

Northumbria Blood Bikes



July 2013

Members' Newsletter



Another positive month but still loads to do

Annual General Meeting

By now, all members should have received formal notification of our Annual General Meeting at The Wheatsheaf on Tuesday 3 September. If not, please contact secretary@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk as soon as possible - and come along with your views about how we can continue to grow and improve!

At this meeting, the Treasurer will present our accounts up to the end of June; we decided this should be our year end, to allow time for the accounts to be prepared and for independent inspection to take place before the A.G.M. The preliminary figures show income of around £9,000 for this first 'year' - a brilliant effort by everyone!

Our First Bike

Everyone is probably aware that the bike has now been liveried up and has already been used for promotional activities. Owain Harris and Geoff Spencer have been taking it for a tour of north east landmarks as you can see from the photos . . .



Riding For Northumbria Blood Bikes

Congratulations to everyone who has taken and passed their advanced riding test; a steady stream is coming through, which is brilliant news. Geoff Spencer has also been conducting observed rides and increasing numbers have also passed this assessment.

Now that we have the first Blood Bike, Geoff will be moving onto the next stage of the process and observing riders who have passed the above, riding the BMW. He will also be arranging Blue Light training

If you would like to join the riders' rota you need to send copies of your driving licence, your advanced riding certificate(s) and details of any accidents/convictions to Barry Bullas (membership@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk).

Group Membership/Identity Cards

Barry has sent an email about these to everyone - please check you've got it. If you haven't had taken or already sent in a passport style photo, please follow the instructions given, as we need to get these cards all printed at the same time.

Organisation

Many thanks to those who came to the General Meeting and voted through the change to our Constitution, which enabled us to become registered with the Charity Commission. Our charity registration number is shown at the bottom of the page.

Our Secretary David Burns has decided to stand down from the post as his new(ish) employer is sending him out of the country so much, he cannot give the time needed to the role. Fortunately he's going to stay as involved as possible and Sue Harris, who has been a member from the very beginning, has agreed to take over - thanks to David for his involvement up until now and to Sue, for stepping in.

Operations

We hope to have the dates soon for some of us to be trained as trainers in the handling of blood boxes etc. Once this has taken place, we will sort out some dates to cascade the training to others.

Gary (Rota Manager) and/or Geoff (Training Manager) will be arranging to visit riders to check the bike would be secure at his/her premises.

We've agreed that a simple paper system will be put in place for logging calls; all other records will be held on the IT system Martin is developing.

The Committee has decided that our default position is for riders to be based at their own homes. However, some riders may not be able to operate from home e.g. for bike security reasons, and so we will see if any organisation that we work with/ supports us could offer a space (with associated secure bike parking) for riders to locate themselves. The Committee has also agreed

- that riders without secure parking could make individual arrangements to base themselves elsewhere (e.g. a friend's home) as long as this was secure,
- that handing over the bike(s) at end of shifts would be a joint responsibility, but primarily that of rider on the *outgoing* shift.

We've also decided on an initial shift pattern, based on the responses to the members' survey - watch out for the message about this coming soon from Gary! This pattern will, of course, also be included in the Handbook that Richard Scholfield is finalising.

Fundraising

Hazel (Fundraising Officer) has been really busy submitting applications to a number of charities; some of these are considering these requests and have asked for extra information - as always, "fingers crossed";

A number of sponsored activities have taken place, e.g. by Ian McMahon and Richard Penna. Thanks to all of them, and also to Owain and Sue for fundraising at Sue's School;



A number of supermarkets have been approached about collecting/bag packing and it's looking as if we'll be rattling tins and buckets in new locations soon!

We'll be at Bikewise on 28 July, sharing a pitch with our friends from RealRider as we don't yet have our own gazebo. (This in hand, for future events.)

The national Norton Owners Club have their annual rally in Morpeth 2 - 4 August and Tony from Morpeth Motorcycles has had it agreed that we can collect there. Hazel is organising buckets - and volunteers to do the collecting; if you can help, contact her on the fundraising hotline: **07766 479 770**

The Freeman of the City of Newcastle have arranged a replacement for the Hoppings event on the Town Moor (9 - 18 August). It has been confirmed that we can have a presence and Gary is planning what we will do. Look out for further details!

Thanks again to Morpeth Motorcycles for the donation of the motorcycle - the eBay auction raised a fabulous £1090 for Northumbria Blood Bikes!



We've just heard that the fabulous Madathlon folk, in the south of our area, have agreed to focus their fundraising efforts next year on getting us a new bike. See their Facebook page for more information: (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Madathlon/444052095662867>).

Their amazing efforts are in memory of Claire Gardiner, who died very unexpectedly late last year. The fundraising will culminate in the Madathlon events next June - and we will name the bike they donate after Claire. This will be a real incentive for us to start talking to the hospitals in that part of the patch (Darlington and Bishop Auckland)!

Ride-Outs

Don't forget to check the dates of group ride-outs on the Website and come along if you can - the dry weather isn't going to last forever!

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

www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk



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Providing effective and timely transportation of essential blood and medical products
Registered Charity Number 1152745