



NORTHUMBRIA BLOOD BIKES

March 2016

Please feel free to print, copy, save or forward this newsletter to increase awareness of our charity!



The Twisted Sprockets M.C.C.

...who regularly support our charity, held a Rock Night at Stormont Main Social Club, Wrekenton on Sunday 27th February. Pictured here are the organisers behind the event, with one of our Honda Pan European bikes "Auckland". The bike was on duty with rider Ronnie Patton, but he managed to pitch himself at the event while he was stood down, so he could chat with the people attending the event and answer any questions. (See more on page 6)

“Just a few Bikes riding around at night time?”

On the pages this month (and listed below) you'll get an idea of just how much work our volunteers undertake each and every month to make sure there's petrol in the fuel tanks, insurance, uniforms etc.

Please consider joining us at one of our events to keep this fantastic momentum going... We really do rely on these fundraisers for the very survival of our charity.

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We're currently looking for anyone with an editorial flair to assist in creating the newsletters... and it's not too complicated: Stories are created in Microsoft Word, and the information is gathered from Facebook, Twitter, our website and our events calendar. What we lack is a good wordsmith to convert reports into a "good read". If you fancy seeing your creativity in our newsletters, please get in touch! We'd start you off with a couple of stories to report on, and increase to a few pages if you're enjoying it...

If you're involved in any events, or instrumental in arranging any donations, presentations, sponsorship, talks or publicity, please remember to make us aware to ensure that it is included in the Newsletter, and shared with the companies or organisations involved. You can do this by contacting Alan Ross (alan.ross@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk). If including any photos, please identify the people photographed so that we can include the image in a news feature!

A New Bike, c/o the Mark Masons Benevolence Fund:



We are delighted to announce that the national Mark Benevolence Fund of the Masons has kindly and generously granted us a donation of **£18,000** to purchase and equip a new blood bike, and fuel it for a year. We are incredibly grateful to the Fund for their massively generous donation, which will help us to maintain our life-saving service. There'll be a formal presentation with photographs & media publicity in the coming months...



Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust

Thursday 11th February: Vice Chairman Alan Ross attended the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to receive a generous donation of **£321.80** from “Pathology South Of Tyne”, the collective name for the various pathology labs in the area including Gateshead & South Tyneside. - Thank you all so much for this lovely donation!

Alan received the cheque from Alisson McPherson (left), Chief Biomedical Scientist at Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust. There was also a photo taken with a blood bike for the QE Hospital's internal magazine.

Cockfield Family Fun Day

Forthcoming Event: Saturday 26th March

Following on from last year's successful fundraising event and brilliant feedback received from those who visited, the organisers have decided to do it all again!

Starting at 1pm until “silly late o'clock”, they are having a family event which will include various stalls, displays and games; there's even a motorcycle show with prizes. They plan to use both indoor and outdoor areas for the afternoon (weather permitting), then for the evening they will be moving indoors for bands, dancing and drinking.

Entertainment comes from “The Mojo Men” in the afternoon, and “The Fractured Valves” on the night-time (Cover charge of £5 for the evening band). They're also having an auction, raffle and many other ideas to extract cash from folk, with all the proceeds from the event being shared between Northumbria Blood Bikes and a local charity. The venue is Cockfield Working Mens Club, postcode DL13 5ER.



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



SHIFT CONTROLLERS - A CHALLENGE!

Our shift controllers do an amazing job. Not just answering calls & sending riders: They need to be able to consolidate jobs from multiple locations, arrange mid-point meetings where boxes can be transferred from one rider to another, and even negotiate with other blood bike groups to arrange relay journeys over longer distances. They need excellent geographical knowledge to make sure the right rider is sent to the right job, and to know how long it will take... which determines if another request can be accepted. They need to track riders, and make sure they get home safely, because if there's an accident and a biker doesn't report in, the controller is the only person who knows where they were headed & where they should be! Then there are emergency calls, road closures, breakdowns, cancellations... Many of the challenges they face are unknown to those who don't do the job, so this month we decided to test you with a real-life dilemma. The following scenario actually happened in January. Put yourself in the position of "Shift Controller", and decide what you would do in this situation..... Then check the answer on page 12 to see if you were right!

