



March 2018 Newsletter



Headlines: AGM: Chairman's bit: 70 Years of NHS: Parking: Privatising Health: Snow: Blood Bikes, Germany: New Bikes: Rotary Dinner: Refreshers: Deafness: Controllers: A bit of fun ☺

**The 2018 Annual General Meeting is to be held at Barton Grange Hotel,
746-768 Garstang Rd, Barton, Preston PR3 5AA
On Sunday 29th April 2018 at 10am
Non-Member Supporters Welcome**

Chairman's Bit:

Winter! I hate it, but life goes on and we are sometimes restricted on what we can do, thankfully many of our Riders use their cars to help out.

As you know we are constantly on the lookout for new members, particularly Riders and Controllers, but the need in our West area is greater than any other.

As a trial, following discussions we have agreed, in principal, to advertise for car drivers who are willing to use their own cars to do the regular runs in West only, over a trial period. More information to come.

We are aware that many riders will be saying, "We are a bike group", and I understand that fully, but desperate measures are sometimes required.

If anyone has issues or ideas on that, please contact me or Lee personally, we need everyone on board ☺.

New Area Manager:

Steve Dunstan, who has done a wonderful job looking after the North Area, is standing down, and the role was opened up to any North Rider.

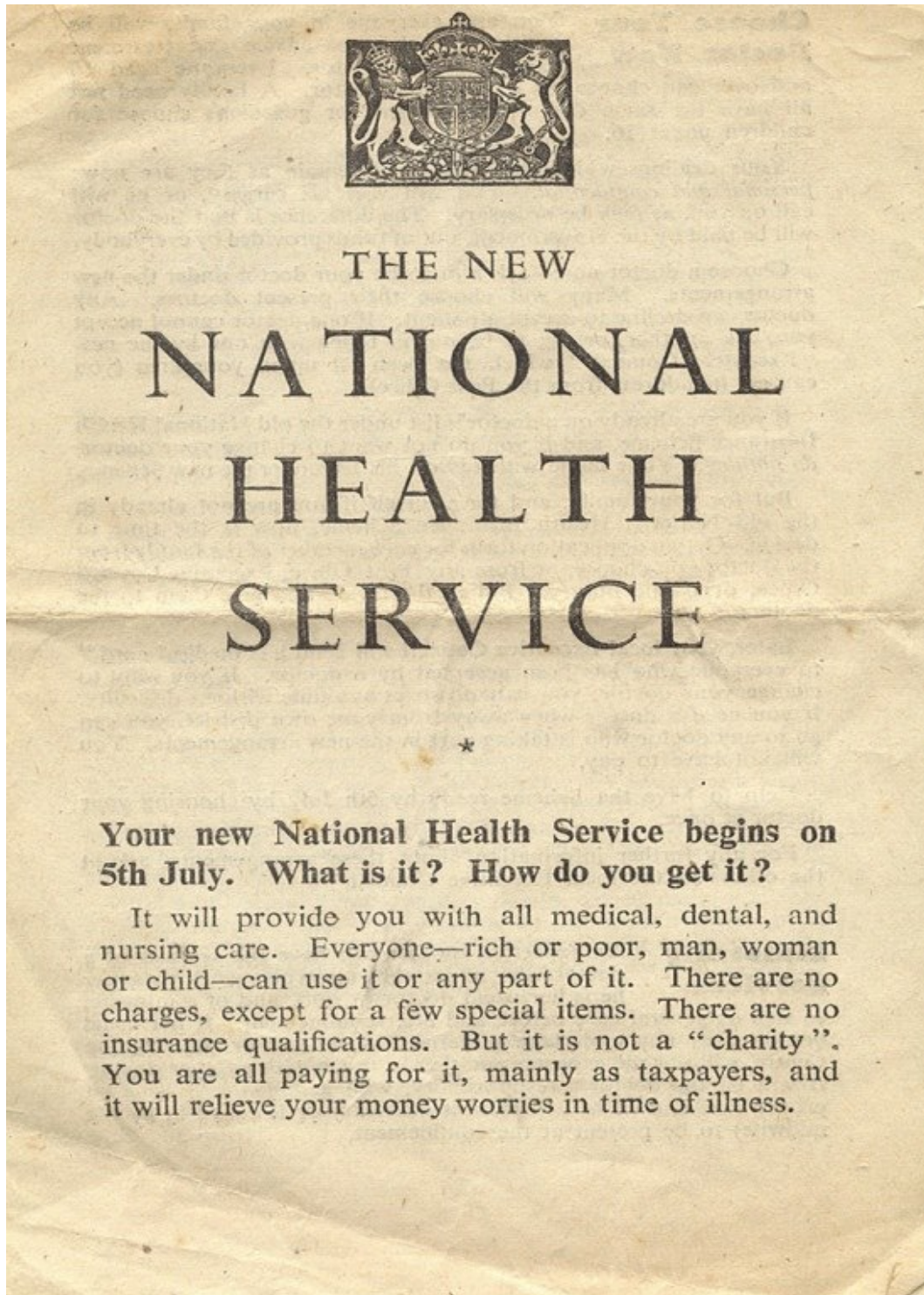
Only one person applied and that was Robert Clark, whom I'm sure most North Riders already know, it's now up to Rob to select Deputies. So, I will take this opportunity to welcome Rob into the role.

