



The NHS in the North West  
Excellence in Supply Awards  
2015  
WINNER

OUR NEXT RIDE MAY SAVE A LIFE. WILL YOURS?  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH **NHS** ENGLAND

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020

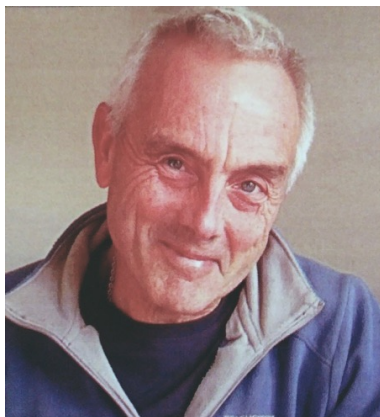
To date our Calls: 89,246 & Runs completed: 87145

Your thoughts, your ideas, your stories, your Newsletter:

North West Blood Bikes Lancs & Lakes was built on thoughts and ideas and they are still as vital today as they were 9 years ago. Best practice always wins, so if you have any good ideas, speak to your Area manager. Likewise, your stories about Blood Bikes or even personal stories if you are willing to share them. If they are personal, the Editor will contact you before any publication unlike the National Press people 😊

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### One of our Riders is missing:



Gary Entwistle BBR304 sadly passed away a couple of weeks ago and the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 was his funeral at Carlton Crematorium on the Fylde.



Gary's family allowed a Guard of Honour and Gary's coffin to be carried into the Chapel. The Guard of Honour by Blood Bikers was joined by RAF Cadets.



Our thoughts are with his Family and friends.



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From: Pete Haworth (Committee and former Fylde Area Manager)

*"I first met Gary when I was cadet with ATC 206 squadron in Cleveleys in the late 80s. Gary was one of the civilian instructors with the Squadron and I remember him giving lessons on the principles of flight as well as coming away on annual camps and weekend activities. When I saw his name appear on the Fylde membership, I recognised it straight away and was great to catchup after many years. I was fortunate to attend several events over the last few years with Gary representing the charity from Blackpool air show to Tram Sunday in Fleetwood."*

*"The last time I spoke to Gary was last year whilst helping him with a computer issue, we chatted about his desktop background picture which was of him in front of the 2 seater Spitfire that he got to fly in, a lifelong dream fulfilled. Gary was a lovely guy and will be sadly missed."*  
R.I.P. Gary Entwistle from all of us.

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## **Bobby Ball:**

Many members will remember Bobby Ball from the comedy days of Cannon & Ball. Sadly, Bobby passed away at 21.30 pm on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020, having tested positive for Covid-19. R.I.P. Bobby & Thank You.

Several of our members will know that Bobby was a Patron of NWBB Lancs & Lakes in the early days and seen here with Paul Brooks and on Lee Townsend's bike outside Blackpool Victoria Hospital.



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Bobby also came across to Alan Jeffries BMW in Shipley with us to have a meet-up with West Yorkshire's White Knights Blood Bike group and of course was the star of the show. It was actually Lee Townsend who introduced NWBBL to him as he had personal contacts with him, thanks Lee, and Graham Jones of course who was an extra in one of their shows.

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## **Anyone who thinks they won't get caught by Covid-19** read this:

This story has come from our Blood Bike colleagues in Eire, (Thanks to the Chair, Fergus Lennon) and even though they are not part of the UK they suffer the same as we do



"I never thought I would get Covid," says 54-year-old Declan Coleman, who has been hospitalised since March 30 with a severe case of the disease. The van driver nearly died on more than one occasion, with his wife being warned by medics in Beaumont to prepare for the worst.

But Declan battled and survived yet has faced a series of medical challenges - including learning to walk again as well as feed himself.

Now, almost seven months on, he still requires oxygen and a wheelchair when moving around outside. Declan is one of the country's longest-affected Covid patients.

"It knocked me for six. The last thing I remember was going down the stairs to the ambulance," recalls Declan, who was a healthy and active man before Covid, with no underlying problems."

**One of our members** and his wife, recently proved positive for Covid-19. Our Rider had mild symptoms and has recovered but his wife, who is fit and healthy is suffering greatly, having been taken into hospital twice, and twice released home.

This virus is indiscriminate as to who it attacks. Please take care and follow the guidelines.

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## Care & Compassion:

From the CEO (Karen Partington) of LTHTR Hospitals, dated 28/10/2020:



*Dear Blood Bike colleagues,*

*I wanted to write on behalf of all the team at LTHTR and our patients to let you know how much we appreciate the absolutely amazing support that we have received from you during this pandemic.*

*You have always provided a great service between Preston and Chorley Hospitals and upon occasion between our hospitals to Manchester Royal Infirmary, but during Covid I know that your workload has greatly increased. This has not gone unnoticed!*

*I am sorry to hear that some Riders and Controllers have had personal experience of Covid and that one of your colleagues has been quite poorly. I wish you and you families all the very best during these difficult times.*

*You are amongst the unsung heroes of this pandemic and we thank and salute you for all that you have done and keep doing for those in our care.*

*With warmest wishes*

*Karen*

(Ed) I'm sure that Karen's words will be echoed by all our Hospital CEO's. (and as the song goes; Angels on Two Wheels)

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## Manchester Royal Infirmary:

From Neil Naisbitt, East Rider:

First run of the night MRI  
Second run to Preston  
Blackburn hospital to Burnley  
hospital and back to MRI then  
home 200 plus miles all for free to  
NHS.

