



Sporting Bears Motor Club

Driving for Charity



POLAR NEWS

No. 82 October 2013

FROM YOUR EDITOR



We are very sad to be losing Jeff and Mary-Jane Ferris to the warm and sunny Bahamas and Fiona made a presentation of a photo album containing pictures of their seven years with the Polar Bears. Hopefully they will come to visit and maybe we can visit them? They will continue to be members of the Sporting Bears. Jeff has recently managed to sell his lovely AC Ace but their house is still available to buy if you fancy having a delightful home near the sea www.woodbinecottage.org. Many thanks to Alasdair Campbell for the article on his summer European Road Trip with a couple of friends.

BO'NESS HILL CLIMB REVIVAL



This was a new venue for the Polar Bears and was blessed with sunny, if chilly weather. Andrew, Ron, Fiona and Mike had donned period dress. The theme was a Teddy Bears picnic and the stand got a lot of attention throughout the day. Bears were rehomed or raffled, cans were rattled, a lot of people asked about what we were doing and made generous donations. Several children dragged their parents over to select bears and I was particularly impressed with a 7 year old boy who insisted he wanted a large, pink, fluffy duck! Recently married Alison and Liam donated a box of cute wee bears (extra wedding favours), that were very popular.

There were other car club stands to see and the Hillclimb had plenty of action on the track - a Mini got rolled and an Escort RS 2000 ended up in the bales. At lunchtime, the car clubs got a chance to join the parade of interesting cars down and up the track. Richard in his Ultima GTR and Neil in his Aston



Martin Vanquish S represented the Sporting Bears.

We managed to raise £250 for SACHD (Scottish Association for Children with Heart Disorders) which was pretty good for a small and specialised show. Credit must go to Andrew Carrie and Fiona and Mike Davies and for all their hard work and organisation.



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www.sportingbears.co.uk

SEPTEMBER LUNCH



A beautiful sunny (and warm) day saw 21 Polars head for the Collingwood Arms for another delicious lunch. PB enjoyed himself, basking in the sunshine and contemplating life, the universe and everything over a pint of beer. He then kept an eye on the raffle prizes in case Brian sneaked off with the chocolates!



After we'd eaten and had the raffle (which raised £135) we had the business part. Thirlestane, Corbridge, Teeside Children's Dream Rides & Bo'ness Hillclimb were very successful, but unfortunately the official Bears visit to Coldingham had to be cancelled. Raby Castle Dream Rides was a first time at this show and was very successful, having 10 cars and raising £650.

The tickets for the Johnny Herbert Evenings in October raised £100 for REACT and £200 for Zoe's Place, Middlesborough.

THE 25th BIRTHDAY

CELEBRATIONS: Invitations have been sent out and the hotel needs a minimum of 20 bookings by December 20th or the event would be cancelled without any financial penalty being incurred by the Club. Brian Short suggested a sub-committee might help spread the load. Fiona advised that most of the arrangements were already in place following the Club Committee's decisions on the overall



format of the weekend and the signing of the hotel contract. She did ask if there were any suggestions for what might happen prior to the cake cutting on Sunday morning and those who had attended the 21st celebrations felt the time between breakfast and morning coffee should be left free. Fiona invited members to volunteer with "meeting and greeting" on Friday afternoon and decorating the dinner/dance room on Saturday afternoon. She also identified that it would be particularly helpful if there were local Polars available on Friday evening/Saturday morning to chat with participants about the possible attractions in the Borders or Edinburgh or routes which they might find interesting. Please contact Fiona if you'd like to help.

This is YOUR opportunity to participate in a major Club event without having to travel too far and to show the rest of the Club what a hospitable bunch the Polars are! If you haven't already booked then do please contact Fiona ASAP to get the relevant booking code.

The main Committee has decided to register the Club with the Data Protection Commissioner. Other Committee decisions were that all events must have a risk assessment done and future route books should have 'suggested route only' on them. In future years there will be no Dream Rides at Kimbolton - keeping it as a show

for the members. The Sporting Bears now have 580 members and the Polars have 5 new ones.

The Dream Rides at the NEC will be on November 15, 16 & 17 - see the website for details.