I'm sure Steve has a lot of information and advice to pass on to Rob and will remain a Rider in the North. My personal thanks go to Steve for everything he has done, which has gone a long way to helping the whole group too.

Volunteers Who Care

NWBB-Lancs & Lakes, Unit 5, Momentum Place, South Rings, Bamber Bridge, PR5 6EF
Registered Charity 1147282

This was written 70 years ago but the first paragraph remains as evocative and relevant as ever.



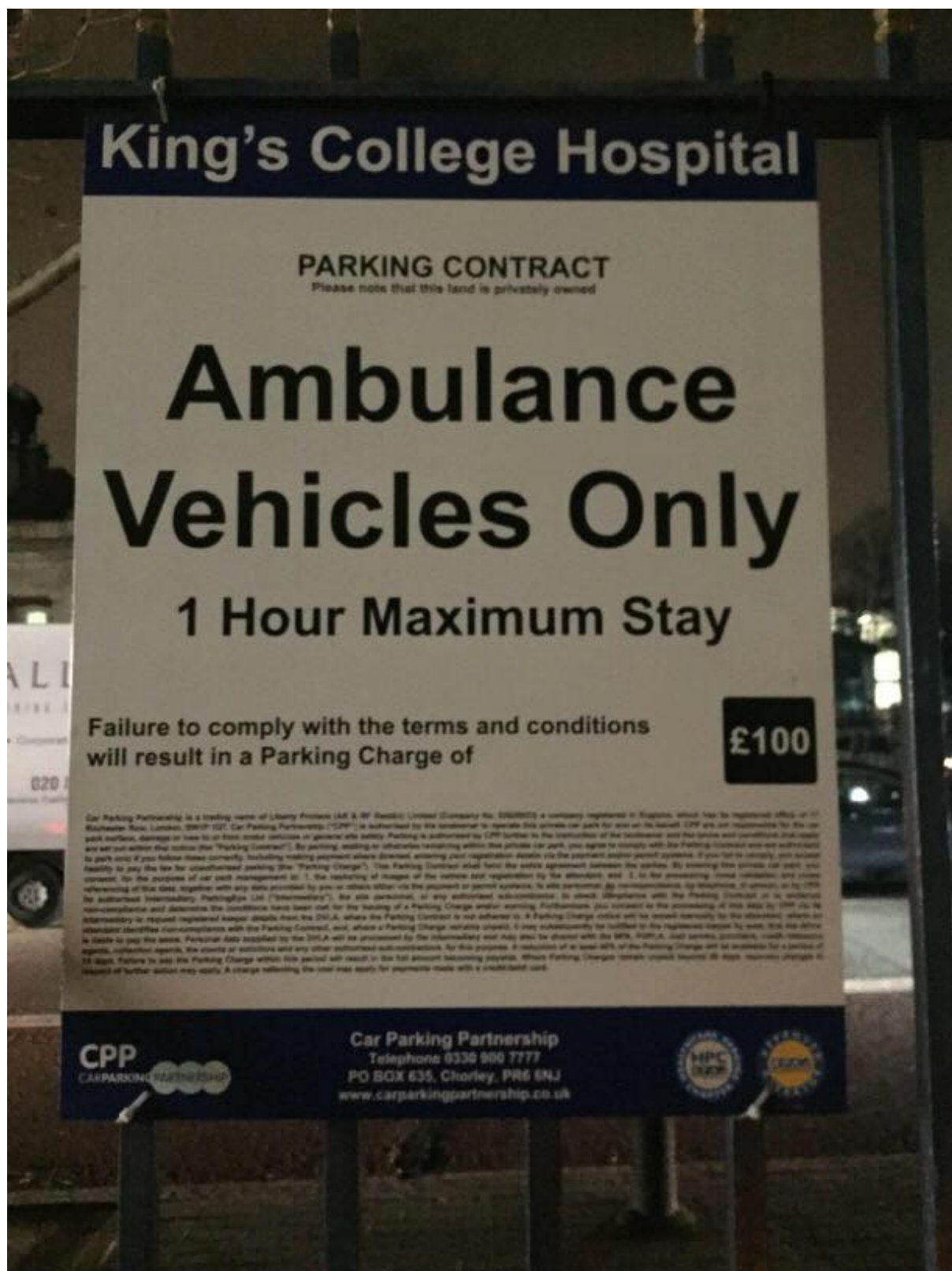
What it doesn't say is "It will last 64 years, then will need North West Blood Bikes to help out", which we do in bucket loads, as Duncan Oag's statistics clearly show.