*"Thanks to Fiona, our controller  
for looking after me".*

(Ed) We are definitely getting  
busier. Take Care All.



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## Donation from Blackpool BC:

Member & Rider, Scott Etheridge, who during the day works for a funeral Directors applied to Blackpool Borough Council for a donation for NWBB Lancs & Lakes. It is one which they give to a charity every year, and won, to the tune of £10,000. Well done Scott.

Day Job:



Night Job:



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## Kidney Transport:

**Italy: Police use Lamborghini to transport kidney in record time:**



Italy's state police drove a specially-equipped Lamborghini Huracan from Padua to Rome to transport a kidney to a patient in the capital's Gemelli hospital. The life-saving mission saw the police driving in the fast lane from the northern Veneto region, with sirens blaring and lights flashing all the way to Rome, reaching speeds of up to 230 km an hour.

The officers, who covered 490 km in just over three hours, made the journey in record time, delivering the kidney safely to the hospital where doctors were on standby to proceed with the urgent surgery on 20 October. The usual journey time, in a regular car, is four hours and 40 minutes.

The 600-horsepower racing car is modified especially, to carry out life-saving activities, with its front trunk containing refrigerated equipment for transporting organs and a defibrillator for emergency rescue.

Please don't bother asking the Treasurer if we can have one, you know what the answer will be 😊

## Rider Safety Course:

As you may know Gary Johnston (Fylde) runs an **Enhanced Rider Scheme** (ERS) course and so far, this year the following members have successfully completed the scheme. Congratulations to all:

Michael Harrison, Tony Wynne, Paul Gibson, Warren Pollitt, Richard Cooper & Andrew Sutherland.

The ERS is like a first step towards an advanced course. If you are already an advanced rider, please self-check yourself often and even ask a mate who is an advanced rider, to come out with you so you can check on one-another.

If you are not an advanced rider you are missing out on a system of bike control which will not only give you greater fun but will seriously help to make your riding safer.

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## The M6. “What a difference 62 years make”.

The First Motorway in the UK, then and now, and I can remember it from just after it was opened. I hasten to add I couldn't drive then I was too young, but my Dad did 😊.



It's changed, not only with the amount of traffic, but the number of lanes and the lack of a central safety/crash barrier in the early days.

Who'd have thought that I would end up patrolling it for 15 years many years later.

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Don't let anyone tell you the M1 was the first motorway. Prime Minister, Harold McMillan, opened the Preston By-Pass in 1958 and it was re-designated the M6 when the M1 was being built. Also, Charnock Richard was the first Services, not Newport Pagnell.

Some useless information: The "M" designation was done in a clockwise manner from London, but there have been a few mistakes, e.g. The M55 should refer to a m/way further South and following the clockwork rule should be the M58 and the M56 should be the M55, but the M55 was built before the others. But who's really bothered 😊

Many will know that from its opening the M55 didn't have a junction 2, but those who use it regularly will know that junction 2 is in the process of being built. There's a 50mph speed limit through the area, but very few adhere to it.



## A Special Day:

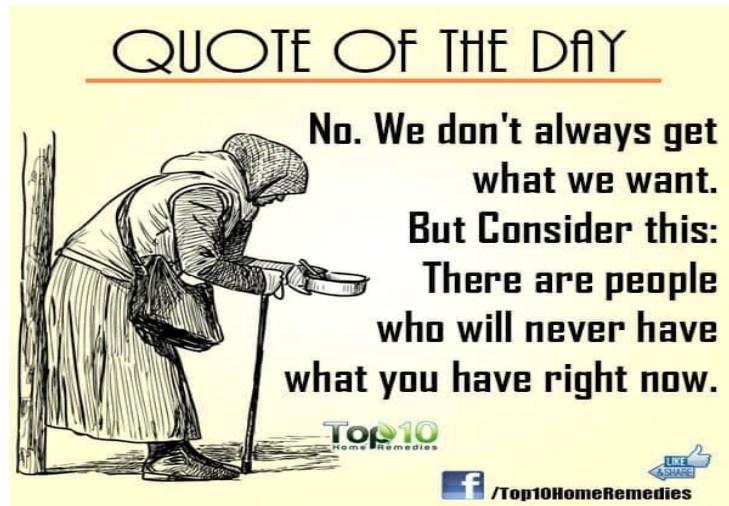
11/11/1918 to 11/11/2020

AT THE GOING  
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WILL  
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## Thought of the Day:



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## Finally: Dedication @ its Best

Only 9 weeks after a hip replacement operation Colm Carton joined his wife Karen on duty on Saturday night 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Karen says: *"This man.....I love him, with all my heart ❤️ Not only do I love him, I have the utmost respect for him and right now, I'm a little in awe of him. We had a tough day yesterday but topped it off, doing a blood bike shift together. Nothing unusual about that, you may think, but it was only 9 weeks post op, from having a hip replacement."*



(Ed) *All our members are superstars and I think that's summed up by the CEO of LTHTR*

## STAY SAFE AND PROTECT OTHERS

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