



NORTHUMBRIA BLOOD BIKES

October
2014
Newsletter



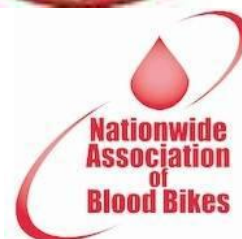
COVER PHOTO: Northumbria Blood Bikes meets up with our neighbours, Bloodbikes Cumbria & S.W. Scotland, to assist in regular runs between Carlisle and the RVI, Newcastle. The route involves a handover between groups at a halfway rendezvous-point, on this occasion the War Memorial at Haltwhistle...

Our new service with Cumbria group!

After months of planning, our relay service with Cumbria is finally under way. We've had to introduce a new rota, deploy a third motorcycle, arrange a handover point, and a safe location (Albermarle Barracks) for a bike to be stored..... but it all seems to be working nicely! Doing these runs means that Carlisle hospitals are getting test results quicker to patients, so that any treatment can be started earlier with hopefully a better outcome. What makes our service even more poignant is that most of these tests are for children.

Sean Storey, our Hospital Liaison guru, had a meeting in September with Terry Coaker the head of Cellular Pathology at the RVI. Terry would like to pass on his grateful appreciation at the work that we are doing with the Cumbria group. He has asked Sean to pass this onto all members, the reason we are doing this is that the RVI is the specialist within this area.

Since this meeting took place we've arranged a better place for handovers; "Low Row filling station" (The Shell garage on the A69 at Brampton). The manager is delighted to have blood bike groups there, and if there's any delay, you can stay inside, warm and dry, with a hot cuppa until the other rider arrives!





All Year Biker cleans up at the Zetland....

Our bikes, "Lindisfarne" and "Octagon", were lucky enough to get the All Year Biker treatment when they were taken to the Zetland (Royal quays, North Shields) on 24th September. More than just a wash and polish, our bikes received a multi-stage process to remove road dirt/salt, old wax etc, in preparation for the application of ACF50 to see them through the winter months. After the application of AC50, the panels and paintwork were hand polished and waxed to make the bikes look outstanding. Les, of All Year Biker, describes it as "The best treatment available to make bikes look great and help fight corrosion". Clearly our bike manager (pictured below with Les) agrees!



The Process

- ✓ Pre rinse
- ✓ Full degrease
- ✓ Hi Foam TFR Shampoo
- ✓ Warm air dry
- ✓ Pre-Spray prep
- ✓ High pressure ACF50
- ✓ ACF50 hand finish
- ✓ Hand polish & wax

For more information, contact:

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Finally, we sign an agreement!

An exciting time for Northumbria Blood Bikes as we start to provide a service for the Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. This is the final NHS Acute Trust in the Region which includes The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Great North Childrens' Hospital and the Freeman Hospital in Gosforth (inset photo), and we started our service with them on 1st October. It's been a lot of work involved in getting all trusts involved but it's a sign of how far we have come since our first operational day back in February 2014! Our service is to be introduced slowly with only a few calls each week to begin with, but we've been assured that there's plenty of demand for blood bikes and we could find ourselves very busy in the near future.

Ambulance station trial:

The agreement with Newcastle NHS Foundation Trust ties in nicely with a trial we have arranged with the NEAS [North East Ambulance Service] ambulance station at Netherby Drive, Fenham. As from Tuesday 7th October 2014, the station will be a handover base, with one bike located there. There is space for member's personal transport inside the building, and the area is covered by CCTV, therefore as secure as possible.

We hope that using this location will result in easier handovers of the bike, reducing the distance and time riders spend on this now. This location is a trial site for a limited time and will be evaluated by both ourselves and NEAS, the review of the location will verify if it is suitable, working and providing ourselves and the trusts with an improved service/response.

Asda Living, Durham:

Thursday 11TH September.... the day that the September newsletter was released, and the day of our Annual General Meeting.... and already the first event for the next newsletter was under way! We were asked to pop in to the ASDA Living store at the Arnison Centre, Framwellgate Moor, to collect a Cheque for £100.00 from their "Chosen By You" scheme for July and August. Graham Moor, our fundraising legend, collected the cheque from Community Champion Adam. This was a welcome addition to the fundraising and awareness event we did last month; hopefully it was the first of many in this store!



Awareness event in Alnwick Town Centre:

Saturday, 13th September, The Gazebo, Flags, banners, Mini-moto and one of our shiny new Triumphs took to the Town Centre in Alnwick. We had an army of volunteers ready to greet the public, and we also had a visit from the town crier (left) to help us spread the word....



