



Sporting Bears Motor Club

Driving for Charity



POLAR NEWS

No. 75 August 2012

FROM YOUR EDITOR

A warm welcome back to John Ducker who has rejoined the Polar Bears after a short lapse! Many thanks to Jeff Ferris for some of the photos of the Lammermuir Lope and to Fiona for her Coldingham Gala article.

CAR NEWS

Wee Hamish - Mary Jane Ferris' Mini Cooper Sport that featured in February's newsletter now has a new owner - ME! He was For Sale, I'd been thinking of getting a smaller, more economical car and went for the impulse buy - have to say I'd forgotten what fun li'l Mins can be!

THIRLESTANE DREAM RIDES 2012

Standard opening sentence: "The forecast for the Dream Rides weekend did not look promising" and that was despite the event having been moved to a week later in June to accommodate a Jubilee celebration at the Castle. However by Saturday morning it had at least stopped raining and after a pleasant lunch at The Lauderdale, kindly organised by Kate, the group of volunteers set about laying out the garage area and erecting the gazebos in what seemed like record time. The question "Has anyone got any sun cream?" was even heard! A very big thank you to Brian Kirkness for once again transporting all the drums, poles and bunting and co-ordinating the erection of the booking tent as well as taking them back home on Sunday night to store for another year. Thanks also to his company K&I for providing the fire extinguishers.

The monsoon conditions returned overnight and I visualised there



being a tailback of cars down the Castle drive and back to Lauder High Street. Whilst it was wet and muddy in parts of the showground the marshals did an excellent job of keeping the cars moving on Sunday morning and most of the 22 cars made it in time for the drivers' briefing. There had been a flurry of last minute cancellations - Grant, having just rebuilt the Messerschmitt engine, failed to get the car MOT'd because he forgot the Dream Rides event had been moved a week. He usually gets it done on the Saturday but on Saturday the 9th the garage was closed as all the mechanics had gone to the TT races! Oops... Most unfortunately the driver's windscreen wiper mechanism on Tony Beverley's Marcos packed in on his way home on the Friday afternoon leading to his withdrawal whilst new member, Patrick Hearn, was unable to get written approval from his insurers in time - very disappointing for all of us.

Once again the public were spoiled for choice with 6 new cars joining the regular favourites this year. We were pleased to welcome 2 Committee Members: Boo Grant, who had a horrendous journey up from the south in her Hawk Cobra with no wet weather gear; and Keith and Ann Borkett who also had a challenging drive northwards in the Jaguar SS100. Hopefully the warm welcome made up for this. Trevor Maycock's Jaguar E-type roadster proved very popular as did the Ferrari F430 F1 Spider belonging to Graham Chappell. The oldest car in the line-up was a 1912 Vauxhall Prince Henry which was the first British built sports car.



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I had my own exhilarating Dream Ride in this wonderful vehicle. Perched high above the road and with no windscreen it proved a very bracing and exciting experience. Braking was done using the hand brake and gear changes rather than the foot brake! Other British cars attending were 4 TVRs – a Chimaera 400, a Chimaera 450, a Cerbera and a 400SE; 2 Jaguars – an XK Convertible and a XKR; a Morgan Series 2 4/4. Our muscle cars this year included a Dodge Viper, a Shelby rep A K Cobra (great to see Bob and Ann Selby back in good health, having missed last year's event) and a Lancia Delta Integrale. For eccentric fun there was the Pembleton Grasshopper, a Messerschmitt and a Heinkel which, along with James McChery's Lamborghini Diablo claimed top spot with 10 rides each. Completing the line-up were a Mercedes SLK 200, a Mini Cooper Sport and a Ferrari 355 GTS. I am pleased to say that all cars went out and we sent a record breaking 94 rides down the drive. Sunday wasn't without its incidents for a couple of the drivers. Phil Robert's had commented on Saturday that the Morgan had become a little reluctant to start so we weren't entirely surprised when the SOS message arrived early on Sunday morning saying he and Daniel were still in Earlston as the car had failed to start. Kate, who was our Driver Liaison person this year, immediately jumped in her car with Mike's starting pack but for various reasons this didn't provide the answer and so the rescue service was called out. We had resigned to their not making it again this year so were delighted when an hour later they appeared. A broken coil had been diagnosed and like a good boy scout Phil was well prepared with a spare in the boot. Play was cut short on Sunday afternoon for the TVR Cerbera. Andrew takes up the story: I am sorry that I had to "pull the plug" on taking people out - I was pretty sure (but not quite 100%) that it would be ok, but at one point when Phil and I were diagnosing, there

was a shower of sparks and we couldn't see where they were coming from (the heat shield going "live" when we jiggled the wires, as it happens, but you couldn't see that at the time, but you can see the burn marks on it now!). The main fuel feed and return run just past there, and Cerberas (and Chimaeras for that matter) have been known to burst into flames in that area because of perished fuel lines, and that almost inevitably results in a total loss. Although my pipes have been renewed and are heat-shielded and insulated (for that very reason), I didn't want to take the risk when there was a danger of sparks in that same area - people find it hard enough to locate the right button to open the door anyway, without the added pressure of flames licking round their vitals. I didn't think, either, that a pre-flight safety briefing along the lines of "in the event that the car catches fire, lift that bit of carpet and pull the emergency handle" would go down well." Prior to Andrew having to withdraw he had taken out a young lad who had commented with a large grin on his face "I've left my spine in that car! For an old guy, he sure can drive."



