

Road Safety Partnership receives a commendation from the Prince Michael International Road Safety Awards



FRONT ROW (L to R): Duncan Chisholm (MFR), Donald McDonald (Two Wheelers), Ginno Conti (MFR)

BACK ROW (L to R): Trevor Murray (Mitchell's Motorcycles), Kevin Mathieson (Mitchell's Motorcycles), Chief Constable Ian Latimer, Constable John Hier, Inspector John Smith, Laura Fisher, Seargent Neil Lumsden, Seargent Innes Smith, Alan Knox (Scottish Ambulance Service), Constable Neil Robinson, Danny Gallagher (MFR)

Chief Constable Ian Latimer praised partners for their contribution to road safety education and awareness through collaborative working.

Representatives from MFR, the Scottish Ambulance Service, Two Wheelers and Mitchells Motorcycles along with Northern Constabulary recently received a commendation at the Prince Michael International Road Safety Awards and received a personal note of thanks from the Chief Constable, at an informal presentation on the 2nd December 2009.

The collaboration between Northern Constabulary and MFR began in 2005 on the Safe Journey campaign, aimed at encouraging better driver behaviour. Since then the partnership has grown to incorporate the Scottish Ambulance Service, Two Wheelers Motorcycle Training School and Mitchell's Motorcycles to promote safer motorcycling through Bike Safe.

In 2008, Bike Safe saw three staff from MFR learning to ride, recording the whole process and documenting their experiences on air. The campaign continued in 2009 with the focus being very much on advanced riding, group riding, clothing, bike maintenance and rider tips, of which a DVD was recorded to promote the scheme.

Road Safety Officer, Laura Fisher talked of the importance of the partnership: "In working together we are better able to get the message across to road users, and linking in with Two Wheelers and Mitchell's Motorcycles especially, gives us direct contact with those we are trying to communicate with.

"So much of the road safety campaigns we are involved in are about more than just enforcement, we have to educate, inform and most importantly communicate with road users in order to help with the prevention of collisions."

Chief Constable Ian Latimer praised: "It is not only important that we encourage partnership working but that we recognise when good work has been done.

"With road safety being one of the Force priorities, I hope these campaigns will continue to grow and improve to contribute to the safety of our communities within the Highlands and Islands."