ASDA Benton:

Saturday 20th September was a dull, wet and dreary start for our fundraising event at Asda Benton. Graham Moor, Steve Rawlings and Owain Harris had a great day, being there from 9.30 to 4.30 to educate the shoppers and squeeze some donations from them! A special mention must also go to Rob Wilks and Jeff Spencer, who called in for the last half hour following Rob's assessment ride - thank you! The Madathlon Triumph was a big hit, we had some rider enquiries, and enquiries from people who wished to fundraise for us.... one woman even took our details to set up a standing order! Following a great day with some awesome customers and staff, we raised a great £465.

Thanks to all who helped or contributed.... You are all stars!!!!



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NABB quarterly meeting - key points discussed:

NABB is the “Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes”: They represent the interests of regional groups across the country and provide a wealth of information and resources for new groups starting out in the UK. They also set professional standards to which their member groups must comply, and help to promote bloodbike charities at national level as a single voice. Our Vice Chairman Alan Ross attended their most recent meeting in Birmingham to keep up to date with current developments...

Approximately once every three months, NABB hold a meeting to update member groups on recent activities and developments at national level, many of which will undoubtedly involve Northumbria Blood Bikes in the weeks and months ahead. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

Prescott Bike Festival next year will be over two days instead of one; Dates will be 11th & 12th April. The success of previous events, combined with the rare opportunity for regional groups to get together in a social environment, has resulted in the change. The first day will be similar in style to a “Beer festival” event, with greater emphasis on social activities and no hill-climbing activities. As the vast majority of Blood Bike groups will attend both days, there will be entertainment planned well into the evening. - Let’s hope the



A New Event, Shelsley Walsh Bike Festival, will be added to the calendar as a NABB event, so that we have Prescott to open the season & Shelsley to close it. Like Prescott, this event has been organised by NABB member group “Severn Freewheelers”, and a substantial percentage of the profits will go to NABB. For those of you with facebook,; <https://www.facebook.com/shelsleybikefestival> Shelsley Walsh Bike festival will be on Sunday 13th September, 2015.

John Stepney has successfully negotiated a mini feature “A day in the life of a blood biker” planned for the BBC’s “One Show” in January next year. In addition, he discussed the One Show’s participation in this year’s “Children In Need” event. The BBC approached Northumbria group to ask if we could provide motorcycle support for a convoy of vehicles heading down the country in the week prior to the event, and all of the attendees expressed an interest to be involved.



Section 19 - the law regarding which groups can & can’t be exempt from national speed limits and red lights when on an emergency call, is still under negotiation but it is looking possible that we may well be granted full exemption, with substantial training required if groups want or need to use it. If granted, riders would need to pass stringent training and examination at an estimated cost of over £2000.00 each.

A new deal being settled with a manufacturer for waterproof blood box covers, currently a mandatory requirement and extremely difficult to source. Different coloured drawstrings are in design to differentiate between box sizes. John Stepney (Chairman) asked if many groups had a “One Box only” rule, and suggested that those who did not carried out full validation on their racks to ensure they were considered fit to carry the weight of two blood boxes.



UK Law is to be changed next year which will ban the use of green & yellow livery unless riders have a specific qualification (requiring three weeks training at a cost of £2k-3k), so blood groups including air ambulance support will be forced to have orange livery, not green. Groups were advised to bear this in mind when adding livery to their vehicles....



Morpeth Tangent Club...

As the picture suggests, this was a very small presentation to the ladies of Morpeth Tangent Club on Tues 23rd September. Owain Harris and Alan Ross were lucky enough to be invited to have a meal with the group before the presentation!

They explained how our charity formed, what we do and why we do it. There were plenty of questions and, unusually, a lot of interest in the operational aspects (how the telephone calls are handled, how the riders are trained, and how handovers take place between shifts!)

The ladies were kind enough to leave us with a donation as we packed up at 10pm, and thanked Owain & Alan for an informative evening.



Sainsbury's, Durham:

Left: Madathlon bike "Claire" was on display at Sainsbury's supermarket in the Arnison Centre, Durham, in 4th October. We managed to raise £380.00 on the day thanks to the kindness of the shoppers!

Portland School:

Right: A visit to Portland Special School, Moorside on 29th September where 35 very excited young people had the opportunity to sit on the FJR and we're rewarded with one of our stickers. -No pictures due to Child Protection policy but the kids and teachers loved it!



