



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

NEWSLETTER JULY 2017



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

Welcome to the July Newsletter of 2017:

I said in my last newsletter I would try and make up for the last short edition, so here goes:

A letter from a past member, Will Hogan.

Will is a serving Officer in Lancashire's finest and an ex colleague of mine and if you haven't seen his story on Face Ache, here it is:

I started as one of the very early blood bikers and even did some of the early runs (my number is/was BBR012).

For various reasons I wasn't able to commit as much time as I'd have liked so I guess you could say I'm a "lapsed" blood biker.

On 31 May 2017 I was involved in an RTA on my way home from work on my motorbike. I shattered my femur and fractured my pelvis and I've been in hospital since. I've had surgery on both my femur (the results of which you can see in the photo) and my pelvis.

I've also had a number of complications including a fairly hefty infection, pulmonary embolisms, low haemoglobin and requirements for some apparently fairly specialised anticoagulant and antibiotic drugs.

The low haemoglobin has meant I've had a few blood transfusions and some of the drugs have had to be sourced from other hospitals in the middle of the night.

So from someone at the "other end" of all the good work NWBLL do, I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to you all. The NHS staff have been utterly amazing but the work NWBLL do only helps by saving the NHS money, allowing them to do more with ever decreasing budgets.

I'm still in hospital and I've a long recovery ahead. I'm hoping to get back on a bike in the future and I really hope I can get back to being an active member of NWBLL to repay some of the debt I've accrued.

You are all fantastic and I'm now even more appreciative of the work you do.

Thank you.



Obviously I'm going to go and see him ASAP and will pass on all our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Another letter, but from a sponsor:

Just to let you know that I have transferred £316.00 to blood bikes today. The money was raised from family, friends & work colleagues who kindly sponsored me for running the Edinburgh marathon on the 28th May.

I first heard of blood bikes from my mother who told me about a talk she had attended. Then just after I had signed up for the marathon I heard more about blood bikes when listening to radio Lancashire one Saturday morning whilst I was out

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running. I thought that I would choose the charity to raise money for as I pick a different cause each year.

Only a few of my sponsors were aware of the blood bikes before I asked them for their support. I trained alongside my husband who always raises funds for Derian house.

Jane Youds

Thank you Jane :-) This just shows how our good name is spreading.

From Neil McCall:

As the charity has grown over the years, so has the number of documents that are used. Membership list, accounts, handbooks, stats etc, all these documents are held by individuals either on their own computers, or in the cloud. In some cases more than 2 people hold different versions, letterheads are a good example of this.

What would happen if the individual could no longer access their computer or cloud storage? What information could be lost in the event of a hard drive failure? Who could gain access to the documents stored on a personal cloud if an individual wasn't available? These questions were raised by the committee and a solution was looked for.

File sharing is the obvious answer, and there are lots of free to use file sharing sites out there, although these do have limitations. We then discovered that many software companies operate a Not For Profit scheme, where they offer their software at vastly reduced rates to charities, and in some cases give it away for free. A few companies were looked at and Microsoft came back with their solution which seemed to tick all the boxes and also offered more than we needed.

So with the help of our webmaster Greg, we began a small trial of Office 365, a software package that incorporates the basics of word, excel, powerpoint etc, with email, calendars, task functions and most importantly cloud storage plus lots more. It was also easily integrated into other devices, so we weren't tied to just using Windows operating systems, it could be used on iOS and Android devices.

So we had the software, we had the devices, what next? The planning for implementing the software began. A few weeks before the software was rolled out, all the people with @nwbb-

lancs.org email addresses were asked to back up their inboxes. For those who were unaware, we used a UNIX mail system, this was email that could be accessed through a browser, and you could also set it up on external mail clients, so there was not a one fix for all solution which did complicate things.

After everybody had confirmed to Greg that they had done this, he was ready to go with the changeover. Monday 10th July was the date we set, and during the afternoon all the domain users were sent a text message telling them that in the next 48 hours they would lose access to their emails while the swap was made. This didn't stop the panic setting in with some though, who began asking why they couldn't get on their emails when the switch was finally thrown.

