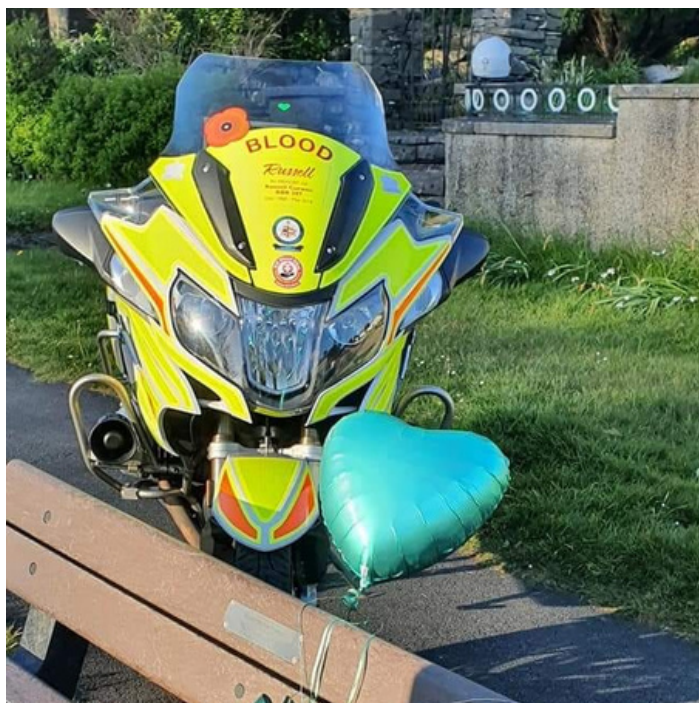




# NWBB L&L News



May 2023 Issue



Welcome to the Northwest Bloodbikes Lancs & Lakes quarterly newsletter. Designed to keep everyone up to date with what's going on across the charity. Each quarter we'll include region, event and personal highlights. Picture: "Russell's seat".

## Team News

### Message from the Chairman

After a short break welcome to the third edition of the new format newsletter.

Your Committee have been incredibly busy on a number of fronts. We are now having regular meetings with our stakeholders in the NHS, in particular with the senior leadership for Ormskirk Pathology Lab, and most recently at Southport, where Treasurer Martin and myself met with the NHS Blood Transfusion Practitioner for Southport. These personal face to face relationships are incredibly important and we will do more of this across our region.

We had our Annual General Meeting this month. This was very well attended and it was great to meet some new faces who may not otherwise have been able to attend our AGM's further south in our region.

We are also piloting an innovative solution for cashless payments, which we will be piloting shortly that uses NFC (the same technology you use at the checkout with Apple Pay and Android Pay).

It's also a time of year where we remember Russell Curwen, who tragically made his last run 5 years ago. Our coverage page photo is dedicated to his memory.

Finally, if you would like to contribute in any way to the newsletter - please email [editor@nwbb-lancs.org](mailto:editor@nwbb-lancs.org) with your ideas or articles.

Thanks! Colin

### 2023 Annual General Meeting

We counted over 75 members for our AGM on Sunday May 14th at the Holiday inn Lancaster. What a glorious day it was for riding, with great engagement and questions from our members.

The meeting opened with some fine words from Secretary Bill Casey where we took the time to honour Russell Curwen's memory, and to think of other members who could not be with us that day including Barbara Mason-Lister who is recovering from her recent motorcycle accident, Jay Nicholas recovering just a few beds down in Preston, Leon Barnes who is in Westmoreland Gen, and Steve Boylan who is on a long road to regaining his mobility.

It was great to be in the North region and as we talked about we plan to rotate locations where we possibly can in order to be able to talk to members who otherwise would find it difficult to travel. We take it as vote of confidence in the existing Committee that current members were re elected, but would strongly urge all of you to consider for next year when other places become due - its vital to the running of the Charity that we get as much diversity of ideas and experience as possible.

