



Annual General Meeting

Our AGM took place on Tuesday 3rd September at The Wheatsheaf, Woolsington. The annual reports were received, Committee posts were re-elected and a really good debate filled the “any other business” session where just about every conceivable subject was discussed! It was right in the middle of the holiday season, so we appreciate the efforts of all who attended. Members were updated with the development of the group throughout the last twelve months, together with an insight as to where we’re heading... upwards!

A cracking month for fundraising!

AGM attendees were advised of an offer from the Shears Foundation to fund two bikes for us, however a condition was attached that we must get the NHS to part-finance our operational costs. Sadly this contradicts our constitution; one of the primary principles of our group is to provide a free service, so unfortunately we could not accept the offer. However, extremely generous donations were received from the MG Owners club and the Catherine Cookson Trust which has put us in a position where we can now consider the purchase of a second bike. We’re looking at options over the coming weeks and will keep you informed via the website, forum and social networking.



Events: past, present & future:

The replacement to the “Hoppings” fair at Newcastle Town Moor had our volunteers attending throughout the week, and was very successful. We increased public awareness, raised funds, and accrued a few potential members. Waitrose in Newcastle were kind enough to involve us in their green charity token scheme and although we didn’t get the most tokens, we had a city centre location from which our group could be promoted. Coming shortly we have a couple of days in Morrisons, Morpeth and Sainsbury’s (Arnison Centre, Durham) But our big event of the month is the Great North Run, this weekend. We have at least three people running in the event, and, thanks to Owain (our publicity guru), there might be a very recognisable motorcycle leading the runners at the start line! Make sure you tune in and see! For future events our new gazebo has arrived.... No photos yet, but it’s printed up with our logo etc and is ready for use. We also plan to do some additional banners & videos as the ones we have used for the past year featured photos from other groups. Now we’re a little more equipped we plan to make some banners and even video with photos of our own bike in local locations.

This month we were approached by our neighbouring group, Bloodrun EVS, and asked if we could assist with occasional (2-3 times per week) blood runs between James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough, and the NBTs centre on Barrack Road. Most thought it would be a good method of introducing ourselves into the operational role of the group without taking on too much in one go; but we needed to clarify we had enough qualified riders to fulfil the commitment. A test rota was set up so that those who were in a position to ride for us could fill in the appropriate shifts so that we could check we had adequate coverage. Almost all the shifts filled, but we had very little staff available in reserve. So close, but we still need more riders to get through their ROSPA/IAM etc, and be assessed on the bike so that we can cover the shifts. Most people agreed that the service would be more adequately prepared once we had a second blood bike as a contingency plan in case our existing bike failed, which at the moment would stop us in our tracks.

Blue Light Training

September sees our first blue light training session (mandatory before riding on blues) Unfortunately the session is fully booked but there will be more soon; keep an eye on the forum posts. Priority will be given to riders who are already qualified & assessed as the number of attendees is very restricted.

Our BIG fundraiser / social!

A Fundraising social event is being planned for 16th November with a buffet and a band, and we're looking for donators of prizes we can raffle or auction. Tickets are now available from Richard at £10 each: HospitalLiaison@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk Give Richard a shout for tickets, or if you or your employer can donate a raffle prize....

Operational:

We have been invited to attend the regional Pathology managers meeting in October where we can formally introduce our service to the decision makers in the NHS across the whole of the Northern region. It's our chance to pin down training and put across our professionalism, and hopefully starts the ball rolling in earnest!

Membership cards: Now printed. Some were handed out at the AGM; please contact Barry if you need to get yours..... or if you have not yet submitted a photo, please do so & we'll get your card sorted with the next batch.

Membership Renewals: for those who joined at the very beginning, renewals have already started for 2013-2014.

Riders: 22 have now fully qualified & been assessed to ride for us. We need another 10-15 to start comfortably! Geoff & Gary have begun visiting to reassure ourselves that the bike(s) can be secured safely at members homes.

Training: We have the MHRA online training pack from NWLL&L group) and are adapting it to suit our own group.



School events: As a result of the primary school event in July, Sue Harris has done a lesson plan for use in (Primary) schools so if anyone has any contacts in such schools we can go in and talk to them & hopefully get them to support us in some way. For other groups, schools have been a good source of funding, with classes or year groups raising funds or in some cases even purchasing bikes, so worth adding to our plans!

Ride-Outs

The next one is planned for Sunday 22nd September at 10am.... As a thank you to Stephen Hodgson for all the effort he has put in, we are having a ride out for him from the Wheatsheaf. Please see the post in rideouts and social events on the forum. Lets see if we can get a good turn out for him!

.....And finally:

Our chairman Peter is away in Anglesey doing a mammoth charity walk spanning several days and he's unfortunately going to miss the Great North Run. However he sends his best wishes to everyone taking part and hopes the weather doesn't spoil things for our runners. Judging by the number of miles he's notching up each day, I think he'll return to the North East with the same muscle pains as our Great North Runners!

I found this picture of him on his facebook page in all his walking clobber....and even over in Anglesey he still wears the NBB logo! Good luck Megan, Michael, Stephen, and anyone else running for good causes this weekend. Photos to follow in next months newsletter.



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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