Be proud, you are helping the best Health Service in the World to keep, what our forefathers started just after WW11, going on and on.

2 *Volunteers Who Care*

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UNBELIEVEABLE But Something to be aware of:



Could this be coming to a Hospital near You?

Although our Bikes cannot be classed as Ambulances because none of the Paramedic bikes are, it is something that a certain Parking Enforcement company, based in Chorley may jump on. If anyone sees a similar sign at one of our hospitals, please let you AM know ASAP.

3 **Volunteers Who Care**

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This from the Lancashire Post:

save 0.07%

By **Staff Reporter**
lep.newsdesk@lep.co.uk
@LEPonline

A radical move to privatise parts of Lancashire's health services would save just 0.07 per cent, it has been revealed. Last year Lancashire County Council announced that it was awarding the £104m contract for the Healthy Child programme to Virgin, rather than local NHS providers. The county council said that the bid followed a "rigorous process heavily weighted in favour of quality service". But court documents reveal that the difference between the two bids was just 0.07 per cent – or £14,560 a year. The decision proved controversial, and Lancashire

Care NHS Trust and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals – which currently run the service – have launched a legal challenge against the decision. The process is ongoing, but Mr Justice Fraser has suspended the process of privatisation and refused the council's appeal against the suspension. His judgement states: "The competing bidders' prices were almost identical, accounting for a difference of just 0.07 per cent in their overall scores."

James Rupa, Unison North West Regional Organiser, said: "These services should remain

in the NHS. The council has made a short-sighted and reckless decision in awarding such a large and important contract to Virgin. "The judgement shows how privatising key services will damage our local NHS organisations and will not save the council significant money."

0.07
The price difference in bids

What do you think?

Should private firms run NHS services? Email lep.newsdesk@lep.co.uk

It's asking, "What do you think?" Please feel free to email the LEP. My view only, this is another way to undercut the NHS.

Snow:



This is the worst we had it since we started and unfortunately, we have had to withdraw some of our services. Many thanks to those riders who've carried on in their own cars, but some areas even a car couldn't go.

Even New Bikes are no good when the weather gets so bad ☹️

4 **Volunteers Who Care"**

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6 New Bikes:

South Lakes -2 New BMW RT1200's
1 from Cumberland & Westmorland Freemasons (Still to be delivered)
1 From 2 local Charities one of which is the Frieda Scott Charitable Foundation.

Lancaster
New BMW RT1200 - West Lancashire Freemasons Charity.

Central
New Honda ST1300 Pan European – Lancashire Rotary (Ex Lancaster)



East
New Honda ST1300 Pan European - Part Rotary Funded

West
New RT1200 - Ormskirk - West Lancashire Freemasons Charity

Thanks to the Rotary International and the West Lancashire Freemasons Charity & Westmorland Freemasons, over the past 12 months we have been given funds to purchase 6 new bikes.

All these bikes together with North West Honda's contributions means we have been able to get rid of older bikes, and have a fleet of Hondas and BMWs, with maintenance agreements from both main dealers in our area.

I have to say a massive thanks to my old work partner, Malcolm Baldwin, who was the President for the Rotary in Lancs & Cumbria from June 2016 to June 2017 and who asked me if they could help us to buy a bike (silly question ☺). Obviously, I said yes, and the money was raised within

12 months, but more money is still coming in. There was even a dinner dance in our name in February to raise yet more money.

The second people to thank are the Freemasons, throughout the North West and a special thanks to Simon Hanson, our Fleet manager, for securing funding for the 3 of the 4 BMW's and Rider Colin Kendal for the 4th.



5 ***Volunteers Who Care***

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Thanks to all, we now have a fantastic fleet of bikes and to think, when we started 6 years ago, we made do with 4 second hand bikes. There's only one of those still going which, as it used to belong to me, is coming home to me soon to be returned to a normal road bike, when it retires as a Blood Bike. Helga the first red ST1300 Blood Bike ☺ and ably looked after by John Walker in Barrow.