- You're a shift controller, on duty, answering the phone.
- You have two volunteer riders / drivers. Both are on duty until 7am. After 7am, our service stops and the NHS use their own transport.
- Nobody is out delivering at the moment: it's 6:35am & all is quiet.
- You get a call from a hospital requesting an urgent collection of blood from hospital "A" to deliver to hospital "B". (The agreed definition of "Urgent" means "We agree to collect the blood from the hospital within one hour of the call being placed to us").
- Both volunteers live within 10 minutes driving time of hospital "A".
- Hospital "B" is around a 30 minute drive from Hospital "A".



So.... the job is urgent. Everyone is due to clock-off in half an hour, but the hospital is just ten minutes away for any of the volunteers on duty. We operate a service from 7pm to 7am, and the hospital has called within the agreed operating hours.... What do you do? Here's your options:

1

You accept the job, and call one of the duty volunteers to go to the hospital. They'll have to work beyond 7am, but such is life; the call came in during our agreed operating hours.

2

You refuse the job, on the basis that "Our riders / drivers have their own commitments after they finish at 7am, and will not be able to complete the journey in time".

3

You tell the hospital you "might" be able to do it, but need to ask a rider/driver first, So you take the callers details and will call them back in a few minutes once you've spoken to the volunteers to check if someone is available.

4

You tell the hospital you "might" be able to do it, but need to ask a rider/driver first, So you ask the hospital to call back in a few minutes once you've spoken to the volunteers to check if someone is available.

What option would you choose? Our answers are on page 12.

Strategic Objectives meeting 11th February

The majority of the committee met together at the University of Northumbria for an intensive study of the group, with professionals on hand from Northumberland County Council to evaluate our existing structure and our plans for the years ahead. This included a study of our constitution & legal standing, and ensuring any potential for funding, expansion or improvement is being appropriately handled.



We were all unsure as to how the day would progress as we've never done a session like this before, but were pleasantly surprised. Various improvements to the wording and structure of our constitution were identified, and we also deliberated on whether or not we should become a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). This wouldn't have any particularly noticeable effect on the operational aspect of the group, but might stand us in a better, more secure position regarding liability, insurance, and recognition for funding or grant opportunities.

We also looked at the rate of expansion that our services have seen over the last twelve months... It may come as no surprise to some of you that we've seen demand for our services increase by 400%! We attempted to predict where our service would be in the years ahead, and evaluated our capability to meet the demands we might have, both financially and regarding staffing & resources (our fleet size!). There was an overall evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the committee, mainly to identify any areas of our operations which may lack adequate representation. Fortunately, the outcome seemed to confirm that we're doing well, have very few management weak-spots, and are prepared for most of the issues the group may be likely to encounter in the months and years to come. Financial stability and quality of service were at the forefront of everyone's minds, focussing on steady controlled development and refinement of our existing service ahead of any expansion into new services or areas.



Wednesday 3rd February:
Volunteer Brian Slassor & Chairman Peter Robertson joined forces to present a talk to the Trinity Ladies group in Bedlington. They also took along one of our MADATHLON Triumph Trophy blood bikes, "Claire" to show the group how we deliver blood to hospitals.



Brighten your day

Dobbies Garden Centre in Ponteland have chosen us to be their charity partner for the year.

Naturally we're delighted to be chosen and will be working closely with them over the coming year. Thank you, guys!

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We owe a lot of thanks to the Twisted Sprockets MCC (Boldon):

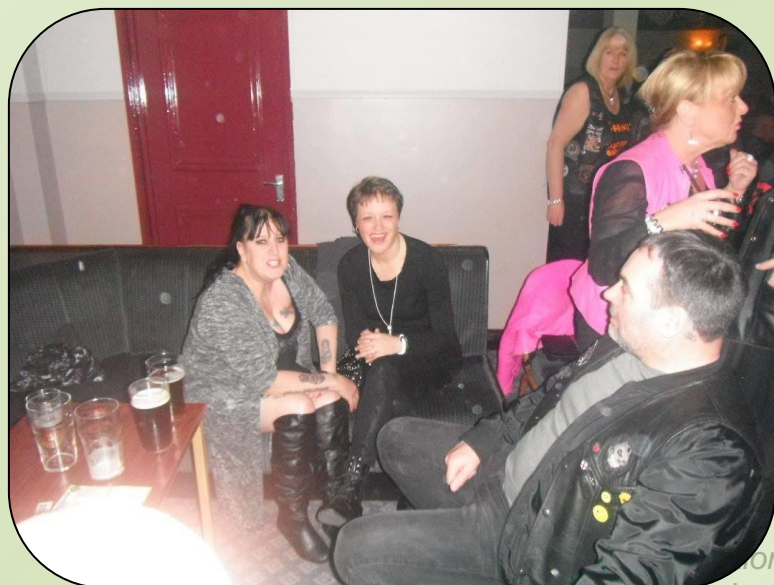
Just after New Years' Day, they posted this message on their website:



