

Northumbria Blood Bikes



May 2013

Members Newsletter



After some positive feedback on our first newsletter we're confident that the idea has helped you stay in touch with developments. This newsletter is a shorter read as it covers just one month's activity. A quick read but we hope a useful one!

Fundraising

Firstly very many congratulations to Charlotte Harris for undertaking her sponsored skydive for the group. Charlotte had to wait almost all day at Peterlee Parachute Centre for the wind to die down –pretty nerve racking but she even looked happy before the event!



Charlotte raised over £500 for the group, many thanks to her.

Also many thanks to Virgin Money who, as promised, have matched the first £2,500 we raised as a group to take us over the £5,000 mark. That income now means we have been able to apply to the Charity Commission to become a registered charity. We'll have more regulatory oversight (and procedures to follow / paperwork to complete) but believe the fact that we can show we're a registered charity can only help with fundraising.

Virgin Money Giving have now completed our registration with them so if you're considering making a donation go to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/> and put Northumbria Blood Bikes in the "make a donation box".

Or you could support one (or both!) of the first two sponsored activities for us on the site:

Richard Penna's Bike Ride:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=RichardPenna>

or Claudia and Tom's Half Marathon:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserPage.action?userUrl=NorthumbriaBloodBikes>

Thanks to Richard, Claudia and Tom.



Finally in this section a rally in memory of the late Frank Steele held at Clennell Hall in Northumberland raised a truly magnificent £850 for us, and there may be more to come – many, many thanks to them!

Hospital / NHS Liaison

After the positive second meeting with the Northumbria Hospital Trust last month we had another positive meeting, this time with Gateshead Hospital Trust.

We're going to get back in contact with all three of the Hospital Trusts where we've had previous discussions to request updates on their planning / further discussions. We're also going to ask about the size & weight of boxes they use because there have changes nationally with some Trusts using one design and others a different one.

Operational / Organisational

Unfortunately Chris Ryan has had to resign as Treasurer and as a Trustee due to heavy work commitments, Richard Scholfield has stepped in to become Treasurer, and Alan Ross has become our third Trustee. Thanks to Chris for all his work – he'll be staying involved in other ways.



*Richard Scholfield
Treasurer*



*Alan Ross
Trustee*

Richard is also leading for us on the development of the Operational Handbook and has it nearly in a format to be agreed so watch this space!

In the meantime Martin (our webmaster) has put up on the Forum a questionnaire seeking information from members on their potential availability for shifts, whether riding or shift controlling. If you haven't completed it already go to this web address:

http://www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk/members/operations_survey

You will need to be registered as Forum user. If you're not, you can sign up via the website.



We've submitted the application to be full members of the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (NABB) – no news on this yet but Peter our Chairman attended the recent NABB meeting in Birmingham.

Items discussed there included:

- Revisions to the Section 19 regulations; NABB has applied for all member groups to be exempt from the regulations in authorised emergency situations, but it's not known what the response will be.. It's expected that the changes will be introduced late this year;
- The NABB website is being overhauled and the one will be online shortly at <http://www.bloodbikes.org.uk/>;
- AA recovery for Blood Bikes, the AA had previously agreed to cover 49 vehicles, it was agreed to approach them to cover all NABB member vehicles. Good news – since the meeting the AA have agreed to this!
- A standard over-jacket specification is being agreed, once finalised NABB will pick up 50% of the costs for member groups.

Members Open Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for the evening of Thursday 13th June. As we'll almost be at the longest day of the year we are intending to start the evening with a group ride-out finishing at the regular venue (the Wheatsheaf) but we haven't yet decided on starting point / time. Put it in your diary now and watch out for posts on the Forum, in Facebook, Tweets and an email to update you!!

And a warning – we hope to be taking photos for the membership cards we've been promising for a while, nice smiles only please!

Getting Involved:

As ever we need lots of active members, if you want to help in way or you're unsure what you can do to help, then contact me, Peter Robertson chairman@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk

As always, we're continually seeking opportunities to raise funds for the charity, so if you're aware of an upcoming event where we could fundraise, or a location for a collecting tin, even a store that might allow us to collect in their foyer, please let us know.

Better still, if you know of any company, group or organisation who might be willing to sponsor a bike for us, or adopt us as their charity for a year, one of our team members who will gladly arrange to meet with them to explain who we are, and why the service we aim to provide is so financially beneficial to the NHS. In certain circumstances we may be able to offer branding on our vehicles, uniforms or bloodboxes in return for a significant contribution to our cause. Please let us know – via the website, or using the number is at the bottom of this page.



And finally.....

Congratulations to Richard Scholfield for being, as far as we know, the first member to pass the advanced riding test because he wants to ride for us. If you're still thinking about undertaking the training – stop thinking and do it!

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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