There was one particularly happy family in attendance. Lorraine Thomson from Galashiels had won one of the vouchers in a publicity competition run by BVAC in the local press. She, her husband Rob and their family Finlay and Emma were joined by friend Frankie Lee. It was certainly their lucky day as she also won the Raffle prize bear. She later e-mailed me to say "We had a great day and especially want to thank the Sporting Bears as we had lots of fun riding in the

cars (especially the Vauxhall Prince Henry!!) and Emma loves the bear - she's taken it everywhere to show everyone she knows." This certainly made up for her not being able to take a ride in a micro car because she was too young.

I must sincerely thank EVERYONE who helped make this event so successful and a special thank you to Mike Webber for all his support prior to the Dream Rides weekend despite him still being in post-op recovery. Hexham Horseless Carriages kindly supplied me with tax disk holders whilst Global Maritime Scotland printed off a supply of the passenger indemnity forms. Dick and Pat also donated the lovely bear (Bruno) for the raffle. It was a pleasure to meet recently joined Polars Istar Macias-Brun, Nicola Hocking and Graeme Ross for the first time.

I am pleased to pass on the following message received from Bronwyn Coggan, Chairperson from the Borders Children's Charity. "Wow £2,635 is a staggering amount!!! Gosh I'm totally floored by such an incredible amount raised! And it's all thanks to yourself and the amazing Polar Bear team you have, and of course the generosity of the lovely team of drivers. You and the Polar Bear team were also so kind and inclusive so that Clare, Linda and her daughter Katie and I, really thoroughly enjoyed the day and being involved in such a warm and friendly atmosphere. Clare and I also really appreciated the generosity of the drivers to treating us to a thrilling ride to remember – Brian so kindly took me and then Keith with the silver Jag took Clare. We look forward to hearing from you to arrange a formal presentation and meeting more wonderful Polars – what a terrific bunch!! Once again, please pass on our thanks to your amazing team, Ann, Brian and the wonderful ladies with the tea/coffee and 'to die for' cake, as well as all of the others whom I'm so sorry I fail to recall all by name."

Fiona Davies

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THE LAMMERMUIR LOPE

Jeff and Mary Jane Ferris set up a superb weekend around the Coldingham Gala. The Polar Bears were having a stand at the Gala on Sunday but Jeff and Mary-Jane organised the most enjoyable Lammermuir Lope on the Saturday. The Saturday dawned wet at Roslin, but cleared as we went down the coast and met up with the other entrants at Coldingham in blustery sunshine. It was good to meet new local Polars Paul and Lynne Warner in their Porsche.



There were eight cars due to go on the Lope, but unfortunately Brian Short had an altercation with a caravan on the A1 - luckily no-one was hurt. So, that left seven entrants raring to go and we set off at 5 minute intervals to do a beautifully scenic 57 mile run - including two fords - to the Riverside Restaurant at Abbey St Bathans.

After a tasty lunch and a quick look at the artwork on show, we set off



for the 20 miles back to Coldingham - through another, deeper ford - and then the rain started. Everyone adjourned to the Ferris' for coffee while Brian and myself took the wee Mini for a spin before writing out the cheque!



The three course dinner was at the New Inn, Coldingham and a) was delicious, b) had very generous portions and c) was enjoyed by all. After dinner, there was a fiendish Ferris foto quiz - we had been warned to keep an eye open for things of note on the route. Well, I was driving and my navigator was asleep - so we didn't do well. Although we recognised about half of the photos, we couldn't put them in order - it is a lot harder than you'd think! However, it was entertaining and was won by Mike and Fiona. We then had the raffle - I think just about everyone got a prize and raised £75 for SACHD - along with £35 from the entry fees. A most enjoyable day and many thanks to Jeff and Mary Jane for organising it so well.



THE COLDINGHAM GALA

The sun was shining as we left our B&B overlooking Coldingham Bay on Sunday morning and headed to the show ground. Our usual entrance was blocked by a car parked by a resident who had gone off on holiday so we had to



negotiate a kerb with a dip in the ground on the other side of it which resulted in my scraping the MR2's bottom and Kate catching the front skirt of the Audi. By the time Ron arrived with the TVR the attendants had found some pieces of wood to make an improvised ramp and with Mike's guidance he managed to clear it. Despite the recent rain the ground had drained well in most parts and we got the gazebo safely erected and the bears displayed. On going back to the estate to get the Cool Wall I realised that my blue car was now sporting a great number of white spots while George's Mercedes parked next to it had large splats to seagull poo down one side. Thanks to Dick producing his spray bottle of water from the boot of the Jag and Jeff returning home to fill a watering can we managed to clean the cars before the show opened to the public. I was just glad that the hood had been up at the time of the bombardment!

