

News

Sidecar send-off for biker Michael

HUNDREDS OF RIDERS ATTEND FUNERAL OF CHARITY CHAMPION, 75



Hundreds of bikers attend the funeral of Michael Flett at Lodge Hill Crematorium



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HUNDREDS of bikers, a coffin in a Harley Davidson sidecar and a toy chimpanzee turned heads as Birmingham said farewell to charity champion Michael Flett yesterday.

Michael, who died at the age of 75 this month after battling cancer, was afforded a full 'biker's funeral' as an estimated 400 riders formed a guard of honour all the way from the family

home in Northfield to Lodge Hill Crematorium, four miles away.

The procession was led by five Midland Freewheelers' 'blood bikes' - which ferry vital blood donations - in honour of the money Michael had raised for the charity.

They were followed by his coffin in a Harley-Davidson sidecar "so that he could listen to the noise of the bike." Next came wife Christine, 71, in a car, then the remarkable long ride of bikers with more trikes, cars and vans behind.

It was a fitting tribute to Michael, a driver of lorries, coaches - including the former Big Brum Buz open-top tourist attraction - and motorbikes. Above all, said his family, he loved life out on the open road on two wheels.

Everywhere he went, he would make friends and put smiles on faces, raising thousands of pounds for charitable causes. If he wasn't dressed as Santa, in his later years he would be carrying a toy chimpanzee to break the ice with sick children.

That very same chimp put in an appearance at the service, which was so well attended that a PA system had to be used to broadcast proceedings to the many members of the crowd who could not fit inside the 150-capacity crematorium. The family had 1,000 remembrance photographs printed for mourners.

The service included jokes, anecdotes, memories and the music of Queen, The Rolling Stones and ... Jasper Carrott's Funky Moped.

Youngest son Steven said Michael always managed to make people laugh. "When he had Jasper Carrott on the bus, Jasper told him off, saying: 'Oi, I'm the comedian!'"

"And when former world motor racing champion Nigel Mansell was on board, he was crying with laughter at Dad's sense of humour.

"We celebrated the life of Michael Flett telling stories and the odd joke. Strange thing to say but we hope everyone enjoyed the day."

After the funeral, the wake was

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