Questions and engagement were excellent and we have taken the opportunity to answer some of those in this newsletter. We do apologise for the very average tea and coffee service, and you should know that we received a full refund for the cost of the event as a result. We will ensure that it is much better next time.

As Bill, Martin, Sue and Paul showed in their presentations, the charity continues to be extremely well run. Thank you all very much for coming and if you were not able to make it we shall see you hopefully at the next event - watch this space for details.....

## Region Fundraising Events



You may have seen the FaceBook post submitted by Fylde Rider Mick Steel recently to announce that, further to his application some months ago, we have been chosen to be one of the charities which will partner with the Lytham Festival this year (2023). Subsequent to finding out we were one of the successful out of the 68 applications, Mick attended a PR event on 18th April 2023.

Lytham Festival is one of the biggest events on the calendar for the North West, attracting over 100,000 visitors to the Fylde coast over five days and it partners with five charities, selecting a specific charity for each night of the event. NWBB-LL is very fortunate to have been selected as the charity partner for the final night of Sunday 2nd July 2023, when DEF LEPPARD and MÖTLEY CRÜE are appearing live. This fantastic opportunity allows us to have a team of fundraisers on-site collecting donations during the concert.

It's looking to be a long day, opening at 2pm and finishing at 11pm. It is not just collecting, but there are various other roles to perform, including escorting VIP's and assisting with festival goers.

Anyone interested in attending to help collect and free entry, please message John Walker directly. We have had lots of interest already so please be quick!

## It's What We Do

In much of what we do there is very little feedback on the patient treatment process that is going on behind our work. We take anonymous sealed bags from A to B as required. Very occasionally there is a little bit more visibility of the part we play. That was the case recently for rider Frank Barker in West.

At the outset it seemed a "normal" call - blood sample Ormskirk to Southport. But there was to be far more. A patient in Ormskirk needed a transfusion and a specialist technician at Southport had to analyse the sample and validate the appropriate blood products as suitable.

"I was asked to wait at Southport for that process to be complete, then take the approved blood back to Ormskirk for the patient. All done with the blood up on the ward within an hour. Just shows how valuable and efficient our service is" said a delighted Frank.

It's what we do - dedicated personal service absolutely free.

## NWBB is even more Advanced

The Committee were delighted that membership figures presented at the AGM showed a 38% increase over the last year in the number of our riders who have an advanced qualification. Overall, the percentage of advanced riders has risen from 62% in 2022, to our current 82%. This is a great tribute to the calibre and commitment of our members to be safe and among the very best on our roads. NWBB is continuing its encouragement and promotion of Advanced training and qualification, with a £75 bonus to those who successfully gain a pass. Riders and drivers should talk to their Area Manager to get approval.



Here is NWBB Rider BBR874 Jo Ensor who not only has now become an IAM Advanced Driver, this is on top of her IAM Advanced Rider awarded last year.

We also celebrate another of our female riders, BBR831 Debra Jordan, who just passed her Advanced Rider.

Great to see you both showing us how it is done!

If you want to take your advanced qualification such as ROSPA or IAM, contact your Area Manager or any of us on the Committee.

## Controller News



Unknown to some, Controlling is not limited to our usual hours of duty. The assistance of NWBB to facilitate the transport of urgent medication, equipment and samples etc, during midweek days or very late hours are not unusual, but is a vital part of what we do. Situated as we are on the M6, we are often called upon to help organise and participate in countrywide relays with as many as 6 other blood bike groups. Destinations have included Inverness, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Bristol, Porton Down, London, Exeter and anywhere in between.

In particular, our help in transporting FMT's (Faecal Microbiota Transplants) from Birmingham City University Hospital Microbiome Centre, to all points North has been much appreciated by our friends at Shropshire Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes SSCBB, with the additional assistance from D&GBB and BB Scotland. This year we have delivered six 'time sensitive' FMT's.

