



Sporting Bears Motor Club

Driving for Charity



POLAR NEWS

No. 83 December 2013

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Jeff and Mary-Jane Ferris are off to the Bahamas - but as they will be spending time in Britain, they'll stay as Polars. Glad to hear it!

Thanks to Nimal, Fiona, Trevor Woodward, Alastair Campbell and Bob Selby for contributions this month.

WELCOME

We'd like to welcome new member Thomas Gunn from Buckie.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH



A most pleasant lunch was had by 24 Polar Bears and thanks to Nimal Jayaranta for the photos. Chris Pollin and Claire Howie came to The Collingwood for the first time as did Richard and Charlotte Talbot who were introduced to the Bears by Richard's parents, Kevin and Sandy, also there enjoying lunch. £145 was raised by the raffle with a donation from George and Sheila Dodds taking it up to £170 for



REACT. Everyone got at least one prize and I was delighted to get choccies for Brian and a Mini Cooper calendar and diary for me!



Fiona reviewed the recent events with Bo'ness Hillclimb raising £275 for SACHD, the Johnny Herbert evening in Newcastle raised £200 from Trevor Woodward and the Motherwell one had to be postponed until February. The Dream Rides at the NEC was even more successful, raising £41,000 to be split amongst 6 charities - one of which is SACHD.

Bob and Ann Selby and Chris Pollin and Claire Howie went to ECCDS headquarters to be shown around and present the £750 from Corbridge.



Keep in Touch!

www.sportingbears.org.uk

Zoe's Place received the Johnny Herbert money and £1000 from Raby Castle Dream Rides.

Alastair Campbell did a European Tour with a couple of friends raising £811 for Whizz-Kidz (who will also benefit from the 2014 raffles) and Nimal raised £272 for the Children's Section of the Army Benevolent Fund.

George and Sheila have suggested **Smile for Life** as a charity we could support - it helps youngsters that are moving from full-time education but aren't ready to cope on their own.

The funds for the replacement gazebo have reached £640 of the £870 needed. The new Membership Secretary is updating the Polar database regularly and Fiona will stay on for another year as Polar Bear Rep thanks to the support she is receiving from Polars like Mike Webber, Andrew Carrie and Bob Selby.

Finally next year's calendar was discussed and we all headed for home in the quite tricky low sun.

CAR UPDATE



Mike Webber has replaced his Jaguar XK Convertible with a Maserati Spyder which Helen says "travels well, complete with heated seats for cold days!"

POLARS AT THE NEC

A number of Polars regularly make their annual pilgrimage down to the NEC and this year was no exception. Brian Short was on garage duty as usual with Istar helping to sell raffle tickets; Mike Webber and Paul Bonsall again offered Rides in their Dino Rep and Austin Healey respectively whilst Alasdair Campbell attended for the first time with his Jaguar XJS. Alas Phil Robert's Morgan was unavailable



but he and wee – or not so wee now – lad Daniel were helping with



driver signing on and passenger loading. Helen Webber took a turn on the booking desk whilst Mike, I and Claire Howie worked the car display boards and encouraged people to sign up. Someone not needing additional encouragement to book Rides was Chris Pollin who ventured out on several Rides over 2 days and this included a Ride in the electric Tesla which he found most impressive. There was a tremendous array of cars to choose from: a brace of Bentleys, numerous TVRs of differing models



and paint jobs, a selection of Ferraris, Caterhams, Lotus and MGs with the quirkiest vehicle being the split screen VW Campervan followed closely by the perennial favourite JUST NOD. Mike and Noddy became good friends over the weekend! My own classic favourite was the Vanwall whilst the McLaren MP4-12FC in a to-die-for shade of metallic red was absolutely stunning. Predictably the car which raised most donations at £120 a Ride was the Lamborghini Aventador which went out, I'm told, on over 25 Rides. Despite the stand and garage area being located in Hall 11 this year with less space available and not all cars being parked indoors, this was yet another record year with the Rides themselves raising over £39,000 and a further £2,000 came from other sources including the raffle, passenger photos and the chance to sit in the Mustang known as "Hercules". The 6 charities which were nominated by the Club Regional Reps will be extremely pleased with their share of this great result. The Polar charity benefitting this year is the Scottish Assoc for Children with Heart Disorders.

Fiona



Visit us on the Web!

www.sportingbears.org.uk

WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!!!!