Northumbria Gliding Club

Northumbria Blood Bikes were invited to attend this years' "Little Tiddlers" rally on 27th September as they wished to make a charitable donation to us! The rally helps donate monies to NABD, and this means they can adapt motorcycles for injured riders who may have lost one or more limbs. Big thanks to Vinny and the boys who made us feel so welcome, and of course to the Chair of the gliding club for allowing the rally to take place year after year.

**** UPDATE ** 9th October....we have just found out that this rally has resulted in an incredible donation of £2008.00! - Thank you so much!!!**



Probus Club, Washington

Monday 6th October: Owain took his car and the usual 'stuff', to the Washington Arms (left) for a talk with the Probus Club, and had a good talk, resulting in a £50 donation. - During the evening, Northumbria Blood Bikes were also invited to a Washington 'event' outside the Washington Arms on 29th November.... Another fundraising opportunity for the calendar!

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“The Distinguished Gentlemen’ Ride”

28th September



The Distinguished Gentlemen’ Ride is an annual motorcycle event to raise funds for “Gentlemen who are dealt a tough hand in life”. In particular, they raise funds for research into prostate cancer as part of their mission to support men’s health. It’s no minor event either.... This year it consisted of 258 rides across 57 countries! The ride is not open to everyone, it’s exclusively for classic motorcycles, café racers, bobbers, trackers, customs, modern classics, classic scooters & undefinable 2/3 wheeled machines.

The event is organised by Triumph, and as a result, Northumbria Blood Bikes were invited to attend, and escort the Newcastle event with the two Triumph Trophy bikes that they had supplied to us (thanks to Madathlon, the charity whose fundraising events financed the bikes). The day started at the Triumph dealership, where bikes “Claire” and “Bella” (below). The route took in some of the key landmarks around Newcastle, including the Tyne Bridge, to Angel of The North, the Redheugh Bridge and back to the Quayside.



Owain & Sue, with the help of several volunteers, had the gazebo and flags assembled at the finish point next to the Millennium Bridge (above & top), providing some photo-opportunities for the riders. And you’ll notice our very dapper bike manager Richard in the photo above.....for one brief moment when I saw this photo, I actually thought he’d cut his hair! The collection buckets were out, and the mini-moto was there to grab the attention of any passing families, so we managed to raise a little for our own group, as well as supporting Triumph’s noble cause...

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Croft Hottrax event:

On 4th and 5th October we had a stand at the Croft circuit "Hottrax" bike racing event. The aim was to raise the profile in the Southern area and it certainly seemed to succeed: Many people approached the stand and asked for details on what we do and how we do it. We gained two potential new riders, and were invited to do a car show at Barnard Castle next year.

We even had a filmed interview with internet TV company called "2 wheels TV". Apparently the interview should be online in about a fortnight, so keep watching the website as we'll post it if we spot it!

Thanks to all who helped at Croft... particularly Steve Rawlings, Stewart Wilkinson and Tony Martin who braved the bad weather to staff the stand on the Saturday, and Steve, Michael and Denise, Nigel and Ken Tait on the Sunday. The weather was typical of a race day, cold, wet and windy, and the pitch was in a fairly exposed location out in the open. Financially, think we took about £100, (not bad considering we were not officially collecting), so all in all a good weekend.



Ride to the Wall 2014

This annual ride saw around 6,500 bikes this year, riding from 11 different starting points, converging at the National Memorial Arboretum. Sadly, it's a little too far south to be in Northumbria's diary, and our calendar was already full with events that day anyway (The Croft "Hottrax" and Sainsbury's, Durham). At least six bloodbike groups were in attendance; Alan Ross was there in a non-NBB capacity and had a bit of banter with the other groups, before a four hour trek back to the North East. To find out more, visit www.rttw.org

ASDA, Bishop Auckland

Friday 10th October was the date for an awareness event at ASDA in Bishop Auckland, where our Madathlon bike "Bella" was in attendance. It's good to get events in the south of the region as we're fairly low on volunteers in the area, albeit that Friday isn't always the best day to catch new recruits! None-the-less, we had plenty of interest in the group, lots of photos on the bike, and left with a good day's collection in the buckets!



New Stands for the Mini Motos:



For many months now we've been managing to get by with some very primitive stands for our mini moto bikes at displays and events in the region. Now, thanks to one of Owain's friends, we have two new stands, designed to be more stable, as both wheels are in contact with the ground to prevent 'rocking'. The bikes can be secured by way of cable ties, or a small jubilee clip if desired, they are bike specific so if they get mixed up it will be obvious.... and the cost? A case of beer!



