



Northumbria Blood Bikes

Open Meeting Thursday 4th June 2015

Northumbria University, Ellison Building

- Welcome
 - Peter Robertson (Chair) Welcomed members
- Apologies for absence received – Ian Hunter, Owain Harris, Mervyn Hilton, Darren Mead, Sean Storey, Sue Harris, Phil Tumelty, Jerry Trowbridge, Michael Wilkinson
- Introduction of new members since the last meeting
- Last Open Meeting Minutes – matters arising – acceptance of minutes
 - Minutes of previous meeting (attached)
 - Matter Arising
 - New legislation relating to changes in Section 19 exemptions before Parliament in October 2015. It is believed that Blood Groups will be specifically mentioned. No firm details as yet, when these are available, we (NBB) will have a decision to make regarding our continued use of Blue Lights, in light of additional training requirements. The membership will be kept informed.
 - Planned joint “coffee” meeting with Cumbria went ahead at Brockbushes, a success, thanks to John Parish for organising.
 - Minutes of previous meeting 5th March 2015, were unanimously accepted by the members
- Introduction of the Patrons
 - Chair introduced our Patrons
 - Prof Bob Jarman
 - Carol Malia

- Bob, addressed the meeting briefly, he is very happy to be part of NBB and looks forward to working with us, he was presented with an NBB fleece
- Carol arrived during the meeting, she rushed over straight from being on air. She briefly addressed the meeting, she is also very happy to be associated with NBB and supporting with us, she also was presented with an NBB fleece.
- Heidi Mottram of Northumbria Water has agreed to be our “business” Patron.
- General Update– Chair
 - Full details of the update are posted on the NBB website.
 - **In summary**
 - We have reached 2000 runs in May, in National terms, this identifies us a “big” group.
 - GNAAS are very happy with the service we provide
 - Finance
 - Income YTD £100K (includes donation to fund purchase and ongoing maintenance of Yeti)
 - Balance in Bank £22K
 - Fundraising, as always ongoing, members are encouraged to take part.
 - We are through to the next stage of the AVIVA grant/award process
 - A Lottery fund application has been made to purchase a bike to support GNAAS.
 - New Blood boxes, in process of being introduced and tested by NBB. Care is needed when securing to bike, to avoid damaging box.
 - 68 riders on register
 - 29 drivers on register
 - New rota system in place and working well
 - Security Centre still being used, they are undergoing an internal review, which may have an effect of our relationship.
 - Coordinator training ongoing, those trained are encouraged to book shifts and “get on and do it”
 - Marc Lennox, made the observation that the problem was “getting the riders and drivers to ride/drive”
 - Matters arising from Update
 - None
- Potential changes to Charitable Objects – Chair
 - Minor changes were outlined as on paper previously made available and discussed

- As the criteria for a quorate meeting in the Constitution was met the member's unanimous acceptance of the changes was constitutional.
- Proposed Business Plan – Chair
 - 3 year business plan presented
 - Comments from members
 - Gary Annan, asked for clarification regarding the reserve.
 - Was this invested and the interest accrued to be used as operational capital
 - (Chair) explained that the reserve was operating capital, current interest rates did not provide a worthwhile return on such a sum. To achieve income from invested capital to operate NBB, would require a considerable sum in the order of £100,000 plus. We are not in that position. Graham added that in order to make grant applications viable we should avoid large balances.
 - Philippa Bromley, raised concerns regarding the amount of work involved in fulfilling the plan and committee roles and work load, ie a lot of work for a volunteer committee, are sub groups being formed.
 - (Chair) after discussion, stated that process under review, as the AGM is looming and the committee membership may change. Also that yes sub groups would be formed as necessary.
 - Philippa Bromley, asked if increases in membership in plan were a constant % over the 3 years
 - (Chair) The current proposed increases were based on numerical progression not percentage. The aspirations for membership numbers, need reviewing, as we have already surpassed those in the plan.
 - Membership approved the plan unanimously
- Andromeda Demonstration
 - Michael Thompson and Graham Moore gave a demonstration of the Andromeda "Radios" in action
 - Training videos are available on the website
 - A list of equipment is also available, on the website for members to source e.g.
 - Microphones
 - Headsets,
 - Adapters for phones
 - Hands free sets/ear pieces
 - **Go live date for Andromeda is 22 June 2015**
 - Marc Lennox has identified an earpiece set from ebay for £very little, he will circulate details

