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OUR NEXT RIDE MAY SAVE A LIFE. WILL YOURS?

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **NHS** ENGLAND

# NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2020

### WELCOME TO THE NEW NEWSLETTER

Well, new Chairman and new Committee from the beginning of September 2020 and a renewed confidence.

#### **Our New Committee:**

Chairman – Kevin Sansom  
Vice Chairman – Mick Steel  
Secretary – Bill Casey  
Treasurer – Martin Walsh  
Manager Lead – Pete Haworth  
Controller Lead – Duncan Oag  
Fleet Manager – John Garnett

#### **Our Trustees:**

Paul Brooks  
Graham Jones  
Andy Gilroy  
Graham Miller  
Haydn Williams

BIG Thanks, must go to our Webmaster and Member, Greg Riley, for sorting the election out and to Bill Casey our Secretary. Well done guys.

Sadly we lost 3 people all at once, which threw things into a bit of a panic, and it is taking time to sort things out, but one thing is clear, what we do wasn't affected and that's down to all our members, so from the writer of this well done you all deserve a pat on the back.

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#### **First things first:**

What does a decent Newsletter need?

It needs stories. Your stories and pictures, funny or serious, so please let the Editor know when you have something. It doesn't need to be earth shattering it just needs to be true, non-offensive and definitely non-political, we get enough of that on TV ☺. Email: [editor@nwbb-lancs.org](mailto:editor@nwbb-lancs.org)

Remember, we're so big that members from one Area may not know what's going on in another Areas, so let's keep everyone informed.

Many members put ride outs, events, funny and serious stories and of course pictures on Facebook, but not every member or indeed many of our Hospital contacts do Face Ache ☺.

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***"Volunteers Who Care"***

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

My first article has to be something about what we are all going through at the moment and for the foreseeable future, the dreaded virus, so I'll start with a few facts:



COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus. 'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as '2019 novel coronavirus' or '2019-nCoV.' Hence the "19" at the end.



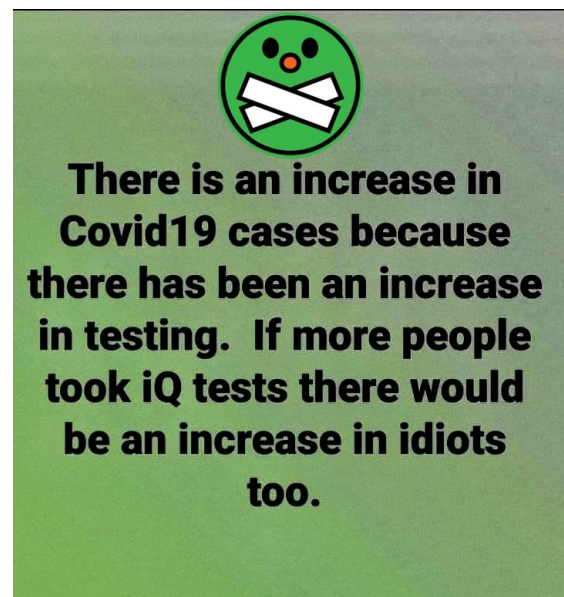
Since March 2020 we have all been under rules and regulations brought in by the Government and whatever your view on how they've handled it, any Government would have struggled, even Churchill did at the start of WW2, and fighting Covid-19 is a war, but this time it's an invisible enemy.

North West Blood Bikes Lancs & Lakes have helped the NHS as much as we possibly can, and all they need to do is shout and we'll come running, often not in our usual duty times.

The NHS people, Doctors, Nurses, Analysts, Pharmacists, Porters, Cleaners, etc, who have battled through the past 7+ months deserve everything we can bestow on them, and likewise all our people, especially the Riders & Controllers. Unfortunately, our Fundraisers have sort of been furloughed but without pay of course ☹️

As a Public Governor for Lancashire Teaching Hospitals, Paul Brooks gets daily bulletins on how many people in Central Lancs have proved positive and how many are in the beds at RPH's Covid-19 ward and Critical ward. At this time there are some in the Critical ward and only a relatively low number have proved positive and in a Covid-19 ward, but that is on the rise. Nationally that seems to be rising too, so please stay safe and follow the advice/rules.

Remember, the battle is far from over, and according to the scientists it is unlikely we will have the means to fight it before sometime in 2021, so for goodness sake, STAY SAFE.



