caroline (Membership Secretary) has to enter information in 3 different places due to data protection and restriction on what data can be seen. Hopefully this can be reduced to a single place and only the data needed to be viewed by members can be extracted.

There is a pretty much industry standard for dispatches, a simple form filled in which then generates to the active run screen and once complete is stored elsewhere for viewing.

We all like to watch what's going on, do we like to do this in real time or to look at the archive? If we look at the completed runs do we limit the number available to view to maybe the last 20, or do we make all the previous runs available? What would you prefer? How many people currently look at the dispatch archive tab?

The rota is a bit more difficult. We currently have 6 rotas active. For riders it's normally a case of just going to one sheet, for controllers when they are preparing for a duty, they have to go to 5 sheets. Do we consider putting all the rotas onto one sheet? If I refer back to Parim, the controllers view was a nightmare, and that was with only one area active, the riders rota was fairly easy to work with, select a date and click, although there were other problems e.g. waiting for shifts to be confirmed, we won't go down that road. Is a single click something the riders would want? Is it something the controllers would want?

Once the shift has been booked, do we have a calendar view which shows who is listed on duty in all areas on one single page. This will make life a lot easier for the controllers and will allow riders to see who else is on duty on the day or who is following them on the next shift. This is something Parim wouldn't allow to riders.

Do we add events to the calendar so that they are easily visible?

If you have any thoughts or suggestions on what you want to see, or how you want it to look, please drop me a line at controller@nwbb-lancs.org Pictures can often paint a thousand words so if you find it easier to add a drawing, please do, even if it's just a sketch.

I can't promise that everything will be included as simplicity is going to be key to getting this to work for us all, but as we will own the software there is nothing stopping us getting a basic system built and then adding further developments in the future

Neil McCall (Controller Manager)

Belated Christmas Do:

On Saturday 30th January 2016, 51 of us went to a brilliantly organised "After Christmas Do" at Guys/Old Nell's place Myerscough, north of Preston, and had a great time, made extra special for the Chairman's wife, Denise, as it was her birthday too.

Angela and Haydn Williams organised it and it was well attended and everyone who went said it was a great time.

Thank You Ange & Haydn, book us in for next year, although we may need a bigger room if word gets out Ssssh!

There's lots of pictures and even a video of a brutal attack on a poor defenceless donkey by Mike Wilkinson :-)

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Check out

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1005786592822131&set=pcb.985927978120417&type=3&theater>

Story?

I stopped at a friend's house the other day and found him stalking around with a fly swatter. When I asked if he was getting any flies, he answered: 'Yeah, three males and two females.'

Curious, I asked how he could tell the difference. He said: 'Three were on a beer can and two were on the phone.'

(Psst. No doubt I'll get a slap for that)

Take care especially in this bad weather and remember:

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

Paul (Founder, Chairman & Trustee)

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