GAZEBO REPLACEMENT

The gazebo we borrowed from BVAC for the booking desk at Thirlestane was seriously damaged in the wind this year and will not be replaced by BVAC as it was surplus to requirements. Fiona suggested that the Polars buy their own without resorting to corporate sponsorship and a good discussion followed on the size, colour, logos and cost. It was agreed that a pop-up gazebo measuring 3m x 6m would best suit our needs. This has been costed from the Club's supplier Surf & Turf at £560. Printing of the logo on the roof (£90) and the Club's name on each

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of the 4 valences (£55 per side) would be additional. It was also suggested that a "feather flag" be purchased with "Dream Rides – Book Here" printed on it. The flags cost £150 or £185 depending upon the size with a ground fixing Vario Drill costing £10 and a Shelter Clamp £156. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of this equipment then please send your cheque made payable to "SBMC" to Fiona. At the meeting it had been suggested that we might use an on-line payment method. On investigation it was identified that Just Giving was inappropriate as the Club is not a charity whilst PayPal charges around 7% per transaction. Very many thanks to Ron Dyer and Robert Daniel who kindly made donations immediately following our lunch. Hopefully the generosity of the Polars will mean that we don't have to approach the Club for funds to help with these purchases.

EUROPEAN ROAD TRIP



In June I set out on another road-trip to raise money for Whizz-Kidz. This time, I decided to buy something a bit more interesting than the Astra GTC I used last year, and after searching the online classifieds, I found a lovely example of a Jaguar XJS with just 53k miles on the clock.

Although my own adventure began in Glasgow, the journey South, through Britain, was simply the warm-up on the way to the start-line, in Brussels. There, I met up with two friends who had each purchased their own cars for the trip. Kris, from Germany had found an excellent Mercedes SL500, just a year older than my Jag, and Xavier, from Belgium, had bought a great little Mercedes SLK for the tour.



On Monday 3rd June, we left the Cinquantenaire arches in Brussels and passed through 10 nations over the following 12 days. Our route took us through, Belgium,

Alps, the majestic Italian Lakes, and historic San-Marino.

On our return leg, we found ourselves at a hotel in Modena, surrounded by priceless race-prepared exotic classics that had just finished a 100-hour endurance road-race. They even made the Ferrari Museum seem somewhat underwhelming. After a brief encounter with an Aventador show-car in Modena city-centre, we were invited to visit the Lamborghini Factory and Museum in Sant' Agata. The staff at Lamborghini



Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Italy, San-Marino, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, and Holland. Highlights included the medieval villages and towns of Eastern France, being stranded in the Swiss



could not have been more friendly, or helpful, and they made the whole experience a real pleasure.

When a photograph of us at the



See You Soon!

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WHAT'S NEXT

15-17 November NEC Dream Rides. Birmingham NEC. Look out for Mike and Fiona if you are visiting the show. Contact Andrew Lake, NEC Organiser at andrew.lake@talk21.com

1 December Sunday Lunch and Meeting at The Collingwood Arms Hotel, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland. **Early booking advisable.** Contact Fiona



factory was "retweeted" by Lamborghini's PR team, we were contacted by both Porsche and Mercedes who welcomed us to their equally impressive museums in Stuttgart. While the Mercedes Museum gives a fascinating and detailed history of the motorcar, Porsche was running a special exhibition, celebrating 50 years of the 911 model.

With the British Marque being a little under-represented on the tour, we carried on and headed for



the Nurburgring, but we didn't attempt the notorious track. We had, instead, received another special invitation, this time from Jaguar, and this time it wasn't for any museum. We were given an exclusive tour of Jaguar's Development Centre at the 'Ring', with one of the engineers at our disposal to answer any questions and to show us around the



workshops. We were introduced to the magnificent F-type (pre-launch) and told to ignore the camouflaged 4x4 lingering in the corner. After enjoying a viewing of Ridley Scott's "Desire" film (available on YouTube) we were given some Jaguar branded bits and pieces and, being the Jag driver of the trio, I was presented with a beautiful coffee-table-book, produced to mark 50 years since



the debut of the E-type. Needless to say this was my highlight of the trip!

Later that day we made it back to Brussels having covered almost 4000km of every possible kind of road, from the Stelvio Pass, to the Autobahn, from Geneva City Centre to the Gotthard Tunnel. So far, we have raised around £675 for Whizz-Kidz, on behalf of the Sporting Bears, but the website we used for collecting donations is still active for any further contributions.

www.justgiving.com/rangeroll



ers2013.

Alasdair Campbell

25th Birthday Celebrations
3-5 October 2014

If you have misplaced your invitation with all the details then just get in touch with Fiona and she will be happy to remind you of the costs and give you the required booking code. Look forward to seeing lots of you Polars at The Cardrona, nr Peebles.

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Have a nice day!