Greg then began working his magic with the migration. All the email addresses had already been prepared and needed moving from our UK Fast servers over to Office 365. Fortunately, the migration went as planned and the emails that were held on the server also transferred (always handy to have a back-up ready though). Microsoft assisted with the changeover and opened up more threads to enable the move to go faster. The initial estimate was 16 hours to transfer, this reduced to around 5 hours, although 3 users failed to transfer due to sub folders in their deleted items. Not a problem, as the migration was run again and this time all accounts moved over. By 3am, yes the riders and controllers aren't the only ones up all night, the new log in details had been sent to all the users...and relax.

As with any change there will be issues, but there were not many, just people learning their way around it, but it is a system most are already familiar with. We did however run into an issue with the email signatures. Previously we used individual html code to generate the signatures, this was no longer possible, but with help from Greg again, he was able to create a single HTML corporate signature that took the user detail variables from their profiles and made it an individual signature. This was something that not even Microsoft knew was possible, so do we have an excellent IT guru, yes I think we do.



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What does all this mean for our members? You probably think not too much, but it does. All the riders and controller have been added into groups for their area. There was a question as to why it's a secret group, but this is just the way Microsoft have them allocated. It means that no one outside that group can access it. The benefits of the groups are that area managers can now use a single email address to send a mail to all their members. They can share documents a lot easier rather than attaching to an email. I'm sure we can all relate to the email received with an attachment, then in 2 weeks time we can't find it again, these attachments can now be stored in the cloud and as new members join us they will have access to exactly the same information. As this is the cloud, the information can always be up to date. Collaboration of documents is made easier, so less emailing backwards and forwards. When the manager plans a meeting, they can create it on the calendar and send an invitation to everybody on the list, who can then respond with an accept/decline message, it also adds the meeting directly onto your personal calendar if you have one set up. There will be other things we have yet to discover.

We also needed to look at the future, none of us will be around forever, people move on and are replaced. We can offer continuity in roles, one person can continue where another left off and have access to all the relevant documentation that is needed.

I'd like to thank Greg for the work he put in. Although he owns his own IT business (www.technologyapplied.co.uk) we received his full commitment and support in setting everything up, and to be honest we couldn't have done it alone, and is always available on the end of the phone for any major IT problems. It is often mentioned about the behind the scenes roles within the charity. Most of the things they do go unnoticed and just happen. The hours they put in on the phones or computers is phenomenal and I'd like to offer our thanks to them all.

3 Sisters Race Track:

As many of you know each year since we started Wigan council have invited us along to a charity Race Day at the 3 Sisters Race Track and even though the firm that were running it went bust a few months ago, Councillor Bob Brierly, has invited us again, but this time they are organising

it. Basically what happens is everyone who comes to ride round the track, pays for the privilege and that money comes directly to us, minus the cost of Paramedics and Marshals.

It really is a great day and kicks off at 2pm until dusk, but we'll be there from 1pm. See below:

**3 SISTERS RACE TRACK DAY
FOR
NORTH WEST BLOOD BIKES LANCS & LAKES**
Come and join us on 8th August 2017 & have a great time:

Directions

M6 JUNCTION 24 (signposted A49 Wigan & Wigan Pier). Down long slip road to roundabout where you turn right, (signposted A49 Ashton), also a brown directional sign for **THREE SISTERS**.

Along the **A49** for just over 2/4 miles to the first set of traffic lights, (shops on left), turn left into **BRYN** road, also signposted **GOLBOURNE**.

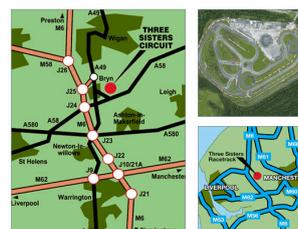
Along **BRYN** road for approx 1/4 mile, turn left into **LOCKETT** road onto **SOUTH LANCS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE**.

Along **LOCKETT** road for approx 1/4 mile and then left into **Three Sisters Road**.

Please Note: There is no exit at junction 25 for Southbound M6 Traffic. For Southbound customers we recommend proceeding to Junction 24 (1 mile) and returning Northbound to Junction 25.

Click to view [google maps](#)

Visiting Three Sisters by train? Book your train tickets with TransPennine Express to Wigan Northwestern www.tpeexpress.co.uk



**In the meantime
Remember what we do
“SAVES LIVES”
but
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, 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

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