Queen of Bikers joins festival line-up!

Monday 15 February, 2016

Prescott Bike Festival - Sunday 17 April 2016

Prescott Hill Climb, Gotherington, Nr Cheltenham GL52 9RD

The biggest annual fundraiser for the Blood Bike charities

Prescott Bike Festival takes place once again on Sunday 17th April 2016 at Prescott Hill Climb, near Cheltenham. The Festival prides itself on its diversity and celebrates engineering excellence; from rare, classic, modern, customised to hand built bikes and those of historic significance, this year the organisers have secured the most diverse motorcycles yet, from the World's fastest shopping trolley powered by a Chinook helicopter engine (holds record speed of 70.4mph/ 113.298kmh), the Carlos Checa's MotoGP bike through to Bob Farmer, winner of the 1966 Lightweight Manx TT with his 1960's Aermacchi (the model he took the win on).

We are delighted to announce that Blood Bike ambassador and 'Queen of Bikers' Maria Costello MBE is the latest personality to join the line-up for this year's Prescott Bike Festival. Maria is best known for being the female TT lap record holder and first woman to ever secure a podium finish at the Manx Grand Prix. She has held the Guinness World Record for the fastest woman to lap the Isle of Man TT Course, with an average speed of 114.73mph, and is currently the fastest female ever around the Ulster Grand Prix course. Maria was awarded an MBE in 2009 for services to motorcycling. Maria founded “Woman on a Motorcycle” in 2012, her women only track days is for women of all riding abilities, that wish to improve their riding skills, gain confidence, receive support, training and guidance from Maria. This will be Maria's debut at Prescott and she is really looking forward to taking to the historic hill climb course.

Unlike a static bike show, Prescott gives visitors the unique opportunity to get up close to see smell and hear lots of historic, classic and race bikes run the historic hill climb course; “better than Goodwood”, said one excited visitor. There are so many significant motorcycles heading to Prescott this year including the Kevin Schwantz' 1995 Suzuki RGV500 XR85, the last Suzuki GP bike Schwantz ever rode.

Whilst there are just too many entries to mention, here are a few to whet your appetite;

- A 1988 Bimota YB6, 1000cc - One of only 510 YB6's built by Bimota with the FZR1000 engine. This bike was owned by the President of the Bimota Club in Italy, before being imported to the UK in 2015 by present owner
- A 1989 Yamaha FZR750RR OW01, 750cc. Only 500 of these bikes were builtto homologate them for World Superbike entry, most of which went straight onto the race track, with very few remaining in road trim
- A 1997 Honda CBR600 600cc World Supersport race bike formally raced by James Toseland
- The 2002 Vertemati Supermoto 570cc David Jeffries Supermoto factory race bike
- The 2005 Honda Fireblade 1000cc, Ex Ian Hughes TT bike, Southern 100 winner and Macau GP bike
- Plus an incredible collection of KTM SuperMoto bikes, including the British Championship winning machine

For the first time, we welcome riders from British Mini Bikes plus Talan Skeels Piggins, the world's first paraplegic racer, in between racing his SV650 and skiing for Great Britain, he runs the charity 'The Bike Experience' helping soldiers injured in combat to get back on a bike.

Another Prescott debut will be Tom 'The Atom' Anable, a Lincolnshire based rider, who has designed, built and engineered several Monowheel machines that has held several records. It's sure to be a great spectacle, when he completes an extraordinary run of the renowned hill climb course.

Also in the paddock, will be Nuclear Research Engineer and iconic motorcycle builder Allen Millyard who will regularly fire up, and take to the hill on his home-built 'Flying Millyard'. Despite resembling a classic 1920s sedate two-wheeled Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, this beast has two cylinders from a Pratt and Whitney 1340 radial, and a 5.0-litre V-Twin, engine designed for an aeroplane.