There is an App, which sends daily information from your phone to Cambridge University (image top right) [www.covid.joinzoe.com](http://www.covid.joinzoe.com) If you join, it helps them work out the worst areas and the only information they have is a name and an area you live in, so it's quite GDPR Compliant.

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## 600 and Not Out

Wouldn't that be a great cricket score? But this is the number of duties our Controller Manager has just completed.

Susan Wolstenholme, AKA "Sue", or "Auntie Sue", has just completed her 600<sup>th</sup> duty and on the same day as her Birthday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, hence this newsletter has had to wait for the one she has just completed. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY SUE & enjoy the flowers.**

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## Controllers, Riders, Events teams & Fundraisers.

Most members of the public see either Blood Bikers on the road, or Blood Bike people standing all day at an event trying to collect money for the charity, which we always need to keep going.

**Controllers;** are the voice on the other end of the phone (or text) who we rarely see, but without them we can't operate. Since March these Controllers have done more than usual because some have left NWBBLL, leaving us, not short, but putting extra work on the ones remaining. Although there are new ones waiting in the wings, training is almost impossible under the current circumstances, so the extra strain goes on. That said, I believe Sue and her team are looking at trialling virtual training, "Mmmmm! That should be interesting" 😊 I might just have a do..... That's not a promise Sue 😊

**Riders;** As already said, get seen and usually have a great ride out doing something to help, although that's weather dependant 😊

**So now to our Events/Talks/Fundraisers:** Since the beginning of March 2020 we have not given any Talks to groups or attended any fundraising/awareness events and raised money because of this war against Covid-19.

We have always relied on these members. From Brenda Taylor (Controller) who looks after the list of events and talks, and most importantly contacts the member giving the talk to remind them, to all the members who stand all day at an event with collection tins or giving a talk to some group who know little of what we do.

Now they are effectively 'furloughed', so all we can ask of these members at the moment is ***"Don't lose heart, we need you all, just STAY SAFE and hopefully you'll be chatting away at a Talk or collecting donations again ASAP"***.

I wonder if the gazebo tops will get moth eaten????

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## RED MIST

A serious note; aimed at Riders & Drivers.

Red Mist is basically a rise in adrenaline which causes a Gung Ho attitude, "I can't get injured", which is what warriors fed on years ago before they charged into battle.

Sometimes riding or driving, particularly in an urgent situation causes Red Mist:

The image is how silly you will look if you suffer from it ☺. Please remain calm at all times. I know how it feels but it doesn't help believe me.



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## The Volunteers are coming

We may be hit by Covid-19 and be very busy, and we may have lost some members, but there are still new members coming on board.

**Central welcomes:** Alan Taylor, Patrick Barlow, Richard Barrett, Tony Ryan, Andrew Wilkinson, Peter Woolridge.

**East welcomes:** Aiden Broughton, Brian Reynolds, Antonia-Jayne Parker, Michael Harrison.

**Fylde welcomes:** David Rees, Christopher Dixon, Christopher Walmsley, Paul Gibson, Lesley Martin, Graham McElwee.

**North welcomes:** Ian Lumb

**West welcomes:** Philip V Hayes, Alan Douglas.

Good to have you all on board.

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### Blackpool Honda have done it again:

Simon Carter says, "Due to Honda having to discontinue the VFR800X Crossrunner (as it doesn't meet the new Euro5 emission standards) The North West Honda Super Centre is replacing the current Fylde Blood bike Crossrunner with a Brand New 2020 CRF1100 Africa Twin Plus Edition". NWHSC are great people to deal with.



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Left to right: Simon Carter (North West Honda Super Centre), Scott Etheridge, Andy MacKenzie, Chris Ryder & up front Colette Falloon.

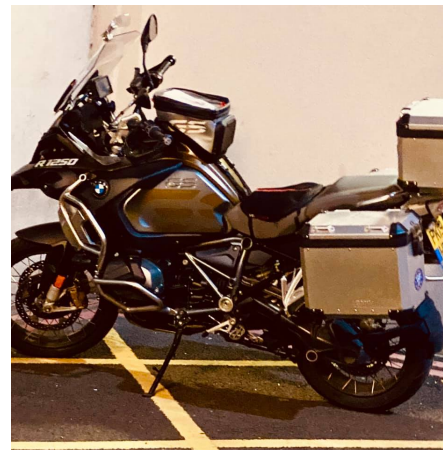
Colette took it out for a ride and admitted to being nervous for a first ride (those are not the words she actually used 😊). They are a very tall bike, but Simon has ordered a lower seat for those riders who are vertically challenged 😊. *Ed. Forgive me just couldn't resist.....*

## East Rider

Andy Lord says:

A very busy Monday night last night - it didn't rain though. Literally non-stop from Blackburn to Burnley and back again. Now I know what a Deliveroo driver feels like.

