



**Minutes of Open Meeting of Northumbria Blood Bikes
Thursday 22 June 2017 7.00pm
At Forest Hall Ex-Service Men's Club.**

Guest Speaker – Dr Rachel Hawes

The meeting opened with a very interesting presentation from Dr Rachel Hawes, giving us an insight and update into GNAS Blood on Board service. This was followed by a brief q and a session during which Chris Webster thanked Dr Hawes for the help his son in law had recently received from GNAAS following a motorbike accident.

Dr Hawes left the meeting after this due to family commitments.

Previous Minutes

In the absence of the Chair, Graham Moor vice chair took over the meeting. As no minutes were present it was agreed that these would be approved at a later meeting.

Queen's Award For Voluntary Service

We were then shown the recently awarded Queens Award for Voluntary Services, which was presented to members at Alnwick Gardens by the Duchess of Northumberland. NBB were nominated for this award by Dr Hawes. NBB are one of three other Blood Bikes Groups in the country to have received this prestigious award.

Committee Reports

Hospital Liaison

Mike and Seann are to hold negotiations with NHS BT to develop stronger relationships and a report will be fed back in due course.

They are also meeting with GNAAS.

Meetings are to be held with NEAS re supporting urgent care Friday and Saturday nights, again, progress will be reported.

Fundraising

It was announced that the 360 Challenge raised the fantastic amount of £12,000

We have 20-25 runners in this year's GNR

Emails will continue to be sent out asking for volunteers at events, and also asking for ideas to come up with events to help sustain funds long term. e.g. Cycle events

We were reminded that we are in the running to be chosen as Sainsbury's Heaton branch Charity of the year and we were urged to vote on line.

The Freemasons Benevolence fund – we are in line to receive a minimum of £4,000 but won't know until the end of July if we are onto the National stage to get a share of up to £25,000 votes for this can also be registered online.

Publicity

Kirsty Lawrence reiterated that the QAVS is giving us lots of awareness.

There is to be an awareness day held on 11th August in Durham Market Place

Newsletters are still being sent out although it is very time consuming searching social media for stories, if you have anything to go onto newsletter, or are willing to help, please contact Kirsty.

A question was asked by Alastair Neesham regarding the location of collecting tins. The treasurer is trying to consolidate the whereabouts of boxes, and we were asked that if anyone has a local contact, shop garage pub etc, who would be willing to have a collecting box to let the treasurer know.

ICT Officer

Alan Kinghorn told the meeting that a major update for the website had been released recently, and it should be up and running by early next week. In the meantime if you try to change your email address or password you may run into problems, if this happens, contact Alan.

The VL telephone service went down for a couple of hours in May, and caused a few problems.

This has been rectified but only for a maximum of 231 days Alan is to check well before this time has expired to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

Membership Officer

Rob Wilkes informed us that there have been 52 new applications for membership, we currently have 522 members,

174 listed shift controllers of which 72 are qualified, 92 people help with fundraising, 306 riders listed, 163 are advanced 254 drivers listed, 129 are advanced and 36 people are on both registers.

Secretary

Brian Slessor asked for patience and understanding as he is new to the post.

Rota Manager

Steve Rowlands told us that the new Juke is now liveried and is due in service at the beginning of July, although there has been a hold up with the blue lights, these will be added at a later date.

The Kangoo is moving to Balliol Business Park base and any Kangoo shifts booked into North Shields will automatically swap to Juke.

As the rota is so busy Chris Mann has been appointed as assistant rota manager, so be prepared for him badgering you too!

Recognition Of Contribution Awards

A number of members were awarded recognition awards bronze, silver and gold

NBB 360 Challenge Event

A number of members were awarded their 360 Challenge awards bronze, silver and gold

Over £12,000 was raised in sponsorship on this event and it is proving to be very popular. John McQuaid raised the most sponsorship (for the 2nd year running)

Questions from the floor

A question was raised regarding how things were going with hospital liaison and was there any truth in the rumour that Durham and Darlington were not willing to give us any urgent jobs. We were told that negotiations were going well, and that there was no truth in that rumour. Discussions were ongoing with transport managers and Path Labs.

A query regarding the transportation of breast milk was any nearer to being a reality. However as there is currently no milk bank at RVI this will go no further at present. There is a possibility of a milk bank opening in the future, we will then enter into negotiations regarding transportation.

Shift Controllers who attended the meeting were thanked as there were more present than ever before.

Any extra packages you are asked to carry in addition to the ones already logged for your job MUST be logged with an originator and contact number in case of any queries.

Jeff Glenn informed us that if you are a member of NBB you are automatically a fund raiser and do not need to register, you can volunteer to go to any event and "shake a bucket". However, if you are at an event then have a shift booked in for the same day you MUST have a real break between the event and your shift.

Debbie Paton asked, in the unlikely event of the VL system going down again, are there any back up plans? There is an alternative bring looked at but would require training for co-ordinators. IF the system goes down and controllers not being able to stay on for handover their first point of contact should be Emergency Member on call.

We were asked if there were any plans in the pipeline for First Aid training for drivers. There are no plans for this at the moment, however if drivers wanted to go this themselves this would be their personal preference. Also, although defibrillators are carried in the cars, no formal training is given, however they 'talk you through' how to operate the machine should you need to use it.

Someone asked how often the defibrillators are checked, the batteries last (unused) 5-7 years. It was agreed that a sticker should be placed on the cabinet in the trailer where a defibrillator is kept so that it can be found quickly and easily by members who do not use the trailer often and may not be familiar with the layout. Training for the defibrillators can be provided and we are awaiting details from the company.

Next Meeting

The next Open Meeting will be the AGM and will be held in September date and venue to be confirmed. Documents will start reaching you early-mid August. Any items for agenda to be sent to Brian as early as possible.

Meeting Close

There being no other business or questions the meeting was closed at 9.20pm

Present:

Kirsty Lawrence, Alan Kinghorn, Barry Bullas, Brian Slessar, Alan Springhall, Debbie Paton, Ronnie Paton, Andy Watson, Ken Tait, Nigel Barlow, Mark Lovell, Jack Duckworth, Chris Webster, Gordon Jenkins, Jeff Glenn, Peter Jackson, Alastair Neesham, Derek Farrow, Harry Snee, Frank Soulsby, John Dixon-Dawson, Sean Jamieson, John McQuaid, Gary Annan, Allan Dalgarno, Paul Skelton, Bob Adams, Mary Adams, Peter Kippax, John Blagburn, Mary Blagburn, Rachael Slessor, Chris Mann, Mervin Hilton, Kirsty Downham, Shelagh Carter, Heather Amar, Ronnie Amar, Malcolm Cramman, John Tusker, Graeme Mitchell, Ria Burnett, Colin Granton, Paul Carr (?), Liz Reely, Ken Koby, Ian Young, Alan Johnston, John Watts, Suzanne Hitchison, Derek Wilson, William Deacon, Rob Wilks, Steve Rawlings, Ross McKenzie, Brian Slassor.

Apologies were received from

Phil Tumelty
Shaun Storey
Paul Gillian
Alan Johnson
Mike Thompson.