BLOOD BIKES VOLUNTEERS... you lads and lasses are a credit to us bikers... We were going to give you a big pat on the back and say thank you and all that. But Tommy said "let's give them something that really shows how much we appreciate their efforts; any blood bike volunteer rider/or office staff: you have free entry to any Sprocket event we hold: rock night, rally, charity event, whatever.. You pay nowt/zilch/nothing/free. Just show your ID on the door/gate. Tommy Sprocket & Sprocket man says "THANK YOU" !



That's a bold gesture from Twisted Sprockets, who regularly support our charity, and several of our members took advantage of the offer on their Rock night at Stormont Main Club, 27th February. Visitors included Vice-Chair Alan Ross, volunteers Alan Johnson & Kirsty Downham (below right), Shift Controller Ria Burnett (Below left), Riders Malcolm Farley, John Vasey & Paul Bainbridge, and several others I've missed! Many, Many thanks to The Twisted Sprockets M.C.C. for a fantastic evening... we're already looking forward to the next one.... And thank you for such a generous offer! It's great to know that the service we provide is recognised and appreciated by others, especially fellow bikers....





Relay Riders UK release their plan for 2016:

Relay Riders UK are a non-profit organisation of like-minded bikers that come together for charity ride outs incorporating the passing of a mascot (usually a cuddly toy) by volunteer motorcycle riders in order to raise funds for our nominated charity. The mascot is transferred from rider to rider at set handover points around the UK on a pre-set route. The relay is non-stop, so different legs of the journey will take place during the day and night until the mascot completes the final leg of the relay.

Founded in 2014 they rode for "Help For Heroes", but this year's event is for the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (NABB), to whom Northumbria Blood Bikes are affiliated. NABB provide support at national level, representing all the voluntary groups around the country as one voice. Last year, for example, they managed to negotiate VAT exemption on operational costs in the budget!



As the relay passes through our region, several active blood bike volunteers will be carrying the mascot. The list is subject to change, but so far it includes Stevie Brain, Jerry Trowbridge, Chris Mitchell, Gary Annan & Alan Ross. The event starts on Tuesday 21st June, and passes through our area on 1st & 2nd July, finishing on 3rd July. Keep a watch on our social media sites for more information...



Update on last month's incident:

You will recall we had our first major incident last month when volunteer Dave Makepeace was involved in a Road Traffic Collision while delivering Blood from Hexham. He's recovering nicely, and is pictured here meeting two of the three young ladies (Lesley & Rita, pictured left, and Jackie, who was unable to attend the reunion) who stopped at the scene to assist him. Dave calls them his "Guardian Angels"!

The Police investigation found Dave was guilty of dangerous driving, and he has been fined £2,700 and banned for three years.

...Nah, just kidding! The investigation exonerated Dave of any responsibility for the accident, and after negotiation with David, The driver of the car was recommended to attend a driver alertness course as an alternative to prosecution, together with mandatory completion of a practical driver assessment.

Crook Inner Wheel:

Monday 17th February 2016

Northumbria Blood Bikes were invited to give an awareness talk to the members of the Inner Wheel Club at Crook. Our host was Margaret Compton who is this year's Chair of the Inner Wheel District 3 (North of England) as well as being a member at Crook. Margaret has nominated NBB as her "Chair's Charity of the Year" and wanted to give her "home" club more insight into the work we do.



Michael Thompson went along to give the presentation, accompanied by Stevie Brain. Once the meal and the Inner Wheel's business were concluded Mike led a lively session, which was well received, and where the Ladies of the Inner Wheel had lots of questions about our charity and particularly Stevie's experiences on the bikes. Stevie had hoped to bring a blood bike with her but temperatures below zero at 6.00pm (it being the coldest night of the year) meant it was unsafe to do so. Nevertheless, we were invited to return (probably in July) when Margaret hopes to have a sizeable cheque to present to us as a result of her fundraising efforts over her year as Regional Chair.

