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Shelsley boost for bike event

THE first ever Bike Festival was held at Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb where riders of any machines could 'ride the hill' while also celebrating a general 'bikefest' for motor-cycling enthusiasts.

The event was organised by the Severn Freewheelers Blood Bike Charity and attracted over 200 riders on a wide variety of machines ranging from a 1914 Douglas, through decades of commuter, chopper, cruiser, sports and touring bikes, right up to the very latest Ducati 899 Superbike.

The Blood Bikes Charity provides a voluntary night-time, weekend and Bank Holiday service delivering life-saving blood and medical supplies to hospitals in Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, North Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and the Forest of Dean.

MOTORSPORT

Charity committee member and event organiser Gordon Downie, said: "We have a pool of 80 riders on our books, all volunteers but highly trained, who can be out in all weathers and we have three bikes on call from 7pm until 7am, 365 days a year.

"Being a charity we need to raise around £64,000 a year just to operate, so to have the opportunity to stage this festival event at the iconic Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb is simply fantastic as all proceeds raised will go towards our operating funds.

"Thanks must go to the Midlands Automobile Club committee who have helped with the organisation and supported the event so well, which provides a fully marshalled, but untimed chance

for riders of all ages and their varied machines to actually ride up the famous hill, with feedback from both guests and visiting riders so far being very positive indeed."

One of the demonstration riders taking part was Guernsey man Zef Eisenberg, who brought along his monstrous record-breaking, but fully road legal and registered 225mph Turbine Streetfighter bike, powered by a Rolls Royce Augusta helicopter engine, which thrilled the crowds with its smoke blasting 'vapour trail' party trick.

Another enthusiast was renowned constructor Allen Millyard, from Thatcham in Berkshire, who brought his hand-built Flying Millyard motorcycle, featuring a five-litre Pratt & Whitney Radial Aero engine.



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ON THE STARTING LINE: Zef Eisenberg on his turbine streetfighter bike takes on the hill.