

The

Blood Vessel



The monthly newsletter for Serv Oxon, Bucks, Northants & Berks

Emergency Blood Transport Service

Issue 3

www.servobn.org.uk

email: newsletter@servobn.org.uk

June 2010

Welcome to the third edition of "The Blood Vessel",

Would you like to receive an email notification when the latest edition of this newsletter has been published?

email newsletter@servobn.org.uk with 'subscribe' in the subject line.

If you would like to submit an article to be included in a future edition of "The Blood Vessel" please send it to.... newsletter@servobn.org.uk

This newsletter is available online at....

www.servobn.org.uk/newsletter

Upcoming Events.....

Serv will be attending the following upcoming events.....

Saturday 5th June
Royal Berkshire Hospital—Summer Fete

Saturday 12th June
Stokenchurch Fete

Sunday 13th June
Bicester Civic Parade

Sunday 20th June
Banbury Run

Monday 28th June
Cassington Bike Night

Saturday 3rd—Sunday 4th July
Hollowell Steam Rally

You can find out more details about these and more events by visiting www.servobn.org.uk and clicking on "Events"

Have you joined our Facebook Group yet?

Just visit www.servobn.org.uk and click on "Join our Facebook Group" Or go to Facebook and Search for..... "Serv OBNB"



George White have kindly offered to service our dedicated bikes for the cost of parts only - www.georgewhite.co.uk/



Serv launch the "Buy a Box for Babies" Campaign

Faced with the unusual request to transport frozen donor breast milk urgently, SERV responded positively, but had to quickly set about identifying a suitable transport container for the task as the milk had to be kept frozen.

Given the huge experience that SERV has of moving blood and platelets over the years, we instinctively turned to CliniMed and their range of Blood Porter products.

Having carried out independent cold chain validation on the blood boxes, SERV were confident that the CliniMed range would provide a suitable container for the task. and given that this type has already been cold chain validated, we could take the container into immediate service use.

The standard donor milk

receptacle is of 130ml capacity and each of the CliniMed boxes could comfortably accommodate 24 bottles with very little excess space around each bottle, which meant that



the product was held securely in place and could not roll around.

CliniMed generously donated 4 of these boxes to SERV to allow us to verify the suitability of the product in operational conditions. The box passed the user test with flying col-

ours. SERV is now confident that we can offer a standard service to the UKAMB charity using the CliniMed product as a key element in the service delivery.

We now need to purchase 20 more 'Milk' boxes for the use of Serv riders and our sister organisation "The Freewheelers" (who relay the donor breast milk to us from the Bristol & Severn areas) to provide a full service to the UKAMB.

20 boxes will cost around £1,100 (£55 each). If you or your company would like to sponsor a "Box for a Baby", we would gladly display your company name of the box. If you are able to help, please contact publicity@servobn.org.uk

C.S.F. Samples... What are they for???

Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) is a clear watery liquid that is produced by the "choroid plexus" (an area on the ventricles of the brain), CSF flows around the brain and spinal cord, surrounding and protecting them. It is continually produced, circulated, and then absorbed into the blood system. About 500 ml is produced each day. This rate of production means that all of the CSF is replaced every few hours.

Because CSF surrounds the brain and spinal cord, testing a sample of CSF can be very valuable in diagnosing a variety of conditions affecting the Central Nervous System like Meningitis, Multiple Sclerosis and Leukaemia.

When Serv are called to transport a CSF Sample, it is a time sensitive delivery as treatment may be delayed until the hospital receives the results from testing. If someone has a

fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, and muscle pain, with cold hands and feet, and develops a rash that doesn't fade when you press a glass against it, they could have Meningitis and you should seek medical assistance immediately. Visit www.meningitis-trust.org for more info



Bicester's Outgoing Mayor presents Serv with a parting gift

When Serv were invited to attend the mayors chambers for tea and cake, we got more than a little icing!

Councillor James Porter shared out £7,525 from his charity fund to organisations in-



cluding Marie Curie Cancer Care, the Good Neighbour's Scheme, Bicester Food Bank, St John Ambulance, the Salvation Army, two scout groups and Katharine



House Hospice, with The Army Benevolent Fund and Serv obn receiving a cash boost of £1,340.00.

Serv obn have over the past 3 years assisted with many of Bicester's Community Events, including The Carnival, Wheelie Bin Race, Civic Parade, Santa Fun Run & were more than happy to assist with the Welcome Home Parade for the troops returning home from Afghanistan.

We would like to thank Councillor Porter and the people of Bicester who helped raise money for the mayors charity fund.



We would also like to welcome incoming Mayor—Councillor Richard Mould, who has pledged to continue to support Serv and we look forward to continuing to assist with this years upcoming events.

Live bands & good company for only a fiver???

Get down to Witney (Oxon) on Friday 24th September!

