

# Cornwall Blood Bikes

Registered Charity Number: 1140165

**Riding for Life**



## March 2015 Newsletter (ramblings from the saddle).

Hey Up!

What a month!

We have been busy as usual and not just on the roads of Cornwall saving the NHS money. Last month we completed 194 jobs including trips up to Junction 27 to transfer urgent blood samples for onward transportation to Bristol. The total number of jobs for this year stands at 417.

February brought the AGM which was held at the sports center in St Austell and what a resounding success it turned out to be. Its very refreshing to see that even when the meetings have finished people are still engaged in deep conversations about the charity regardless of whether they are being ushered out of the premises or just standing freezing in the car park. The meeting had a large turn out, as you would hope for. The old Committee resigned and the new one was elected with a couple of new places added. Ian Butler has taken on the role of PR and Media while Toby Best has become the new Vice Chairman. Post meeting Phil Fishwick graciously accepted the role of Events Planner assisted by Steve Wells and Roger Alway has stepped up as Rota Manager.

Next meeting was a Committee meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Dragon Center Bodmin. Top of the agenda was a new BMW we had been offered from the Western Freewheelers. When I say new it's a 2007 model that has fewer miles under its belt than our present one and at the price they were asking it could not be turned down. This resulted in Stephen and James driving up to deepest darkest Somerset (yes there is a world beyond Launceston) to collect it. I had the pleasure of sitting in my nice comfy truck while I watched James ride passed me on the new beamer in a horrendous hailstorm. Some of you may have seen the new bike but it is not yet in service until it has had its tracker fitted and a few small issues sorted.

I did have a ride of it (the new beamer) last Friday when a few of us attended an informal ride out for Keith Weatherall on the occasion of his birthday last Friday (27<sup>th</sup> Feb). I'm not sure if many of you know Keith and his wife Debbie but until a serious health issue last year Keith and Debbie were very active members of the charity. Unfortunately Keith has had to surrender his license so he was a pillion passenger for the day but I know he enjoyed his trip immensely as did Debbie because we called to her office in Lemon Street to give her a wave. Not sure how the good people of Truro took it as twenty bikes blocked up the road sounding their horns to get Debbie's attention but it was well worth it. I can also say with my best critics head on that the new bike is very good.

I have digressed a bit though, back to the meeting. It was also decided that we would sell the FJR/VFR and the Pan to raise money for another new BMW. The old PEG car is still in the process of being sold due to a time waster... We are hopefully in line for another bike soon from Western once their committee agrees to it but more about that when we know for sure. The sale and purchase of these bikes will see the charity stabilize its servicing costs by only having BMW's.

Ok who hasn't seen the new website? Shame on you, its brilliant, cheers Toby for putting it

together for us. Now all we have to do as a group is promote it and get people to press that big red donate button. Which brings me on nicely to the events program.

Take a look at the events calendar on the web page to see what's happening this month but just incase you can't be bothered let me give you an incite.

This months events are,

21<sup>st</sup> March, Asda St Austell collection.

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28<sup>th</sup> March, Grapevine Church Illogan; an evening of music from the band Engine House the Raise the Ruth Community choir and guests.

We need people to attend these events to help out so please put your names down on the rota for the collections so everyone can see who is attending. Roger Alway our new Rota guru along with Phillipa will be contacting people if no names appear. Remember that without money coming in we, as a charity will cease to operate so if you haven't collected before give it a go I'm sure you will enjoy it.

Now for the music night, the events team are looking for at least 5 good raffle prizes for the night (we need good ones so people will buy tickets) so have a look in the back of your cupboards for that old bottle of Warninks Advocaat and donate it better still that nice single malt you have been saving why not give it to a brilliant cause! Again we need people to come along and help with selling drinks etc.

After these events the next REALLY BIG event is our RELAUNCH!!! Keep the 6<sup>th</sup> April free, as we need maximum attendance for our relaunch at Damerrells. The events team will publish the timings soon but it will be a great day with loads of stuff to do for all the family.

PR and Media has gone into overdrive offering radio broadcasts and newspaper columns so our new name gets maximum coverage. I did a radio interview with the HUB Radio on the Roseland Peninsular and have been asked back to do a 'desert island discs' thingy in May. This will be an hour where I will be chatting about my life, yawn. But more importantly I will be able to plug Blood Bikes.

There is a growing army working tirelessly behind the scenes doing things that may never get recognition from us for the benefit of the charity, so let me take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work, you know who you are so I won't embarrass them by naming them but take a group hug from all of us.

If you have any bits you would like me to include in future ramblings please email me at [fundraising@cornwallbloodbikes.org](mailto:fundraising@cornwallbloodbikes.org) and I will see what I can do.

Right that's it for today don't forget to put your availability down on the rota and if you want a marked bike check out the booking form on Dropbox. **My last plea concerns Dropbox, remember to take the form you want to read or amend out of the box and put it on to your desktop. That way we don't get duplicate forms, which leads to confusion.**

Ride safe  
Mark