Sheila and Pat did sterling work in selling the bears whilst Kate and I concentrated on engaging the public with the Cool Wall. Ron was Sheila's first customer of the day having declared "I need a bigger one to be the same as David Bruce and Andrew Carrie!" (fellow TVR owners). Sheila of course ensured that the bear's fur was a perfect match for the Chimaera upholstery as well as its size being a perfect fit



between the seats. Brian, Dick, Ron and George talked cars with the interested public. Apart from one short sharp shower, which awoke the dozing Brian in the V8 Roadster, we had a dry and, at times, hot day. Ice-creams were even consumed. First, second and third prize rosettes were awarded

See You Soon!

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Sunday 9 September Knockhill Classic Speedfair – fundraising display.

Contact Andrew Carrie
Andrew@acarrie.net Tel. 07798 646844

Sunday 16 September Twice as Shiny, Leyburn followed by Lunch. Spaces still available.

Contact Jim Harris. Tel. 07980 693505
jimmini@btinternet.com

16 - 18 November NEC Dream Rides
Contact Andrew Lake

andrew.lake@rockingham.co.uk

Sunday 2 December Lunch, Collingwood Arms, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland. Contact Fiona Davies

by the show organisers to the TVR Chimaera, the Jaguar XJS and the MG V8 Roadster.

At 4 o'clock we packed away the gear and the remaining bears, said our goodbyes and thanked Jeff and Mary-Jane for organising a great weekend. To avoid negotiating the steep slope and kerb we decided to exit via the back of the fairground and a couple of attendants were on hand to guide the cars through the restricted space. A slight misjudgement on Mike's part resulted in the front wheel of the estate clipping the end of the roundabout steps and although he immediately checked before leaving the car park within 100 yards it was obvious he had damaged the tyre so we pulled into the flat entrance to the caravan park and with Ron's help proceeded to empty out the car, change the tyre and reload before heading home at a stately 50 mph. Now, if only the seagull had targeted the estate we mightn't have had such bad luck! Another £221 was generated from Sunday's bear sales and Cool Wall donations – an excellent result. We look forward to making the £331 donation to the Scottish Association

for Children with Heart Disorders.
Fiona

SHEILA AS QUEEN OF THE BLAYDON RACES

Our Champion Bear Seller, Sheila, has had the honour of naming the railway engine "Blaydon Races" with Alan Shearer recently. The naming ceremony took place on the 150th anniversary of the first performance of the song "Blaydon Races" which has become the Tyneside National Anthem. Sheila was the 1962 Blaydon Races Centenary Queen and was asked to participate in the 2012 150th anniversary celebrations. She still had the sash, and tiara from 1962 in her treasured possessions! After the naming she was presented with a full size replica of the nameplate on the train. You can see video of the naming on the internet (google "blaydon races 2012 east coast"). If you also google "1962 blaydon races centenary youtube" you can see a 45 minute amateur film of the 1962 centenary celebrations. Well done Sheila!

REACT

At the end of May we received a letter from our dear friend Vicky Andreas at REACT. This is what she said: "It gives me great pleasure to write to you today with an update on the NEC Dream Rides magnificent donation of £8,250 and show how it was put to immediate good use. REACT is extremely grateful for the continued support the Sporting Bears has shown to our work in Scotland and this incredible donation has allowed the charity to positively respond to requests that otherwise would simply have been refused. Please find enclosed a report with details of how the Sporting Bears have enable REACT to provide vital equipment and assistance to 16 children and their families, living in Scotland. I also enclose a copy of REACT's newsletter highlighting the incredible commitment the Sporting Bears have shown to our work in Scotland. Once again, thank you so much for all you do for REACT's families and please pass on my love

and best wishes to all those who made this generous donation possible."

To preserve confidentiality we cannot publish the names and towns from which the children come but here are some of the 16 items totalling £8,282.77 which were bought. They range from a specialist buggy (£3,857), Medical storage (£358), Bed and Orthopaedic Mattress (£544), Cot (£219), Bedroom adaptations (£319), Nursing chair (£379), Breathing Motor (£102) to a Sensory toy (£69). The families are living as far north as Huntly and Aberdeen, Stirlingshire, Lanarkshire, Glasgow and south to Dunoon. Her confidential report elaborating on the cases of 4 of the children made for very difficult reading.

In a reply to my follow-up e-mail Vicky also said: "We absolutely adore the Sporting Bears, you all have been so good to REACT so it is our pleasure to include you in our newsletter. Funnily enough, I was not far from you a couple of week's ago when adding to the fleet of REACT mobile homes. We are now the proud owner of a home on the East Coast in Seton Sands, only 30 minutes away from Edinburgh. I am sure it will be a very popular holiday destination for children receiving treatment at RHSC and look forward to welcoming families during the summer months."

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Have a nice day!