Fat Lil's Live Music & Comedy Club are holding a night of live music in aid of Serv OBN with music from "The Book of Genesis" (Genesis tribute band), "Out Of The Blue" (Mustang Sally to Great Balls of Fire) & "Cracker Dummy" (Traditional Rock

Covers). Tickets are a snip at just £5 with ALL Proceeds going to Serv OBN. (Fat Lil's are providing the venue for free & the bands are playing for beer).

We need to sell 200 tickets to reach our target of £1000, so if everyone who buys a ticket manages to sell 2 more, we'll hit our target in no time. We'll also be holding a charity raffle. If you or your company could donate

a prize for the raffle, we'll make sure you get a mention! (if we get any high value prizes, we may hold a charity auction).

Tickets are available from.....

Paul Long on 07771 592383,
Danny Bateman
publicity@servobn.org.uk
or Direct from.....

Fat Lil's Live Music & Comedy Club,
Witney, Oxfordshire
at a bargain price of just £5 per head

Serv benefits from the proceeds of the Summer Ball

A big thanks to Hilary Daffern, Chairman of the "League of Friends" based at Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford for organising the Summer Ball last month.

The event included a dinner, dance, live music, disco and a charity auction with people not getting home until well in to the early hours.

Serv were one of the charities benefiting from the event receiving a cheque for £500.

"League of Friends" and Serv are members

of Attend.

Attend is the UK's leading membership-based organisation supporting volunteering in health and social care and provide their members with the networks, resources and expertise that they need to grow and increase their impact in a rapidly changing environment.



Volunteers are essential to the strength of our health services and the health of our local communities.

Their aim is to protect and expand the vital roles that volunteers play.

Serv participated in Attends' Diamond Anniversary last year by carrying an Olympic Style Torch as part of the celebrations. Visit www.attend.org.uk for more details.



Selling your old mobile? visit www.shpforcharity.co.uk/servobn and

we will receive 20% of the value of your phone (you can increase this anywhere up to 100% if you wish)



Did you see the feature about us in Visor Down Magazine???

Jon Urry (motorcycling Journalist) spent the night shadowing one of our duty riders.....

The clock on the mantel piece shows 9:47pm. Usually at the time on a Friday night I'd be tucking in to a beer. Instead I'm sat in the front room of a house in Northampton watching some mindless TV program I've never wanted to watch before, I'm fairly bored. "Sometimes we get whole nights without a call and sometimes we're flat out," explains John Mason, the Serv rider who let me follow him tonight. "If there's an accident on the motorway, it can be really busy. Oddly enough, most calls are between 10 and 11." It's unlikely you have ever heard of Serv. They exist, essentially, to save the NHS money. According to folk law (and I deeply suspect this isn't true) it all started in the 60's after a biker was knocked off and rushed to hospital. His mates who were riding with him followed the ambulance to the hospital only to be told be staff that they didn't have his specific type of blood. A biker volunteered to ride to a nearby hospital to get the required red stuff and so the service began. Just as I'm pondering why I'm such a selfish Bastard who's never considered doing anything this worthy, John's mobile lets off a shrill beep. "Urgent Blood, John Radcliffe in Oxford to Northampton General, 2 units of blood" he says.



Although his voice remains totally calm, my heart rate has just hit the roof! This is it. I spring up from my chair and fumble putting my kit on. Adrenaline has turned my fingers into thumbs and I drop my keys a few times. I glance at John, who is pulling on his bike boots in the same deliberate fashion as you would if you were popping out for a Sunday run. He laughs at me. Following John on his Pan European, he's smooth and fast in a typical advanced rider way. Keeping up isn't a problem, but I can't help feeling slightly tense. It's an odd feeling as I usually ride for fun, the only time constraints tending to be an irate girlfriend or rapidly closing takeaway. This time we have a very real purpose. The pressure is tangible. Reaching a section of empty dual carriageway, John keeps his pace strictly within the speed limits. After a few miles we catch up with a car merrily trundling along in the outside lane, to-

tally oblivious to our approach. Ordinarily I would have undertaken without a second's thought, but safety is paramount and a few flashes of the Pan's main beam soon drag the dopey driver out of his daydream. Following behind I can't help thinking I could easily trim vital minutes off the ride. But then, would I be riding in such a controlled fashion? Weighing up what's at stake, I decide probably not. Yes, the Police may treat my case with a degree of leniency should I get stopped, but explaining myself would far outweigh any minutes saved. Following a pre-determined route we reach the John Radcliffe 47 minutes after leaving Northampton, just 2 minutes longer than John estimated. Parking outside A&E we walk up to reception to find a nurse waiting for us with a large red bag. My stomach churns. Before this moment it was a bit of fun and games, a ride with a purpose, but seeing the case clearly marked "Human Blood" and the look on the nurse's face, brings it home hard. Pa-

