



March 2016 Newsletter



Chairman's bit:

As you know in May we have our AGM and we will have been going 4 years, and an incredible 4 years it has been. By the time you read this we will be approaching 21,000 successful call outs.

I have recently been asked to complete a survey, which was sent to me by the Secretary of NABB (Steve Ryder) asking for our full title (I was tempted to put "ANGELS ON TWO WHEELS" but put our proper title instead), how many members we had, how many call outs we had completed in 2015 and how many we had done so far this year, so very proudly I did, and let me tell you no other Blood Bike Group in the WORLD has come close. I say the world because NABB have had enquiries from both the USA and Australia asking how we set Blood Bike groups up, so it would appear we are going International.

Now there's a thing, have we any volunteers wishing to fly across the pond or around the world to show them??? ☺ Don't all shout at once.....

Going back to the AGM 8th May 2016, very soon we will get emails from our Secretary asking for nominations for roles on the Committee and at the AGM those who attend will get to vote for their selected member who has been nominated, so I hope as many of you as possible will come along.

We are not certain of the venue yet as the original one, the Tickled Trout, has had to pull out as they have a wedding on that date so we are looking for

another suitable one. There is one being looked into, but the Secretary will let you know where it is ASAP.

Bikes:

As some of you know we are having several problems with the liveried bikes, from age related issues to faults on brand new ones, (notably the Triumphs). Fortunately the Triumphs are being fixed under warranty, but it still takes a bike off the road and we can't afford down time. Unlike big organisations we don't have the ability to have enough spare bikes or even hire them in so we have to put up with it. Thankfully many riders are willing to use their own bikes or cars if the weather is bad.

Very soon we will be looking at buying another new bike and at the moment, having spoken with the Fleet Manager, the Yamaha looks favourite. Whilst the Triumphs come at a massive discount direct from Triumph, if they can't do the job, they become more expensive not just in costs but in time off the road. The Yamaha FJR is used by both Police Forces and Paramedics and have proved their reliability time and time again, and they are the only bikes tested by the Metropolitan Police forensic transport labs as safe over 80mph carrying blood boxes, so it seems a no-brainer, but more on that later.

"Volunteers Who Care"

Open Day at Morecambe Fire Station:

For those wanting to go, especially those with kids
© Morecambe Fire Station (where we keep a fleet bike) is having an open day on 26th March 2016.



be worked on together as they rely heavily on each other to run smoothly.

Hopefully in the next few weeks we will have the fully working phase 1 in place.

Access for the new system will be via the existing nwbb-lancs.org website, so if you haven't registered your details on there to access the members section, you won't get access to the new system when it goes live.

Neil McCall (Controller manager)

Note: Over my head, but thanks Neil 😊 ed.

Software Development Update:

As you may already know we are currently working with a team from socialcoders.org on the development of our own bespoke software.

We have 2 project managers, Jason and Nikki, who are working with us in building the software. Like us they are volunteers and do the coding in their spare time to help reduce the costs of building software for charities like ours. It's estimated that they will save us around £5000, (and just as important take us away from the sometimes fickle Google Docs).

Phase 1, which is the membership section is progressing nicely. Due to the varying access levels required throughout the charity it's taken longer than expected, but the barebones of the project is in place. The development server is in the process of being set up and then we will be shown the initial build.

Why membership first? This was decided as the best option by the developers as the rota and dispatches rely heavily on the data held in the membership section. Data will be extracted from the membership and used for both the generation of data in the rota (phase 2) and the dispatch system (phase 3). Phase 2 and 3 will

Donations:

Thanks to Nigel Bunney as he applied to Vodafone for a contribution and managed to get us £350.

Lots of our members have been doing talks and bringing funds in, keep it up guys and gals.

Places for People, based in Bamber Bridge nominated us to be the recipients of money collected from their dress down day and invited a few of our guys along to sell some of our wares, and P 4 P management actually added a further £250, making a grand total of £630.61, so thank you to Bill Mellor and Hazel Edwards at P4P for nominating us and collecting for us. Hazel has shown an interest in joining us as a Controller.

They also have a new rider for us:



"Volunteers Who Care"

NWBB-Lancs & Lakes, Willowbank House, The Clough, Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley. PR6 7DG
Registered Charity 1147282

Anvill MCC:

Thanks to Anvill MCC for the cheque for £250 gratefully accepted by Andy Gilroy (Fleet Manager) on 3rd March 2016. Well done Guys 'n Gals.



The saddle INN:

A well attended bike meet at the Saddle Inn (Ingol way) took place on Saturday 5th March 2016. Thanks to all who attended and it would appear they are looking at doing this again. Originally for the Air Ambulance, but we were invited too.



From a Friend:

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare & serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to

combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister.

I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the colour returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded.

He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away".

Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

And, from the same friend:

Live with no regrets.

Treat people the way you would want to be treated.

Work like you don't need money.

Love like you've never been hurt, and

Dance like you do when nobody's watching ☺

Take care especially in the 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