Great fun though and I managed to say hello to another rider who was doing a longer run to Preston.



Obviously, Trevor "*Rainman*" Goff wasn't on duty 😊

Strange though, I met up with Trevor at RPH on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September, when we were both on duty and it was gorgeous weather. Perhaps it only rains in the East when Trevor's on duty haha!

### *"Volunteers Who Care"*

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## Speed Limit reduction on m/ways:

You may have already seen this but it could affect your duties and/or your travel plans:

The speed limit is set to change on a major stretch of Midlands motorway, it has been reported.

According to reports in The Times on Saturday, stretches of both the M5 and M6 - both near Birmingham - will see a reduced speed limit.

In a bid to reduce emissions in places badly-hit by pollution, the speed limit will come down to 60mph.

Two parts of the motorway in the West Midlands are impacted by the announcement, alongside stretches in Yorkshire and Lancashire too.

The project, introduced by Highways England, will be implemented at four areas of the road network by the end of the month to assess the impact on air quality.



It marks the first time the speed limit has been cut to tackle emissions.

The four sections of motorway will be the M6 between junctions 6 and 7 near Birmingham, the M5 between junctions 1

and 2 at Oldbury, the M1 between junctions 33 and 34 at Rotherham and the M602 near Eccles.

If the scheme has the desired results then it is expected that the limit will be expanded to the rest of the country.

Drivers will be faced with a £100 fine and three penalty points if they breach the new rules which will be in place for at least 12 to 15 months.

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## Civil Air Patrol and Blood Bikes Team up to support NHS



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the UK Civil Air Patrol and Blood Bikes have come together to support the NHS. The NHS 'pony express', delivers time sensitive medical samples doorstep to doorstep with a rapid land and air courier service.

On Monday, 18 May a request was made by Salisbury District Hospital to deliver a genetics sample from a very young baby to Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge, a distance by road of some 140 miles.

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The sample was collected by Robert Smith of Wessex Blood Bikes at 09:30 hours and handed to Nigel Wilson, a UK Civil Air Patrol pilot who was waiting at Thruxton airfield, near Andover with his Piper PA-28 aircraft.

With the support of air traffic control at London Luton airport the aircraft was flown directly to Duxford airfield in Cambridgeshire where the genetics sample was passed to Mick Thurman of the Suffolk & Cambridge Blood Bikes.

It was then delivered to the Genetics Laboratory at Addenbrookes hospital at 11:25 hours.

A total journey time, doorstep to doorstep of one hour and 55 minutes and a saving of over one hour if the sample had been delivered by road.

After the flight, Jeff Smith, the chief executive of the UK Civil Air Patrol, said: "This is a wonderful example of what the UK Civil Air Patrol and the British Blood Bikes can do when our charities join forces to support the NHS and other good causes.

"We're continuing to work together on combined operations over greater distances throughout the UK."

If any member has contacts at Blackpool Airport, it might be worth making some tentative enquiries with the club there. Just a thought.

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## Thought for today:

They say *"The older you get the wiser you become"*

What they don't tell you is there is a cut-off point and from then on you begin to forget everything 😊

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## Stay Safe & DON'T take risks.

By that I mean not only Riding, but because of Covid-19 we need to follow the guidelines because there is no doubt that contagion is on the rise.

We need every single member to help the NHS cope with it.

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## Finally:

I have to finish this first copy of the new Newsletters on a sad note. A few of us are ex colleagues of this man, but I'm certain that because every member in North West Blood Bikes Lancs and Lakes do what we do because you have hearts of Gold, and all our Wonderful NHS staff who work wonders, will feel for the man's family.

To **Matt Ratana**, Sergeant in the Metropolitan Police, who was murdered in what should have been a safe place. Sincere condolences to his family, friends & colleagues, and to the families of all Officers who have lost their lives doing their duty.



R.I.P. Brother.

**STAY SAFE AND PROTECT OTHERS**

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