The chance to meet the legend that is Johnny Herbert triple grand prix winner, Le Mans winner and he drove a Lotus! What more could a mere mortal like me wish for?

We arrived at a wet and windy Newcastle City Hall at precisely 6.30 pm as requested to be greeted by 'Sporting...who? Well eventually someone from Nippa Productions appeared, still a little confused, but we managed to explain what we were doing there and were whisked off down the back passages of NCH. En-route the walls were lined with signed posters of Cliff Richard, Roy Chubby Brown and other mega stars. On arrival at the star's dressing room we were greeted by a very relaxed JH who had just driven 4 hours, thrashing his daughter's Mito to within an inch of its life.

You could tell that Johnny was used to the high life, we were only in the room minutes when he broke out the custard creams, fig biscuits and garibaldis, all washed down with coffee from cardboard cups. Now that's what I call showbiz !!! Well, as you can imagine, the talk soon moved to cars, in particular, the Lotus Evora which Johnny test drove and then posted the video on YouTube (I also drive one). What was it like to meet James Hunt (Tracey wanted to know as we had just been to see Rush the previous week) and his thoughts on TVR cars? All too soon the audience was over, we were given our 'access all areas' passes and told to sit anywhere, that is anywhere a ticket holding member of the public was not sitting! It's a good job the place was not fully sold out as we would have had to have sat on the

stage with Johnny or outside in his Benetton GP car. This was supposed to be inside but they could not get it through the stage doors. I seem to remember him getting it through tighter gaps at Silverstone!

We traced our steps back past the stars and socialised in the foyer like two 'B' listers (not blisters) at the Grammy's chatting to each other and waving our passes, not that anyone noticed. I did speak briefly to the two people rattling buckets for Zoe's Place and was really sorry to hear about the flooding. The bell rang so we peered into the hall to see if we could find a seat, no problem... we just asked Johnny to move up!

In the first session Johnny ran through his career from the early days of his under age carting, under age formula Ford and just generally being under age!!!! His short spell as a driver for a pharmaceutical supplier in north London! (well a sort of recreational pharmaceutical supplier unbeknown to Johnny). With short breaks to show videos and stills from his career and footage of his crash at Brands Hatch, we were immersed in the naughty nineties... fast cars and... fast... well for some of us. But all too soon the 90 minutes had passed and we were back in the foyer posing. There was a prize draw and five lucky winners would get the chance of a photo with Johnny in his car (I thought that was included with our package?) at the end of the show and would be drawn on stage at the start of the 2nd session.

The bell sounded and we made our way to our seats, several rows back from the front and settled in for the second session which after the draw (no luck in the draw) would consist of a Q&A session. The floor was thrown open to any questions from the audience which ranged from tyres, kers/ers (the new kers for 2014) the new regs for 2014, Eddie Jordan's hairpiece and was Mark Brundell really as grumpy as he looks when doing his grid walk? Someone even wanted to know what happened at the after race parties...Johnny nicely avoided that one.

All too soon the show was over and the lucky winners were queuing for

photographs in the car in the rain after which Johnny signed various cards, clothing and small children! He then sped off into the night for his return 4 hour Mito thrashing session. By the way his own car is a BMW X4... a hairdresser's car, his words not mine!

As for yours truly, we headed down the wet and windy road to dine on kebabs and lager as the only places still open at 12.00 on the quayside... what lightweights !!!!!

I would like to thank Sporting Bears, Johnny Herbert, Nippa Productions and all my sponsors, production team, friends and family for a wonderful night. Johnny was a great host and a nice chap, but I will not be signing up for Sky Sports as Suzy Perry is much better looking!

Trevor Woodward

ECCDS PRESENTATION



Bob and Anne Selby with Chris Pollin and Claire Howie presenting a cheque for £750 to ECCDS, an education charity for children with Down syndrome in the North-east . In return they were presented with a framed thank-you certificate. This money was raised at the Corbridge show on the display stand organised by Bob.

Mummy Polar Bear's Christmas Message

I would like to thank everyone for their friendship and support in the last 12 months and to wish you all a very enjoyable festive season. A special thank you has to go to your Editor, Helen Kirkness, aka Mrs Grrumpy and to Mike Davies for producing our Polar News and keeping you all informed of what is happening in our Polar Region. I look forward to another successful year and invite you to join in the Polar events we are planning for 2014.