perwork is exchanged and we walk briskly out of A&E. John Straps the Blood to the rack on the back of his bike. Every strap has its place and the technique is one he's practiced over time. Again I find myself willing him to go faster, but it's simply not worth getting it wrong, Imagine trying to explain to a grieving relative that you made it in time but the blood is spread all over the screen of a car on the M40... It's about a 40 minute ride to Northampton General and it's dispatched in the same controlled fashion as the ride to the blood bank. As we near the hospital, an ambulance whizzes past, sirens blaring, blue lights ablaze. He jumps the red light, pausing only for a quick safety check, and disappears into the city. I can feel my fingers starting to let the clutch out to follow: he made it, why can't we? Then I see a car cross the junction. If I hadn't resisted the urge, I'd be on honest bonnet now. A few minutes later and we're parking up outside A&E at Northampton General, alongside the very same ambulance that passed us earlier. It's back



doors are open and two paramedics are busy at work. Trying to ignore the sight, I follow John in to the main reception. Spotting the package in his hand the receptionist makes a call and a nurse arrives almost instantly. John reaches for the paperwork but the nurse just says "Follow Me" and trots off at a serious pace. John's expression tells me that this isn't normal. Following behind at almost a run she leads us deep inside the hospital. The brilliant white corridor leads us to a door marked "Theatre". John passes her the box. As the door swings shut, I catch a glimpse inside, only to see gowned up doctors in a flurry of activity. A shiver sprints down my spine.



The nurse who led us to the door sees my shocked expression: "It's a young child, that blood should make the difference" she says. What started out as a story on a bunch of blokes who transport blood in their spare time has just become very, very real.

I walk outside to the bikes and grab a breath of fresh air, still trying to come to terms with what just happened. My heart is pounding and I feel faintly sick. John meets me outside and I ask him if that's normal. "No, I usually just give the bag to the nurse at reception" he says "That wasn't normal"

Looking at him, I can see it's hit him hard too—the ride back to his house is certainly slower than normal. When we get there, John's wife makes me a coffee while he checks in with the controller to let them know he's arrived home safely and is ready for another call. He might be, but I'm not, I head home reeling from what I've just seen.

These are the volunteers who give up their time to put a little back in to the NHS. Without the men and women of Serv giving up their time to help, many more families might be grieving today. I for one, would like to publicly thank them for that.

By Jon Urry - Freelance Journalist

Selling your old mobile?

Serv OBN have teamed up with "SHP for Charity".

If you sell them your old phone, Serv OBN will receive 20% of the value of your phone.

You can increase the amount we receive up to 100% if you so wish.

Please visit www.shpforcharity.co.uk/servobn For more details

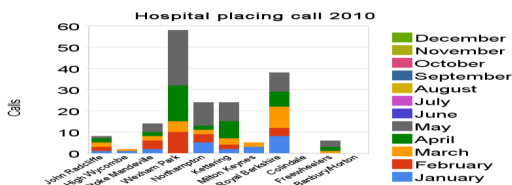
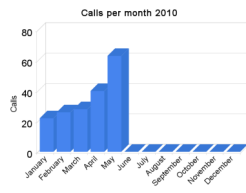


Call Logs

Serv OBNB completed 63 runs in May, bringing our total number of runs this year to 183!

At the current rate, our year end total looks to be heading for more than 500 runs. Realistically, with ever increasing demand on our service, the final figure for this year is likely to be much higher.

Our heaviest user is Wexham Park for the second month in a row, with Northampton General moving up to 2nd place and Kettering General and Royal Berks in joint 3rd place!



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Benny to do a Sponsored Hike to raise funds for Serv



Benny Rabouhi is planning another fund raising event on behalf of SERV.

This years plan is to travel light and fast, he is going to run/speed march 93 miles of the west highland way in Scotland in under 40 hours non

stop. This route is classed as moderate to strenuous and usually takes about 6-7 days to walk. Benny will be doing it unsupported and will have to run with everything he needs to survive on the highlands for the best part of 2 days. If you want to sponsor Benny, you can download the sponsorship form from....
www.servobn.org.uk/newsletter/sponsorshipform.doc

Fuel cards for the fleet.....

On the basis of "If we never ask for it, we'll never get it", We asked the biggest fuel management company in the UK if they would supply us with fuel cards for all of the SERV vehicles free of charge...and they said "Yes".



So, very soon each SERV bike (in all the counties) will be issued with a fuel card. It will bring an end to the cumbersome method of sending a receipt to Mel (our treasurer) and getting a refund through the electronic banking system. Arval offers the leading fuel management service in the UK and

more than 1.2 million of their fuel cards are now used.

Riders can use Arval fuel cards at 95% of the major UK filling stations where the AllStar logo is displayed. This includes all the leading fuel brands, motorway services and low-cost super-market sites.

With such a large network of fuel stations to choose from, our riders won't waste time and fuel searching for somewhere to refuel.

Arval, Don't just do fuel-

cards, they also do contract hire, Fuel, Maintenance, Risk & Accident management and other Driver Solutions. Visit www.arval.co.uk for more details.