Registered Charity Number 1152745

EASTER AT THE BEBBY

The Bebside Inn, Blyth, Northumberland, is holding its' annual charity fundraising event between Good Friday 25th March and Easter Monday 28th March. Camping opens at noon on the Friday for those who wish to stay over. Once again Julie & Alan have donated the use of their field, to The Bebbby, FREE of charge. This means the small fee charged for camping can go directly into the charity pot!

There are bands performing each night: "7 Sins" on Friday, "Life After Alice" on Saturday and "The Sleeze Sisters" on Sunday. Hot food is available on site. Funds raised through donations, collection cans and raffles etc will be divided equally between The Great North Air Ambulance and Northumbria Blood Bikes.

For more info, ring the Bebside on 01670 822559



Well done to the two Malcolms!

South Shields, 19th & 20th February.

Our fundraising & awareness stand raised **£666.23** on Friday 19th, and a further **£580.12** on Saturday 20th... along with 1 euro, 2 cents and a piece of string, all kindly donated by passing customers. Not sure on the second hand resale value for the string, though...

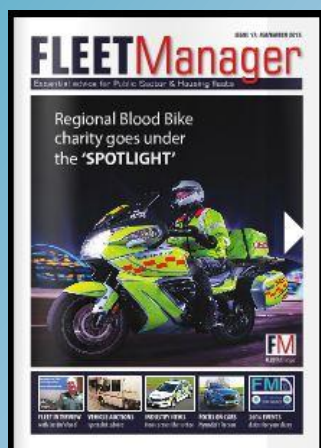
Well done to Malcolm Cramman & Malcolm Farley (left) who attended all day Friday with our FJR blood bike "Bright Northumbria".

There was also a nice gesture from Malcolm Farley, who spotted a customer whose phone wasn't working & she couldn't take a photo of her son on the bloodbike. Malcolm kindly stepped in and took a picture on his own phone, and managed to get it to her when she contacted us through our website. - Nicely done!

Thanks also to the volunteers on Saturday, namely Stephen Ridley, Gary Loader and Sean Jamieson.... It's great to see our volunteers recognising the importance of fundraising to keep the bikes on the road. Riding for us is only part of the job; we have to constantly raise funds to pay for it all, too!

Fleet Manager Magazine features Northumbria Blood Bikes:

Many thanks to our Publicity Officer Richard Penna for ensuring this feature reached print; a lovely two-page spread which highlights the work we do, and the motivation of the people who help us. Thanks also to Deborah Cheadle, Director at JDM Web Publishing Ltd, who commented: "Delighted to work with Northumbria Blood Bikes for such a great feature in this month's issue of trade magazine Fleet Manager".



It's great to get publicity and recognition in the trade sector with feature articles like this. There was also a separate article in the magazine which featured the female volunteers of our group on their first ever all female shift (Boxing day). To view the magazine, visit: www.fleetmanageronline.co.uk



Pictured (Left to right) are NBB volunteer Ross McKenzie, Rachael Dorward (Product & Process Development Coordinator at Greggs) and our Publicity Officer, Richard Penna, with "Auckland", one of our Honda Pan-European Blood Bikes. On Friday 12th February they all attended a coffee morning at Greggs head office: Greggs have chosen Northumbria Blood Bikes as one of their selected charities for 2016. Rachael Dorward is on the Charity Committee and championed our cause for the 2016 selection process.... Thank you, Rachel!

There were plenty of positive comments, a cheque and a heavy collecting tin (a cheque for £30.00, and £104.44 in cash!) when our Chairman Peter Robertson & volunteer Brian Slassor held a talk for Morpeth W.I. last month. A nice thank you card followed, together with a box of home-made biscuits. They wouldn't last for long, so Peter took them to the strategic Objectives meeting the following day where they were rapidly consumed by the committee. Thank you, ladies!

Morpeth W.I. Mon 8th February





In last month's newsletter we mentioned the Managing Director of LS2 Helmets, John McQueen, and his very generous donation of two "LS2 325 Strobe" helmets. John is pictured (centre) presenting the helmets to our bloodbike rider volunteers David Makepeace (left) and Ronnie Paton (right) at his showroom in Ashington. Thank you, John, on behalf of all of us at Northumbria Blood Bikes.