Fiona

See You Soon!

www.sportingbears.org.uk



23 February – Lunch – Collingwood Arms, Cornhill-on-Tweed. Contact Fiona ysy705@aol.com

27 April – Doune Speed Hillclimb (near Callander). Club stand with opportunity to rehome bears. Charity supported CHAS. Contact Fiona ysy705@aol.com

9-11 May – The Tour with No Name See this page. Contact Paul Bonsall Tel 01539623242 or email enquiries@fatlamb.co.uk

18 May – Polar Lunch - Collingwood Arms, Cornhill-on-Tweed. Contact Fiona ysy705@aol.com

***1 June** – Thirlestane Dream Rides. Charity supported - Borders Children's Charity. Contact Fiona ysy705@aol.com

6 July – Classics at Corbridge. Club stand with opportunity to rehome bears. Charity supported - Smile for Life. Contact Bob Selby: Tel 0191 489 1980 or e-mail cobra.gpt290s@blueyonder.co.uk

***11 August** – Teesside Autodrome, Children's Dream Rides for children from 5 local charities. Contact Tony Beverley: Tel 07968 823172 or email tonybev52@gmail.com

***17 August** – Raby Castle Dream Rides. Charity supported - Zoe's Place. Contact Tony Beverley: Tel 07968 823172 or email tonybev52@gmail.com

7 September – Bo'ness Hillclimb and Revival Show. Club stand with Teddy Bears Picnic theme. Charity supported - Hearts & Minds Clowndoctors. Contact Andrew Carrie: Tel 07798 646844 or email andrew@acarrie.net

14 September – Polar Lunch - Collingwood Arms, Cornhill-on-Tweed. Contact Fiona ysy705@aol.com

3-5 October – Club's 25th Birthday Celebrations, Cardrona Hotel, nr Peebles, Scottish Borders. Contact Fiona or Mike Tel 0131 552 2972 or email ysy705@aol.com

7 December – Polar Lunch - Collingwood Arms, Cornhill-on-Tweed. Contact Fiona ysy705@aol.com
Fully approved events unless marked as
* Awaiting Stage 2 approval
Awaiting Stage 1 approval



CHEQUE PRESENTATION TO WHIZZ-KIDZ

Raising money through an online site like JustGiving is a good way to simplify the donation process, and enable the chosen charity to receive donations instantly, while a running tally is kept on the website. Unfortunately, the way I had set up the Range-Rollers Road Trip project, meant it was a bit harder to clarify that the money was raised as a Sporting Bears contribution.

Thankfully, there was a way around it and on Monday the 28th October, it was my pleasure to present a cheque, on behalf of the Sporting Bears Motor Club, to Carol McKinlay of Whizz-Kidz, for the amount raised on my European Adventure. Whizz-Kidz supply powered wheelchairs, tailored to the specific requirements of disabled children and provide Wheelchair Skills Training to help develop independence and confidence in the children, letting them enjoy their childhood without needing constant supervision and assistance.

The presentation took place in the drizzle outside the People's Palace on Glasgow Green. Sadly the Palace, with its spectacular Winter Gardens, was closed on the day, for light restoration work, but the building itself makes for an impressive back-drop. The amount presented on the day was £805 but with gift-aid added on (and

JustGiving fees deducted) the total donated to Whizz-kidz by the end of October was £811.39. On a personal note, I was delighted to have surpassed the amount raised for the same charity on my "Spirit of Adventure" UK tour last year. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Alastair Campbell

THE TOUR WITH NO NAME

Paul Bonsall is proposing a Cumbrian weekend based around the Fat Lamb including a trip on the Lancaster canal and Saturday Night fancy dress evening with a thirties prohibition theme. Touring will cover the high Pennines and the Trough of Bowland. It would take place on 9 – 11 May. Please contact Paul as soon as possible if you are interested, as he needs to know the level of interest before proceeding. In previous years this event has proved very popular.

Contact Information

Helen ☎ 0131 440 2462
✉ Helen Kirkness SBMC
44 Station Road
Roslin
Mid Lothian EH25 9LR
email: MrsGrrumpy@aol.com
Fiona ☎ 0131 552 2972
✉ Fiona Davies SBMC
Stanley House
23 Stanley Road
Edinburgh EH6 4SE
email: ysy705@aol.com
Mike ☎ 0131 552 2972
email: ysy705@aol.com

Have a nice day!