



# June 2018 Newsletter



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**Headlines: AGM: Chairman's Bit *including a letter from Russell's Dad, Kenney: Life Goes On: Donations and Awards: Serious Bit: In Aid of Sophie: Fun Stuff:***

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## Chairman's Bit:

A letter from Ken Curwen, it's addressed to Lee because Lee was our liaison, but is meant for everyone:

Dear Lee

I hardly know where to start with this letter, my wife Pat and I are grateful to you for so much, without the truly magnificent effort you put in over these last few weeks the Funeral of our Russ would have been a completely different event. How you managed to organise the entire Blood Bike community of Great Britain and beyond is astounding. Everywhere we've been these last few days almost everybody is of the same opinion, that, Kendal, has never seen the like of it before, and likely will never see it again. Through the tears our hearts were bursting with pride, they have said to us that all those Blood Bikes stretching back as far as the eye could see it was as impressive as a state Funeral. You must have been extremely impressed with the whole event, I know we and the population of Kendal were.

A few months ago part of a North West Tonight program was about blood bikers they called them unsung heroes, after our Russ watched it, from time to time I used to put my hands together like a Chinaman and greeted him when he came home from work in a high pitched voice saying "*ha so unsung, velly good day sir.*" well he isn't unsung now, and neither is the rest of the blood bikers who came to the funeral that day, many people have told me that the applause did not stop after the hearse had passed, it carried on until the last bike had gone by, lots people showing their appreciation for all of them. And of course, when he got the letter telling him that the group had been awarded the Queens Voluntary Award there was no living with him, he rubbed it in for many weeks after.

I would also like to thank you for the beautifully presented Order of Service sheets you produced and the poignant poem that you read out. I could not possibly have stood up in front of the congregation on that day and delivered a eulogy.

So, on behalf of my good Lady and I. Felicitations to you and to all the rest of the blood bikers who carry out such a valuable service.

Yours Sincerely Pat & Ken Curwen

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Further to that, we have received a cheque for NWBB L&L from Kendal Parish Church, to the value of £1,528.25, which was half the contents of the collection buckets that were there on the day of Russell's funeral. The other half went to the Air Ambulance. Simply amazing! As is the Just Giving page which Lee set up, that's gone past £10,000.

I have received many Sympathy and Condolence cards and letters, aimed not only to Russ's family, but also to NWBBLL. It truly is amazing; my only wish is that Russ was still here to see what people think.

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## Ride Out:

In Memory of Russ, from Westmorland to the scene of the crash. Loads turned up to show respect for our Dear fallen Rider BBR387:



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## LIFE GOES ON:

### **Keep it Simple:** (by Member Rick Rurlander)



Katie our BMW Blood Bike in Kendal at the moment. This is what, in my humble opinion a fleet bike should be. Simple, non-complicated and easy to 'jump on and go'. Technology is great of course, but there's such a potential double -edged sword to that evolutionary march. Trust me, I'm not a doctor, but I've flown airliners for 19 years, from 'clockwork ones' to 'self-driving' ones and I've been lucky enough to teach young people how to fly them. But I soon became aware, there's almost always a noticeable degradation of situational awareness with every step up the technology ladder.

I suppose what I'm trying to say is, let's get back to basics. It's ok if you own a high-tech machine, be it a bike, a car or a plane, you can get to know it, investigate it and learn how it works, but if you're just interacting with it once or twice a month, you need as few distractions as possible. We need to keep our eyes 100% on the road as bikers and more so as Blood Bikers carrying a precious cargo.

Even a glance down at your speedo at motorway speeds means a good hundred metres or so missed on the visual scan. Never mind fiddling around with modes, screens, satnavs, heaters and suspension settings. I'd be interested to hear what you guys out there think about this, but before you answer, try these two simple things as an experiment. 1. Next time you go for a ride, do not indicate unless it could be useful to another road - user in your vicinity. 2. Tape over your speedo and gear change indicator if you have one.

I know this could be contentious and I know I'm going to get the bla, bla, that's illegal whatever nonsense, but honestly guys I'm just trying to translate and share a few safety improvement techniques we used to use in the airline. Let's all ride even safer, in the name of our big bubbly friend Russ!

(Very well put Rick. (ed))

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### **Beaverbrook's**

A very nice and welcome donation of £800 from Beaverbrook's, handed over to Andy Fox and Pete Haworth at their headquarters in St Anne's. Thank you to Andy's daughter who works for Beaverbrook's, and nominated us, and all at Beaverbrook's.