Are you an advanced car driver?

Most of you will already be aware (as a rider, you should be!) that we are not permitted to carry blood on the back of a motorcycle when the ambient temperature is lower than 3 degrees Centigrade. Earlier this year, there were several days where our service had to "stand down" in favour of taxis. That wasn't so much of an issue back then, when we were only serving a couple of hospitals. This winter there are a lot more people using our service, and we'd like to maintain continuity if we can, so we're looking into the acquisition of one or more vehicles to get us through the winter months. We will be looking for drivers with an advanced qualification, as we do with riders, who would be willing to cover the winter shifts. The training requirements would be very similar, with home security check, driving assessment with Geoff Spencer, and blue light training if we manage to get an appropriately equipped vehicle. So, the hunt is on to ensure we have an adequate list of volunteers to call upon. Do you know of any advanced car drivers who would be interested? If so, please ask them to get in touch with us via the website or by email to membership@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk - more information about the role will soon be available on our website, too.





King Edward VI School, Morpeth

9th October: Northumbria Blood Bikes attended the above technology school in Morpeth, and Owain Harris gave a presentation to the assembly of 6th formers and staff. This is one of five talks designed to cover the whole school, with a view towards the pupils coming up with ideas to raise funds for us in the future. Pupils came up with their own ideas for fundraising, some of the boys have a band and are willing to put on a music night, the whole school is willing to take part in a 'non uniform day', and lots more was discussed. The bike used today was 'BELLA', one of the Madathlon Triumphs, and was much admired by pupils and staff alike! The downside was 'BELLA' was unable to fit through the single doors into the assembly hall as they were only single opening, so she had to be relegated to another part of the school, although in a prominent position with a large footfall.

The pupils we're extremely polite - even to the extent of asking before taking photos! Next time Owain has said he will have a sign that says 'PLEASE TOUCH!' (...let's just hope he means the bike!)

Could you be a co-ordinator?

Some of you will recall when the group started, we had Shift Co-ordinators who were to take calls from the hospitals. After a trial, it was decided that this was not feasible as we struggled to recruit enough volunteers. Since then, the committee have been regularly discussing how best to handle contact with the various NHS Trusts.

We are aware that the Security Centre we use at present are changing their charging structure from April next year, and we need to do a proper evaluation of the impact that this will have on us and look at the options. Obviously cost will be just one aspect of the evaluation. We decided therefore to see if we could recruit and train some of our own Shift Coordinators possibly to work alongside the

Security Centre e.g. by taking calls up until say, midnight. If we can't recruit them now then it's a useful indication of what our options actually are! We have posted this to social media (Facebook and Twitter) and the job description is available on the website. So if you think it's the kind of role you'd be interested in, or anyone you know, please let us know! More details are available here:

<http://northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk/volunteer/shiftcoordinators>



Future events to put in your diary:

For more info on any event on this page, email Graham at fundraising@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk
Without fundraising, we simply wouldn't survive. We need to keep raising money to finance our fuel, tax and insurance charges, pay for our uniforms, tracking devices, printing materials and more. We also need to save up a cash reserve for bike maintenance, and the inevitable days in the future when we need to replace a bike. Please spare an hour or two at one of the events below if you can; showing your support helps to keep us operational and we really appreciate whatever help you can give.



ASDA, Stanley:

Three people needed for an awareness & fundraising display inc. Bike. from 11am-5pm. Can you staff the stand for an hour while your partner does the weekly shop?



TESCO. Kingston Park:

The first of three events today, hopefully a good day for us! 10am-4pm, No bag packing, just a store-front awareness / collecting event.



ASDA, Ryhope:

The second of three events today, which one can you support? 10am-4pm, No bag packing, just a store-front awareness / collecting event.



Chilton Community College:

And the third event today, no need for volunteers here, but for your info, Len Potts will be fundraising at the college 10am-12pm...



ASDA, Benton:

The start of the Christmas shopping madness, hopefully a good day for us! 10am-4pm, No bag packing, just a store-front awareness / collecting event.



ASDA, Gosforth:

All hands on deck for the busiest bag-pack to date.... Lots and lots of volunteers needed, even if you're only there for an hour while the missus does the Christmas shop.... We need you, please help us!!!



That's all for this month; thank you all for your continuing support. Ride safe.....

FUNDRAISING HOTLINE: 07766 479 770 - for any opportunities to increase our funding through sponsorship, locations for collecting tins, supermarket events etc...



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