



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

www.nwbb-lancs.org

October 16 Newsletter



Welcome to the October Newsletter:

Marcel:

Andy Gilroy introducing our latest bike, a Yamaha FJR 1300cc named Marcel (after Marcel Falloon), to Alison, Marcel's wife.



Donations from Marcel's funeral raised a substantial amount, which Alison has kindly given to NWBB. I'd rather have Marcel here 😊.

NABB:

For those who are unaware we are no longer members of the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (NABB). We are not the only group who are not members and it is all down to restrictions, which NABB tried to place upon us.

Very briefly a condition of being a member is that ALL riders, irrespective of the fact that many of our members ride their own bikes, are Advanced Riders. Obviously an ideal world idea, but we are by far the largest and busiest group in the country

and would not be able to do what we do if we had to adhere to that condition fully.

Whilst it was pointed out that we have professional assessors, many ex Police Class 1 riders, the status would only be accepted by a piece of paper from either RoSPA, IAM, DIAMOND, etc., and included ERS, which is only equivalent to a RoSPA Bronze, which we do not accept as an advanced qualification.

On that subject, if any rider wishes to take their advanced then we can offer a financial bonus when passed, obviously following a period of dedication to the group 😊

Twitter & Facebook:

We use Facebook quite a bit now, but we have to be careful how we use the public pages especially. We were recently given a Honda by North West Honda at Blackpool, but it drew quite a few comments on FB, which, although meant in fun, were less than flattering to Honda. My personal view is that there are no better built bikes on the road, but each to his/her own. Please bear in mind how our comments are perceived by outsiders and specifically the manager at Blackpool Honda, 'nough said 😊

We also use Twitter, @nwbbll but for some reason the use of it has fallen off quite significantly, so if you have anything of note, please feel free to use it, after all any publicity is good for us all. I believe you can even put images on there now as the 140 Character restriction has

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been lifted. NABB and other BB groups use it quite a lot, so let's do likewise ☺

I hope you know what I'm talking about, not sure I do ☺

Receipt Books:

As you probably know by now, we are trialling a "No Receipt" period, where the rider will not require a collection/delivery receipt, but times etc., will be recorded electronically by the controller on the spreadsheet as they already do.

This is by agreement with Lancashire Teaching Hospital Trust, East Lancashire Hospital Trust and Blackpool Teaching Hospital Trust, so far.

Morecambe Bay Hospitals and West Lancashire Hospitals will remain the same until agreement (or not) has been reached with them.

All Riders will have to text the Controller with the name of the Clinician/authoriser if a Very Urgent or Emergency run is requested, but at this stage just the times of collection and delivery will suffice for all others.

There are several reasons for this: 1) The cost of books, 2) The fact that the hospitals do not wish to keep the copies, 3) It gets rid of the confusion as to which departments have a book, and 4) It makes it easier for the Rider.

This will be reviewed on a weekly basis, but to date after 27,000 successful call-outs we have only had 1 issue, where a receipt needed to be found to prove delivery, which turned out to be a case of the lab technician being unaware that the sample had been delivered ☺

All Year Biker:

Some of you will know that our Assistant membership Secretary, Nigel Bunney, is also an operator for All Year Biker, providing ACF50 anti corrosion protect for your bike.

This Week 'All Year Biker and XCP Professional join forces as they announce a new technical

partnership, bringing corrosion protection innovation to the UK motorcycle market'

Nigel will be providing this new service as well as ACF50 protection.

The price is yet to be decided, but there will be a Blood Bike discount.

ACF50 treatment will still be available and he is now offering a discount of £10 per treatment, keeping the cost at £60.

Also some XCP products will be available:

XCP Rust Blocker in a can @ £13.50

XCP One in a can @ £4.50

XCP Chain Lubricant in a can @ £11.00

All the above have around a 10% discount

Morecambe Bay Hospitals: (Steve Dunstan)

On 16th September 2016 Caroline and I represented NWBB-LL at the Annual Meeting of the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay Trust Members meeting. It's an opportunity for members of the public (not many!) and the charities which work with the trust to come together and get to know each other. We also got to hear what the hospitals have been up to for the last twelve months and their plans for the future.



We met lots of people from different charities and from the hospital and I was particularly pleased to see how well known and respected we are amongst hospital staff. One of the consultants came up to me and thanked us for the work we do in delivering samples from Westmorland General to Lancaster. He told me that he saw a direct

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benefit in his work from the work that you guys put in.