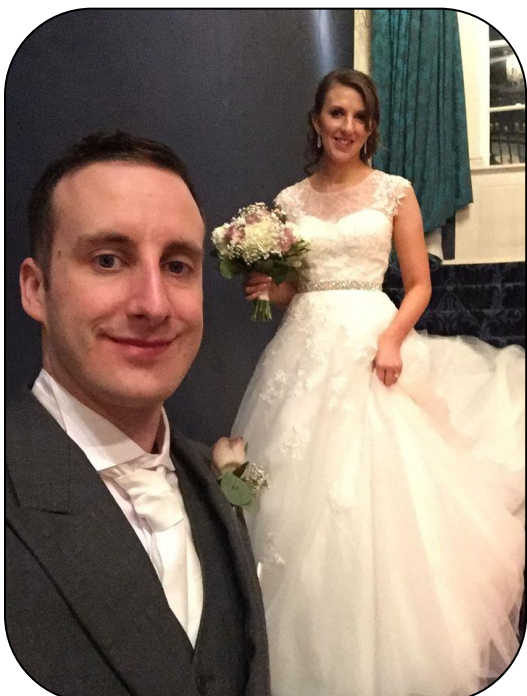
Mark Richardsons' wedding day surprise!

12th February

Mark Richardson, below left, is one of our very active volunteers, regularly taking shifts throughout the night....

So when another volunteer (Gary Annan) heard he was getting married, he decided to organise a special surprise.

With a little help from riders Malcolm Farley, Geoff Spencer, Gary Saunders & Mark Lennox, Gary managed to arrange a motorcycle escort for Marks' wedding limousine. As the photos show, he looked like a VIP (which of course on his wedding day is exactly what he was!), and was given a send-off to remember. He was even caught from a motorway bridge (below) with his presidential-style entourage. Best wishes to Mark & his new bride Rachael from everyone at Northumbria Blood Bikes...



Living North Magazine Article:

The article below appears in this months' edition of "Living North" magazine, and will also be published online at livingnorth.com around mid-March.... But we thought we'd show it to you here as it's a very good, detailed article! Excuse the quality...no digital version was available so we scanned it!

Every month Living North highlights the invaluable work of inspirational local charities, and this time we're looking at Northumbria Blood Bikes, a group of motorcyclists who deliver emergency blood supplies to hospitals and the Great North Air Ambulance

Three years ago, a group of motorcyclists gathered in Newcastle, not to ride around on Harley Davidson's making lots of noise and frightening old ladies, but rather because they were hoping to save lives.

It was the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes who put out a call for a North East-based branch of the group to set themselves up (our area was one of the few left uncovered by the charity). Several volunteers stepped forward and the work they now do involves ferrying emergency blood supplies from the NHS Blood and Transplant Centre in Newcastle – a job done by the NHS during working hours – to hospitals (before Northumbria Blood Bikes, hospitals were forced to use taxis). 'The thing with bikes is we can get around a lot quicker than cars,' says Peter Robertson, Chair of Northumbria Blood Bikes. This means, come 7pm on weekdays and 24 hours a day on weekends and bank holidays, the blood bikers are on call.

The original 11 Northumbria Blood Bikers met in 2012, but their ranks have grown to include over 100 members, nine bikes, two cars and a van. Peter explains that they sometimes use cars rather than bikes because you can't carry blood on a bike if it's below three degrees outside, as it often is in the North East. They don't just carry blood to hospitals though, they also carry any other emergency supplies, and fresh blood supplies to the Great North Air Ambulance on a daily basis.

Considering they started out without so much as a penny, these achievements are quite impressive. The national organisation wasn't big enough to provide funding, so they had to find their own. 'We had to put

our own training in place and we had to raise money to pay for our first motorbike. We don't let people use their own machines in case they're not properly cleaned or serviced.'

It took until February 2014 before the group could launch the charity. During this time, Peter admits they occasionally felt disheartened. 'At one stage we were thinking, "Will this ever come off?" But the national organisation said on average it takes a year to 15 months for a blood



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bike charity to set itself up, so we weren't that down. It was mainly a question of negotiating with the hospitals and proving that we weren't going to do anything dangerous with the things they were entrusting to us.'

Not only do the hospitals trust the group now, they rely on them. But it's a big commitment. In order to work efficiently and effectively, the system has to be flawless and the members have to be on the ball. If it's your shift (each member has two per month) and you get a call at 3am – you get up whether you like it or not. Someone's life could be in your hands.

Unsurprisingly, the entry tests are rigorous. 'The basic is that you have to have had a full licence – whether it's for the sorts of

motorbikes we use or cars – for two years,' says Peter. 'You have to be at least 25 – but that's for insurance requirements – you have to be an advanced rider or driver, you have to go through blue light training to make sure you're able to use the blue lights during emergencies, and since Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency set the rules for safely handling medical products, you have to pass their assessments as well.'

