



# December 2015 Newsletter



## Chairman's bit:

Hi All

As you know we have recently had some testing times, We had one liveried bike written off due to the actions of a young lady car driver, fortunately our rider was uninjured and dealt with it like a true advanced rider, and a second bike badly damaged by a log on the road, obviously dropped on the carriageway by an uncaring driver.

Therefore delays in our plans for the bikes have had to be postponed until we get the fleet back up to strength. Our Fleet Manager, Andy Gilroy, is trying to get that sorted, and has sourced a new bike with a good deal. However it takes time to livery and do the electrics, hopefully all will be done before the Fat man comes down the chimney. Good luck Andy ☺

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## Message from two riders:

Hi All,

As Blood Bikers, Controllers and other roles too, we all do our bit. Michelle and I listen to the interesting stories and tales from other members with marvel. We feel so proud to be apart of NWBB-LL.

As Riders ourselves, I'm sure you get the same great response from ALL Controllers – they're

ssooo ssooo grateful to each Rider for what we do. The truth is....us Riders, well - we know we'd be lost without the Controllers!!! We all deserve to be chuffed to bits – it all works...and it works well.

Thank the Lord today's incident (accident involving Michelle) didn't leave anyone injured. As Steve (North Area Manager) says, a scenario like this brings out the best in people, and my word, did it ever!! It turns good people into great people. With an unplanned incident like this, it's a delight and an honour to witness people spring into action as they did, and as one, become a fantastic well-oiled machine, a machine that large corporate businesses would be proud of!!

And it doesn't stop there. Michelle and I are overwhelmed by the amount of messages and calls we have received from across Lancashire and Cumbria; from brand new members to founder members. It's truly heart-warming to know each and everyone of us are in safe hands: each other's hands.

Thank you all, for your actions, for your thoughts and for making a difference. Not just to us, but to the Group, and to the Hospitals.

Yours in the finest admiration.

Mike (Rat) n' Michelle Wilkinson

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*"Volunteers Who Care"*

## Weather or Whether

The weather is becoming winter like and we need to seriously consider the dangers of going out on a bike. Dependent on the time of day, a car can get there as quick and much safer in bad weather. As riders we all have a responsibility to decide, but I appreciate not everyone has the option of a car, so that's the time to decide, in consultation with the Controller and Area Manager, whether the area should be shut down. That said this is something of a last resort, but sometimes necessary as protection of life and limb is paramount.

### Weather closes down the North for a while:

10:30 on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and due to severe weather in the North West, and in particular the north of Lancashire and Cumbria, we had to suspend our service to MBHT. However, Graham Jones set off north in his trusty Land Rover to help out. Many roads were flooded and together with high winds made the use of bikes unacceptable and even normal cars could not get through.



### Pregnancy delays run:

Controller Steve Pugh, sent rider Steve Stapleton on a run from Southport to Ormskirk in the early hours of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>, but Steve S was "**delayed at Ormskirk, due to pregnant lady ready to give birth needing directions**". The question has to be asked, is Steve up to date on his First Aid and able to tell her how to give birth? ☺

On that note, when I were a lad, (no comments please☺) the old training for Police Officers assisting pregnant ladies was "***use anything at hand and your helmet is always there should the lady wish to go to the toilet and there isn't a toilet near***". That'd curl your hair when worn again ☺

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### Café in Blackpool – Discount for NWBB:

Marc Bentley, one of our great band of Controllers, has had to hang up his Controller phone due to starting a business.

Marc now has a Café on Dickson Road, Blackpool near Gynn Square (210a) and because he has a great allegiance to NWBB he is offering a 10% discount to all NWBB members on the production of their ID.

If you're in that neck of the woods, call in, Marc did a lot for us as Controller and we wish him all the very best in his venture.

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### Parim:

You may ask, "What the heck is Parim?"

Well, bearing in mind I don't know too much about it but others do, they will be passing on their information to all after a test period in the North Area. It is a Rota system, which will take the Rota away from Google Docs.

Google Docs is great, but the more we put on it the slower it gets and it is neither Android or IOS friendly, so to ease up the congestion the system known as Parim is being trialled.

I know it's something else to think about and the technically naïve like me will inevitably struggle at first (but then I struggled at first with Google Docs ☺), but please bear with us as I'm assured it will get much easier.

All the Controllers are being or have been trained in its use, so fingers crossed.

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***"Volunteers Who Care"***

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

## Email from Al Boyle????? - Spam

Many of us are getting spurious emails, which look like they are being sent from Al Boyle, who was a member but had to leave us to take up a position in Germany.

I have spoken with Al on many occasions, and this email address is not his, but is using his name. He is trying to resolve it, but the providers in Germany have not been able to sort it yet. Al is beside himself trying to sort it, but can't do it without the providers help.

If you get an email from Al and it starts of with "Hey", just delete it straight away.

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## Talks & Donations

Over the last month several members have given talks to groups and we have had several collection points, e.g. ASDA, Morrisons, etc., but some new areas too.

We've also had quite a few donations from various parties, some small and some large, one from Scarisbrick Club for £2,000 thanks to Brenda Taylor and £1,000 from BAe Systems thanks to Ian Harrop and the people at BAE Systems at Barrow, and believe it or not £100 from Her Majesty's Court Service at Pendle ☺.

Many members have managed to get money from their firms and their colleagues.

A BIG THANKYOU to all.

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## Second Important Lesson – Pick-up in the rain

One night, at 11:30 p.m., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rain storm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally

unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960's. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab.

She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console colour TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached. It read:

"Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's' bedside just before he passed away... God bless you for helping me and **unselfishly serving others.**"

Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole.

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Take care especially in this bad weather and remember:

**NO JOURNEY IS SO URGENT  
AS TO PUT YOUR OWN LIFE  
AT RISK**

**Paul** Chairman & Trustee.

**If I've forgotten something, forgive me, or you want something including in the newsletter? Feel free to Email your copy (text and images) directly to me, [chairman@nwbb-lancs.org](mailto:chairman@nwbb-lancs.org)**