Prescott Bike festival is truly a big celebration of man and machine with large displays of historic, modern and race bikes, plus a Paddock Specials Show 'n' Tell area and the unique opportunity for members of the public to take part in the spectacle by 'running the hill' or participating in a thrilling passenger ride

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experience.There's also a whole raft of entertainment too from live music, stunt shows, biker celebrity appearances and hundreds of trade stands, motorcycle manufacturers, dealer zone, motorcycle clubs, demo areas - what's more it helps to raise vital money and awareness for the Blood Bike charities.

There's so much to see and do:

Ride: You can ride the world famous Prescott Hill and be a Star of the Show, entries are limited and all places for 2016 are now booked but there's lots of general admission tickets – book now to save 20% off the gate price

See: Get up close and personal with over 100 historic, rare, modern, factory race bikes, one off special builds and more.Lunchtime interviews in the Paddock with the riders and their bikes. Plus Club stands, Motorcycle manufacturers and more.

Do: Take the ride of your life with a thrilling passenger ride experience in a Formula Two or Watsonian Squire Sidecar, a Morgan Three Wheeler, Grinnall Trike or Scorpion – available to purchase on the day (leathers required). The Army Reserve will be attending with a Man SV Recovery Truck and providing Career advice; plus visitors can try their hand on the climbing wall and Airsoft Rifle Range.

Meet: Come and meet our special 'biker' celebs including;James Hillier, Lightweight TT (650cc) outright lap record, a member of the exclusive '132 club' and the 3rd fastest man round the TT course; former British Superbike and Isle of Man TT road racer Steve Plater; multiple British and Australia Supermoto champion, Chris Hodgson; son of 'Mike the Bike' David Hailwood plus BSB rider Richard Cooper, Charlie Nesbitt and for something a little bit bonkers - Matt McKeown and his World's Fastest jet-powered Shopping Trolley! Plus lots more yet to be announced!

Watch: 'On The Edge' motorcycle stunt show - probably the best Trials Stunt Show we've ever seen. Plus the welcome return of the George Formby tribute act from the motorcycle film, No Limit? He'll also take to the hill on his 1920 'Shuttleworth Snap'

Buy: Bring lots of cash, with over 100 trade stands and all the motorcycle manufacturers there's bound to be something you like.

Plus:Live music by 1950s inspired rockabilly band, **Josie and the Outlaw plus Chickenbone John and his custom guitars! And great food and drink throughout the day.**

Prescott Bike Festival is a '*Must Do'* day out for all motorcycling enthusiasts. What's more, all event proceeds of the event go to The Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes and Severn Freewheelers.

Gates Opens at: 08:30am, Track starts at: 10:00am, Festival closes at: 17:00.

Exclusive infield motorcycle parking for Pre-1990 motorcycles: limited numbers, advance booking essential.

Advance general admission tickets cost just £12 and are available online at: www.prescottbikefestival.co.uk

Free parking, free motorcycle side stand puck and free helmet park for bikers
All details of exhibitors and celebrity appearances are available on the website.

Notes to editors:

Event Address: Prescott Bike Festival, Gotherington, nr Cheltenham, GL52 9RD, just 15 minutes from the M5.

About The Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes

The Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes is the umbrella organisation representing 24 regional blood bike charities, all providing a motorcycle based, free delivery service to the NHS; moving vital medical supplies, blood and pathology samples from medical centres and hospitals throughout the UK. NABB member groups are closely involved in the transport of frozen human milk from the donor to the milk processing banks. This has been a real lifesaver due to the necessity of very premature babies having intolerance to anything but human milk. Run entirely by volunteers, NABB member groups have over 1500 active members with a fleet of 120+ emergency response vehicles. All NABB riders are trained in the movement of medical essentials and operate from individual regional charities but with a common goal – to alleviate suffering and reduce the funding pressures on the NHS.

Severn Freewheelers is the regional Blood Bike group operating Gloucestershire, Hereford & Worcester and North Wiltshire. Over 70 volunteers help Severn Freewheelers carry out a much-needed service. Severn Freewheelers runs five BMW R1200RTs and a Honda ST1300; all are emergency response equipped and the members handle some 4,000 call outs per annum, covering 150,000 miles.

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