Once you've passed it's not all plain-sailing. The weather is unpredictable but unfortunately so are medical emergencies – so if there's a storm brewing, riders are still required to get out on the bike. Peter recalls the story of one cold, wet and probably slightly miserable member who soon realised it was all worth it. 'He pulled up in a hospital and was told, "You were here earlier and what you brought us saved the life of a baby," So he instantly felt better!'

Due to hospital confidentiality agreements, the group don't usually have the privilege of knowing who they have helped. But on the odd occasion, when they're fundraising in supermarkets or even via Facebook, people have expressed their gratitude. 'A chap came up to me and said, "You must meet my wife." I was a bit puzzled,' laughs Peter, 'But a few minutes later he brought her over – she'd had a haemorrhage and needed blood urgently and we'd delivered it. She said we had saved her life.'

Peter is 62 but isn't thinking about giving up his membership any time soon. 'Even if I wasn't Chair I can't see myself stopping riding or driving for the foreseeable future.' This is one man who isn't willing to put the brakes on.

To help raise funds, volunteer as a rider or driver, or for more information head to www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk

Shift Control Challenge: How did you do?

SHIFT CONTROLLERS - A CHALLENGE!

Our shift controllers do an amazing job. Not just answering calls & sending riders: they need to be able to coordinate jobs from multiple locations, arrange mid-point meetings where bikes can be transferred from one rider to another, and even negotiate with other blood bike groups to arrange relay journeys over longer distances. They need excellent geographical knowledge to make sure the right rider is sent to the right job, and to know how long it will take... which determines if another request can be accepted. They need to track riders, and make sure they get home safely, because it there's an accident and a biker doesn't report in, the controller is the only person who knows where they were headed & where they should be! Then there are emergency calls, road closures, breakdowns, cancellations... Many of the challenges they face are unknown to those who don't do the job, so this month we decided to test you with a real-life dilemma. The following scenario actually happened in January. Put yourself in the position of "Shift Controller", and decide what you would do in this situation... Then check the answer on page 15 to see if you were right!

- You're a shift controller, on duty, answering the phone.
- You have two volunteer riders / drivers. Both are on duty until 7am. After 7am, our service stops and the NHS use their own transport.
- Nobody is out delivering at the moment: it's 6:35am & all is quiet.
- You get a call from a hospital requesting an urgent collection of blood from hospital "A" to deliver to hospital "B". (The agreed definition of "urgent" means "We agree to collect the blood from the hospital within one hour of the call being placed to us".)
- Both volunteers live within 10 minutes driving time of hospital "A".
- Hospital "B" is around a 30 minute drive from Hospital "A".

So... the job is urgent. Everyone is due to clock-off in half an hour, but the hospital is just ten minutes away for any of the volunteers on duty. We operate a service from 7pm to 7am, and the hospital has called within the agreed operating hours... What do you do? Here's your options:

- 1 You accept the job, and call one of the duty volunteers to go to the hospital. They'll have to work beyond 7am, but such is life; the call came in during our agreed operating hours.
- 2 You refuse the job, as there's no way any volunteer will reach hospital "B" before our operations finish at 7am.
- 3 You tell the hospital you "should" be able to do it, you take the callers details and will call them back if there's any problems... Then you call one of the duty volunteers to go to the hospital. If for any reason they can't work over, you call the hospital back.
- 4 You tell the hospital you "might" be able to do it, but need to ask a rider/driver first, so you take the callers details and will call them back in a few minutes once you've spoken to the volunteers to check if someone is available.

Earlier in this newsletter we set you a challenge with one of the real decisions a shift controller has to make. There were five options to choose from. Which one was right? Here's our answers with explanations as to why....



Option 1 was to accept the job, and the volunteer will have to work beyond 7am. This isn't the right answer:

A volunteer doesn't expect to work beyond his agreed hours and may have other plans. Perhaps they start work at 7:30, or they have to be at home to look after their kids while their partner goes to work. Therefore a controller can't assume that a volunteer can do the job.



Options 3 and 4: You tell the hospital you "might" be able to do it, but need to ask a rider/driver first, and will call the hospital back or ask them to call you back...