Simon Hanson also got a great deal for servicing at Bowker's BMW in Preston, like our Vice Chairman, Lee Townsend, did with North West Honda.

Bowker's are livering up one of their bikes so when a rider takes a BMW in for service, they can ride away on a useable blood bike.



Rotary Dinner Dance:

Saturday 24th February and The Rotary who bought us the Honda had another fundraiser for us, raising another £3,500. It was a great night and you get to see one of our hidden Angels, Marie Bradshaw on the bike alongside West Area Manager, Martin Walsh.



Blood Bikes Germany?

Vorsprung or Mustang



For those who remember Al Boyle, one-time Fylde Area Manager, this is how his car looks today, although I don't suppose it will stay that way, because he lives and works just outside München, Germany, but will one day return and is itching to come back into the family.

Blues & Two's refreshers

As all Advanced Riders know we are carrying out a series of refreshers. Those Riders who also have B&T's authority will have both refresher assessments at the same time and we are looking at carrying out these refreshers every year instead of the current period of every 3 years.

There are several reasons for this, but the main reason is because emergency rides are quite rare, and a rider may not do an emergency run from one month to the next, unlike riders/drivers in other emergency services.



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Those who have done emergency runs know all too well the effect it has on them, adrenaline rushes, more commonly known as Red Mist, which if uncontrolled can make a rider do something he/she wouldn't normally do and even be dangerous.

The more you do it the easier to control it gets, hence the more refreshers.



**Motorcycling affects your hearing, believe me I know.
Please Wear Ear Plugs.**

Controllers:

Heard but rarely seen

In this Newsletter there is a great deal about what equipment we have managed to secure thanks to friends of NWBB L&L, and yes, many Riders use their own bikes, or cars when the weather gets bad, but hopefully, eventually they will ride a fleet bike. Although it is not a requirement when riding your own bike for us, taking an advanced riding course makes perfect sense, not just because you could then ride a fleet bike, but for a rider's own safety and pleasure. We are lucky in the fact that we have several Advanced Observers with us, so if you fancy doing your advanced contact them. The Secretary will supply details.

But what about our Guardian Angels, our Controllers?

To the general public and to the hospitals in general, they are never seen and never heard.

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Those in the Hospitals who do hear them, (usually telephonists or Path Lab personnel) only hear a cheery voice, which calmly tells them that their request is not a problem and we can certainly carry out the hospital's request. The riders only have limited contact with the Controllers on their shift and once again the Controller emits that calm manner which ensures the job is understood and carried out to the letter and often there is good hearted banter between rider and Controller, which helps to enforce that message.

So how do we recognise our band of Angels?

They do not have anything tattooed across their forehead, nor do they jump out of dark corners. They are the foundations of our Charity's business, holding up the mould that everyone else slots into. We now have a rough ratio of 1 Controller to about 3 riders (I'm sure Duncan can put me right on that) and compared to two years ago that is an excellent ratio. They do an incredibly pressured job (if you don't believe it, try it) ensuring everything runs smoothly. So, Riders; if you ever come across one in the flesh please treat them with the utmost respect as you could not carry out your worthy cause without them having got there first.

It has always been an option for Riders to go on the Controller course and do a few duties as Controller, then you'll see what our Angels have to put up with ☺. THANK YOU, CONTROLLERS.

Finally:

Some Medical explanations: Just a bit of fun ☺

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Artery | The study of painting |
| Bacteria | Back door to Cafeteria |
| Barium | What happens when patients die |
| Benign | What you are, after you are eight |
| Caesarean Section | A neighbourhood in Rome |
| Catscan | Searching for kitty |
| Cauterize | Made eye contact with her |
| Colic | A sheep dog |
| Coma | A punctuation mark |
| Dilate | To live longer |
| Fester | Quicker than someone else |
| Fibula | A small lie |
| Impotent | Distinguished or well known |
| Labour Pain | Getting hurt at work |
| Medical Staff | A Doctors walking stick |
| Morbid | A higher offer |
| Nitrates | Cheaper than day rates |
| Node | I knew it |

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Outpatient | A person who has fainted |
| Pelvis | Second cousin of Elvis |
| Post Operative | A letter carrier |
| Recovery Room | Place to do upholstery |
| Rectum | Nearly killed him |
| Secretion | Hiding something |
| Seizure | Roman Emperor |
| Tablet | Small table |
| Terminal Illness | Getting sick at the airport |
| Urine | Opposite of “You’re out” |

Remember what we do
“HELPS TO SAVES LIVES”
but also remember:

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