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## Outstanding Contribution to Volunteering (By Phil Murphy)



On Thursday 31st May 2018, myself and Dave Meredith were proud to attend the award ceremony for voluntary services in West Lancashire, at Ormskirk Town Hall, on behalf of NWBB-LL. Presided over by the Mayor of West Lancashire, there were 15 different groups from all over West Lancashire, each had nominated volunteers to receive awards for their service to the community of West Lancashire. Dave and I



were both proud to have been nominated, and to be presented with, award certificates, and, as far as we were concerned, on behalf of NWBB-LL, for 'Outstanding Contribution to Volunteering' with NWBB-LL. We gratefully accepted the award on behalf of all the volunteers of NWBB-LL, and I had the task of trying to fit in an outline of everything we do, and who does what, in 2 minutes!! Once the formalities were over, we were invited for a brew and a bite to eat in the Mayor's parlour, which was welcome, as we were parched!!

With grateful thanks to whoever nominated us!! *We'll get you!!*  
Phil Murphy BBR130, West Area.

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## 50,000 Completed Call-outs

6 years, 1 month, and a bit and we've hit an unbelievable figure, especially when you think we only did 812 in our first year.

When we set it up, we never in our wildest dreams thought it would take off like it has and it's all down to every single member past and present.

We've had some great times, but also sad, but as they say, "That's Life"

**THANK YOU ALL**



## 50,000 RUNS COMPLETED

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## IN AID OF SOFIE:

A local computer firm in Leyland has organised this in aid of a little girl who lived next door to the shop and was killed in the Manchester Bombing. It's being held at Leyland on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Each Area's Events coordinators have full details, so if you fancy going or want to get a team together please contact them.

[eventsnorth@nwbb-lanc.org](mailto:eventsnorth@nwbb-lanc.org);  
[eventseast@nwbb-lancs.org](mailto:eventseast@nwbb-lancs.org);

[eventscentral@nwbb-lancs.org](mailto:eventscentral@nwbb-lancs.org);  
[eventswest@nwbb-lancs.org](mailto:eventswest@nwbb-lancs.org);

[eventsfylde@nwbb-lancs.org](mailto:eventsfylde@nwbb-lancs.org);

### Fun Run Obstacle Course

Participants are lined up in their designated lanes, red, yellow and blue; and must keep to their own lane throughout the game. You set off on the referee's whistle. Complete the obstacle and move on to an end game on the ground. Once the end game is completed the referee shall then blow the whistle for the next three participants to set off. This is not a race game and you may take as much time as you require to complete the obstacle.



You will go through a series of inflatable hoops on part one. You will then enter part two, which is attached to part one. You then proceed to climb up a series of inflatable blocks attached to the front of the inflatable until they reach the top of the slide. You will then sit down and slide down the other side on their bottoms. You are not allowed to go head first or dive. At the end you must skilfully try and get a ball into the bucket to score. The ball must stay in the bucket to gain points. You only have one shot.



### The Wedge

Participants are lined up in their designated lanes, red, yellow and blue; and must keep to their own lane throughout the game. You set off on the referee's whistle. You must climb to the top and once at the top you must sit down and slide down the other side. The wedge is designed for competitors to use at the same time. It is kept wet to avoid friction burns and staff are positioned as indicated on each side. This is another skill and not a race game and you may take your time.

Once you are safely off the wedge inflatable will be facing an inflatable hoop game where you must throw the hoop onto the inflatable pegs to score points. You only have one throw, so make it a good one.



### Bish Bash Bosh

Participants are lined up in their designated lanes, red, yellow and blue; and must keep to their own lane throughout the game. You set off on the referee's whistle. Contestants are asked not to run and to step off the inflatable. The lanes are colour coordinated red, blue and yellow and participants are asked to keep to their own coloured lane during the use of this game. It is not a race game. You can take your time and enjoy yourself going through this large inflatable making your way through bubbles and foam.

Once you have safely stepped off the inflatable, in front of you there will be a mat and you will have to throw a marker and it has to be in the red only to count and score points. You only get one shot, so make it your best shot! We will tally the scores up at the end to find out who the winners are.



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## Fun Stuff:

New Motorcycle club starts for the more mature riders.



## Captions Please:



New BMW on order

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Finally, & I'm bound to get grief for this, but

Anyone got a owners  
manual for a wife?  
Mines giving off a  
terrible whining noise!



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**Remember what we do**

**“HELPS TO SAVES LIVES”**

**but also remember:**

**and SADLY, this has greater meaning now!**

**NO JOURNEY IS SO URGENT AS TO PUT YOUR OWN LIFE AT RISK.**  
**IF YOU DO THERE COULD BE TWO LIVES 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](mailto:chairman@nwbb-lancs.org)*

**7 Volunteers Who Care”**

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