This may seem like a reasonable and helpful thing to do, but be careful... The call was urgent, and for any urgent request it's best policy to deal with it definitively and avoid delay. There are delay issues with both options: If you offer to ring them back (option 3), what happens if you can't get through? Or another emergency call comes in and delays your reply? If you ask them to call you back (option 4), what if they don't? Do you still send a rider? Do you refuse any other jobs to keep the rider available? What happens when your shift finishes and the hotline number is transferred to our call centre, or they ring after an hour when you and the volunteers are long gone?

Suppose you have to ring all three volunteers, then try to get back through to the hospital department that originally called, valuable time is wasted trying check with riders while a taxi or alternative courier could already have been en-route. If you then have to call back to say the job can't be done, precious minutes have been lost, and blood bikes are perceived to be the cause of the delay. There have been occasions where the original caller can't be found, leaving them unaware that the job can't be done, and leaving you, the controller, frantically trying to get back in touch with them. As shift controller, you too may have plans after 7am and be unable to continue attempting to ring the caller so a major



Option 2: You refuse the job, because "Our riders / drivers have their own commitments after they finish at 7am, and will not be able to complete the journey in time".

On this occasion, this would have been the correct answer. The volunteer would be left potentially 40 minutes away from home when the job completed, so even if he could get there in time, he still may have commitments that prevent him from completing the request. This was *what actually happened* in January; the volunteer's wife was leaving for work at 7:20am and his young kids would have been left on their own at home while he battled the morning traffic to get back from Hospital "B".

"Kids being left alone" is not an acceptable position for any volunteer to be faced with. In this (genuine) scenario, the rider attended the hospital, and warned that the journey would take a little longer to complete as he had to divert home to pick up his kids. The hospital were unhappy, and called a taxi... but asked why we didn't tell them of the potential delay when the request was made. -We didn't need to, as we had satisfied the agreement we have "to collect within one hour", but the experience still left a lot to be desired and in hindsight, a taxi may have been the better option because of the time at which the request was made.

In conclusion, the hospitals will be far more appreciative of a direct answer, even if it's a "No", than to be messed around with a "maybe", or let down when it turns out that the job can't be fulfilled. To do that, a controller needs to recognise when it's better to lose the job to a taxi company, than to risk a negative impression of our service. So long as the hospitals are told why, the majority will be fully understanding. While every volunteer always wants to do their best to get the job done, sometimes "the best" for the scenario is to let the job go. Food for thought?

How to contact Northumbria Blood Bikes:

Every so often we print this page so that new members can match faces to names. It was only a couple of issues ago since we last showed this, but it seems appropriate to post again this month as there's an open meeting in March, and most (except Peter Robertson & Sean Storey) will be there.

Email is by far the best way to contact anyone on a specific subject, as it makes it much easier to circulate or redirect a question to the person best qualified to answer it!



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chair@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk



Vice-Chairman
Alan Ross

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Fundraising
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fundraising@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk



Talks Co-ordinator
Nigel Barlow

talks@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk



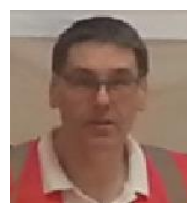
Training
Geoff Spencer

training@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk



Hospital Liaison
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hospital.liaison@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk



