

Baylon's on track for charity



Baylon McCaughey's charity pin badge.

Courier motorcycle correspondent in badge fundraiser for NI Chest, Heart and Stroke

BY IAN GREER

A well-known Cookstown motorcyclist is on track to give something back to Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke after being a recipient of much-needed treatment by the charity.

Baylon McCaughey, 61, of Lissan Road, is a former competitor on off-road and tarmac events for more than 35 years.

A past Irish short circuit champion and winner of his local Cookstown "100" Road Races, Baylon is also a renowned photographer and journalist. As the Courier's motorcycle correspondent, his column has, and continues to be, widely read

for more than 30 years.

Baylon has also been involved in the MCUI (UC) Training School which helps young riders, and more recently established the Baylon McCaughey Scholarship with the Irish Minibike Championship Pit Bike racing series.

A popular person on the Irish road racing scene on both sides of the border, Baylon is selling badges based on his old crash helmet design and a percentage of the sales will go to the NI Chest, Heart and Stroke charity.

In 2018, Baylon felt a shortage of breath and was sent to Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital by his doctor, where he subsequently received seven heart stents over the space of two years.

A non drinker or smoker, Baylon was "one of the lucky ones" and is alive to tell the story of his



Baylon in action at Mondello during his racing days.

recovery from his heart issues.

"Thanks to their unfailing care and aftercare treatment, I feel much better," stated Baylon. "I would like to show my gratitude by giving something back to NI Chest, Heart and Stroke, so I decided to sell a badge, of which a percentage of sales will go to the charity.

"The badge design has been approved by all the relevant authorities and is now available to order.

"The badge carries the same design of my crash helmet I used when racing. This was based on my childhood hero, Brian Steenson, who was sadly killed at the 1970 Isle of Man TT races, which coincidentally was my first visit to the TT races."

Baylon, who collects motorcycling badges himself, always dreamed of having his own. He has sold 150 out of 500 of his badges so far and hopes to sell most of them.

"I have a collection of badges of different riders and races from

over the years and always thought of having a badge of my own for my collection.

"I just never got round to it or never really thought about it," said the local man.

"I'm not a top level racer, but I was lucky enough to win a championship."

A popular person at all road racing and short circuit meetings in Northern Ireland and the south of Ireland, Baylon has always been very supportive of clubs, riders, officials and marshals when it comes to fundraising events over the years.

Now it is our turn to show Baylon our support by purchasing one of his badges and supporting the Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke charity.

The badges are on sale for £6 in Northern Ireland and £7 in the Republic of Ireland - including postage and packaging. Stickers are also available for £1.

For more information on the badges, email: baylonmccaughey82@gmail.com.



Courier motorcycle columnist Baylon McCaughey.



Baylon's helmet is modelled on that of his motorcycle hero, Brian Steenson.