This treatment for C. Difficile, after early clinical trials, is proving remarkably effective, hence the increase in these requests from around the country. Let's also not forget the work of Paul Pain and Janice Marsh who coordinate the collection and distribution of Donor Breast Milk in our area. They can call upon a small team of volunteer rider/drivers that also give their time during the day to collect from Preston to deliver to various Neonatal Wards in each of our areas. Those that wish to be involved in Milk Runs should contact Paul Pain.



## Alan Hart

Most of you will not have known Alan Hart so we wanted to share more about his story.

Alan was a Health & Safety & Quality consultant and travelled extensively to India, Greece, Turkey, Australia and the Philippines before joining Lancaster & Morecambe College which involved some teaching in Barrow Shipyard. Alan's classes were always well attended and students were disappointed if a substitute teacher arrived.

Outside work Alan was a keen fell walker, a very safe companion and competent in all weathers. He was also very interested in steam trains and a highlight was a trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway with son, Simon.

In the 1970's Alan and his wife June started the Heron Hill Free Church, holding services at their home for several years before moving to Kendal Leisure Centre and then in the 1990's to the Heron Hill Community Centre. Alan led the Church until 2012 and June is still very involved.

Alan was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2016 and had treatment at Rosemere and then Lancaster. He always remained positive and was convinced that he was going to beat it. He died peacefully at home on Heron Hill in Kendal at the end of 2019.

In February 2022, June asked Colin Kendal at Northwest Bloodbikes to give a Blood Bike presentation to The Beck Community Centre Friendship Group which Sue Park and he attended with a liveried bike. The presentation was very well received and several members had a sit on the bike. As well as tea and cakes we received a generous donation of £164..

In August June contacted Colin again to say that she would like to sponsor a blood bike in Alan's memory. Colin also had a phone conversation with Jon, Alan's son, and sent him photographs of our new "Peter" bike.

The new Alan Hart bike arrived just before Christmas and put into service during January 2023.

The picture is of June visiting 'Alan' at Asda collection in February 2023.



## Mayor of Wyre



Mayor of Wyre Borough for 2022/2023, Julie Cunningham set out to support charities that make a real difference in the borough she represents. NWBB was one of her three chosen charities during that period of office.

Throughout the year, funds were raised through a number of events and initiatives and on 18th May, at a full council meeting in Poulton-le-Fylde, the Mayor presented an award of £3,500 to our Secretary.

"I felt greatly honoured to be receiving this on behalf of the charity, as I myself worked in Wyre for the last 19 years of my career. This is a marvellous contribution from a community I know very well."

We thank Mayor Julie, the council and officials, and the people of Wyre for their generous support.

## Finance Update

Treasurer Martin was asked at the AGM for a breakdown of the spend that was shown in our presentation.

For each £1 NWBB spends:-  
45p looking after the bikes  
22p to fuel the bikes and assist members using their own fuel  
13p to insure the Liveried bikes  
20p on HQ & administration

While we are a well funded charity, we are focused on spending our money wisely as you can see from the above. All members should also note that once again, unlike in previous years, nothing is now spent on legal costs.

## Fleet News

A reminder for all riders on the age limits currently in place for the use of Liveried Bikes.

Age of 70 - the rider must be added to the fleet policy, and thereafter must have an assessment on or just after their 70th birthday no matter when their last assessment was. Every year thereafter, they must have a yearly assessment.

Age of 75 - the rider must have a further assessment, and continue having a yearly assessment. The rider will be named on the charity fleet policy and complete a questionnaire from the insurance company. They have the right to say Yes or No, and may ask for a 'fit to drive medical' at the riders cost.

With these controls in place we are delighted to support our older riders, and ensure we are as inclusive as possible.

## New Members

We are ALWAYS on the look out for new members, so please spread the word, be it controllers, fund raisers, drivers, riders, people with marketing or social media expertise - send them to us at:

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