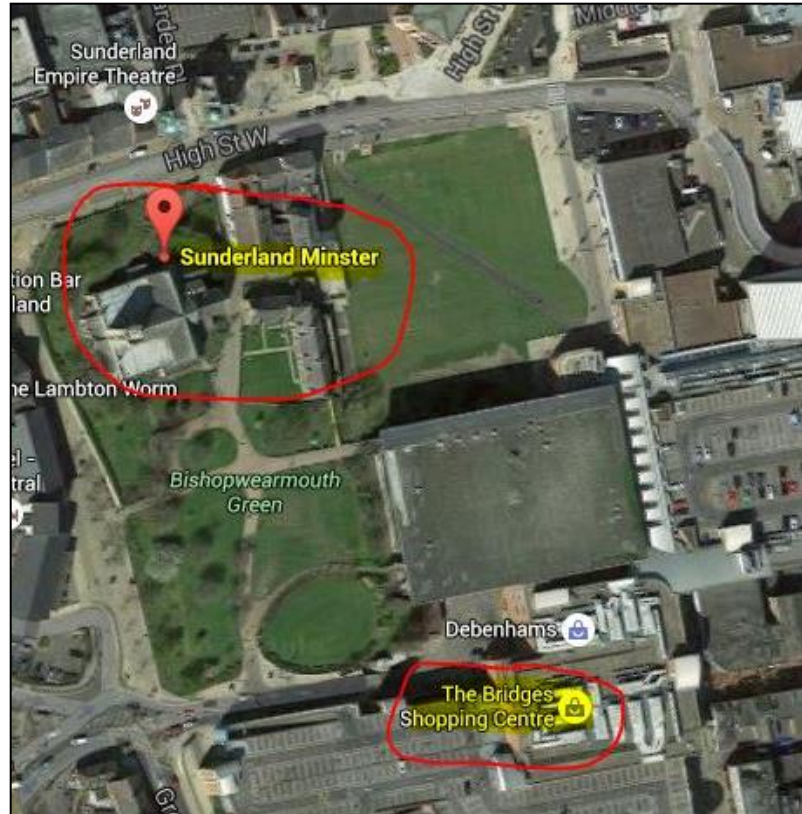
IT / Website
Mike Thompson

webmaster@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk

Our next open meeting:

This month we have an open meeting on Tuesday 15th at 19:30. This is your chance to catch up with everything that's been happening in the past few months, and to see what plans are ahead of us. You can also meet and chat with fellow volunteers in an informal and relaxed environment!

As a result of parking issues at our previous location, this one is to be held at the Sunderland Minster Church, close to the Bridges shopping centre in Sunderland, almost directly opposite the Empire Theatre. Parking is available in the Bridges multi story car park just 500 yards from the minster, and it's just a short walk from the Metro, University, Park Lane and Sunderland Station. Secretary Chris Mitchell will be getting beaten up if he forgets the tea, coffee & biscuits...



North East Bikers

Charity Presentation Evening

in aid of

Great North Air Ambulance
Northumbria Blood Bikes

performing live

Elenbak

Free entry but donations welcome

Saturday 9th April

7.00 pm - 12.00 pm

nebwashington@gmail.com

The Philadelphia

Success Road, Houghton le Spring
DH4 4JG



FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

Lots of things happening, and we need your help to support them! If you can help, even if only for a couple of hours, please contact us...information is at the bottom of this page. NBB members can register their attendance for most of these events on our website (login required).



Waitrose, Hexham

A rare appearance at this Hexham store, we'll be there from 9am-5pm on both days, with a liveried blood bike. Please come along and show your support if you can...

Waitrose



Blue Light Training session 12:00 till 2pm

For members only, and only for those who have already passed their Advanced riding or driving qualification. This session is mandatory before using blue lights. To book your place, email Geoff: training@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk



Northumbria Blood Bikes Open Meeting 19:30 - 21:30

Slightly later than usual, and in a new location to ease the parking woes! Your chance to meet with fellow volunteers in a relaxed social environment, ask questions & see what's happening! See previous page for details of location etc.



Easter at The Bebside Inn, Blyth, Northumberland with bands "7 Sins" (Friday), "Life After Alice" (Saturday) & "The Sneeze Sisters" (Sunday). Hot food is available on site. Funds raised will be divided between The Great North Air Ambulance and Northumbria Blood Bikes.

EASTER AT THE BEBBY



Cockfield Family Fun Day 12:00 till late!

Loads going on; Childrens games and activities, Wood Carving Display, Stalls, Tombola, Food, and live music from "The Mojo Men" (daytime) and "The Fractured Valves" (evening). All raising funds for Blood Bikes & local charity.

Family Fun Day



Tesco Consett Family Fun Day 11:00 - 14:00

Just three hours.... A brief appearance at the home of our volunteer co-ordinator and fundraiser Kirsty Lawrence (She's the Community Champion at the store!) We'll be there with at least one bike, probably more....

Family Fun Day



North East Bikers Charity Presentation Evening 19:00 - 00:00

in aid of both Northumbria Blood Bikes and Great North Air Ambulance. (see advert on previous page for details of location & entertainment) We will also try our best to get a blood bike in attendance if we can...



Northumbria Blood Bikes 360 Challenge Event (all day)

Motorcyclists only...a fundraising challenge which takes in spectacular views around the region! More details available from our website - (no login required), or see the advert on the previous page...



www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk

facebook.com/northumbriabloodbikes

twitter.com/northumbriabb

linkedin.com/company/2866951

FUNDRAISING HOTLINE:

07766 479 770

- for any opportunities to increase our funding through sponsorship, locations for collecting tins, supermarket events etc...