In the Q and A session I was talked in to asking a question of the Chief Executive of the Trust – Jackie Daniels. I challenged her to explain why it took so long to get things done in the NHS – not mentioning any specific examples but bike store was in my mind! To my surprise she knew of us and thanked us for our efforts then passed the question to her deputy who told us about their initiatives to remove bureaucracy – a mammoth task I think. Then to my amazement we received a round of applause in appreciation of the work we do for the trust – something no other charity received.

I think it is fair to say that you are all well thought of and much appreciated for the work that you do for Morecambe Bay Hospitals – something to keep you warm on a cold winters night!

We had a great day, which was rounded off by a performance by singers from the Sunbeam Music Centre near Penrith. All the performers have some sort of disability but this did not prevent them from giving us a truly stunning and humbling performance. What a great finish to the day

Steve
Northern Area Manager
North West Blood Bikes Lancs and Lakes

Annual Black Tie Dinner Dance

Saturday 17th September 2016 we held our 4th Black Tie do, this time again at The Dunkenhalgh. There were nearly 200 guests including the Manageress from the Tickled Tout, Emma, who has facilitated us with rooms for meetings and training sessions. A great amount was raised and it was brilliantly organised by Scott Miller, his wife Danielle and Rachael Astley (Member)

Honda Blackpool, Illuminations Run.

On Sunday 18th September 2016 North West Honda Blackpool handed over the Honda Cross Runner for us to use, all liveried and ready to go.

They also organised a run through Blackpool's illustrious illuminations and loads of riders and many of our people turned up and raised quite a few ££££'S. Well done all.



THE “Q” WORD!

I know that the Controllers know this but do all the riders know the damage the “Q” Word can do!! LOL!

Monday the 12th Sept I (Lee Townsend) logged onto the Switchboard and settled in for my shift as Controller for the night. There were the usual Regular Runs and a couple of calls from Lancaster, Southport and Blackpool but NOTHING from the East, VERY unusual, but I wasn't complaining. As Midnight approached I had had a steady night and looking forward to it dying off into the small hours.

BUT THEN..... At 00:17 the East rider sent me the following text:-

“Hi Lee, I have to say this is the quietest shift I have had”

I would have preferred it if he had thrown a Hand Grenade into my study and run away, it would have been less devastating!!!

We then had 5 runs between 00:27 and 01:24!! Over a third of all Urgent Calls for the whole night!!!

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At this point I must give special mention to John Bolton. When the first call for West came in I rang the other rider who quite rightly stated he had to be at work for 7am and as it was a 2 hour round trip for him could he stand down. I said no problem and rang John Bolton. John did not answer and I then looked at my notes and realised he was only down for the 2 Regular Runs. I was about to ring the hospital and tell them to get a taxi when John rang me back. I explained my mistake and told him not to worry. He insisted on helping out and set off to do Ormskirk to Southport, which turned into 2 more runs and him finally signing off with me at 02:26!!! Great job John.

So, could ALL riders, for the benefit of ALL, please stop using the "Q" WORD!!!! ☺

Trackers:

Just a reminder, fleet bikes are fitted with trackers for rider safety, but they also send an alert when they go over the conservatively ☺ set speed and each time the blue lights are activated. It's not a problem ☺ just a reminder ☺.

General Meeting:

A General meeting was held on Sunday 25th September at the Tickled Trout Hotel, Samesbury, and was well attended with approximately 70 members. There was a good mix of riders, Controllers and fundraisers.

Unfortunately the Agenda went out of the window slightly ☺ but all points were covered.



It was agreed that Alison Falloon should be made an Honorary Member. Good call and good idea.

Chorley A&E:

Saturday 1st October I was on duty and went to Chorley for the regular 11:00hrs run, only to be met by a flag and poster waving group of 40 or so "Save our A&E" people, including Lindsey Hoyle MP.

As I left with my cargo on board the group applauded Blood Bikes. Whilst we must remain non-political in this matter, Mr Hoyle has taken a liking to our charity for what we do, following a letter I sent him regarding Section 19 of the Road Traffic Act (exemption from Speed Limits) and is keeping us in the loop.

Let's hope our association with Mr Hoyle does some good.

And Finally for now anyway:

We now have two bike storage sheds. One based at Westmorland GH and one based at Furness GH.

The one at Furness is hooked up to power and the one at Westmorland is due to be moved to a nearby location so that too can be hooked up to power.

Westmorland:



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Furness:



Remember

***NO JOURNEY IS SO URGENT AS
TO PUT YOUR OWN LIFE 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, his wife 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

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