- How the rider/driver is notified, is to be reviewed
 - Initial thoughts are first call will be by phone (at night) to minimise disturbance, ongoing calls via Andromeda
- Alan Johnson asked about drivers using Bluetooth in the cars with Andromeda
 - Andromeda is classed as a phone, legally, therefore should not be used whilst driving.
 - Bluetooth equipment is being researched, in the meantime drivers are not to use whilst in motion, and they can receive calls; and answer when safe to do so.
- Coordinators will know where the bike/car is and contact as appropriate
- Graeme Mitchell, asked if would be possible to get an additional Andromeda handset for all bikes so they did not need to be swapped around
 - This was agreed, an order is being placed.

- **Agenda items from Members**

- Marc Lennox – Return of bikes following shifts and alternative ways of working
 - A discussion took place regarding handback of bikes on midweek shifts.
 - It was agreed that local agreement between the two riders to agree when the bike would be back at the base. Details can be recorded in the notes box for the shift, e.g. (*South Bike returned to Monkton at x o'clock*)
 - At present we do not have enough bikes to have “spare” bikes for weekend handovers.
- Allan Dalgarno – Bikes – which bikes are used and where? E.g. “Bikes in garages and not in bases”
 - Question why are Non-operational bikes not located at bases
 - Up to this point, we have not pursued other bases, other than Spennymoor, however it was agreed to investigate use of Backworth NEAS station for another bike. Rota Manager to action this.
 - It was reinforced **that any change of use of a Bike or car**, is to be authorised by Richard Scholfield, Vehicle Manager
 - Bikes not allocated to a shift, will be booked in either the rota system, or in another system under development, Rota Manager and ICT Manager to investigate taking forward.
- AOB
 - Steve Rawlings introduced the “Buddie” System, details on the website, and emails will be sent to “Mentors” and “Buddies” If anyone wants a buddy or to be one to let Steve know

- Members, were reminded that they, in consultation with SC /Coordinators, may prioritise calls e.g. (Standard priority, is any time before the end of the shift)
- Fundraising
 - Graham Moor confirmed that we came 2nd in our category of the Aviva voting, therefore we move forward to the second round we are waiting for more details on this
 - Supermarkets are changing their policy regarding bag packs and collections, we need to identify other revenue streams. Fundraising has to be a continuous process.
- Coordinator recruitment and training
 - Recruitment of dedicated IT trainers in being looked into
 - Training and recruitment is ongoing, slowly a pool of volunteers are being identified and trained
 - Rota Manager asked that all those who have been trained, to actively book coordinator shifts and practise their skills.
 - Further training will be provided where required when Andromeda is launched
 - New Coordinators will be supported and helped as much as possible.
- Display Trailer
 - Mike Thompson, gave details of progress
 - Alan Johnson, is undertaking repairs at a "secret location"
 - He is expecting the materials to begin work this week.
 - It is hoped that the trailer will be liveried and in use before the September AGM, if so it will be on display at the AGM.
 - The BBC program "An hour to save your life" is on Iplayer, and well worth watching.
 - Barry Bullas reminded members about the key rings with contact numbers. And asked that riders made sure they arranged to get the Andromeda fixing on their HV Jacket.
 - A charity night has been arranged by Kirsty again this year at the Derwent Manor Hotel, for Friday 23rd October, there are 250 tickets, but they are selling fast.
 - TICKETS £20 EACH or for a Table of 10 (preferred) £18 each (£180)
 - The event includes a 3 course dinner, live entertainment, and other events tbc.
 - Contact Kirsty via, Facebook, NBB Website or a committee member.
- MEETING CLOSED AT 20:50
- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS 3rd OF SEPTEMBER, venue to be notified.