



Sporting Bears Motor Club

Driving for Charity



POLAR NEWS

No. 79 April 2013

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Thanks to Fiona, Andrew Carrie and Brian Short for contributions this month.

FEBRUARY LUNCH

Twenty-four hungry Polar Bears assembled at the Collingwood Arms after battling through the snow in Edinburgh - to be met with spring sunshine once over Soutra. We were fashionably late due to broadband problems (again) and the fact we'd taken the slow car since it has winter tyres and traction control (paving slab in the boot) - although Brian says it's not the MGB that's slow, but the driver!

Anyway, we arrived just in time for lunch - which was delicious as usual. Although the whole prawns were quite a lot of work for the morsel they contained, fortunately Sheila was on hand with wet wipes.

There was a generous raffle -



both in the number of prizes and the money donated, raising £165 plus Nimal's £42 small change donation. Fiona then went through the agenda and indicated that some of suggestions made at the last lunch might be better in 2014

due to hotels being booked up and Historic Scotland not wanting collections made at Edinburgh Castle. Fiona has asked for other Historic Scotland sites that might be more amenable and thought we should maybe link up with an 'event'.

The Children's Dream Rides at Teeside Autodrome is being attended by Ron Dyer and the Caper Revival is fully booked.

Fiona let us know that Dream Rides at Thirlestane Castle is in hand and the sheet was passed round for people to sign on for various duties. Kate Cherry will organise the lunch on Saturday for those setting up the stand. Clowndoctors will be there on the Sunday.

Bob Selby talked about Corbridge Show on July 7th and Jeff Ferris about the Coldingham Gala on July 21st.



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Fiona suggested the Bo'ness Hillclimb Revival on September 8th as a possible venue. Helen let people know what the event was like and it was decided to set up a stand there as Falkirk Council has 'okayed' rehoming bears!

The Army Benevolent Fund received £300 from the Xmas raffle. It was also thought that posting the NEC Dream Rides cheques wasn't the best way of doing things - a presentation gives publicity for both the charity and the Sporting Bears. Brian S thought we should do more things involving kids - even just taking the cars and letting them see them/sit in them.

The Sporting Bears AGM - the club's documentation is to be centralised and dated and the club liability insurance has been increased. There was also discussion on the direction the club is taking - we don't want too many Dream Rides events at the expense of smaller, social events. New members will be asked what they think.

Membership of the club is currently at 536, with 133 new members and 60 lost. The Polar Bears have had two new members this year.

BIRTHDAY BOY

Congratulations to Jeff Ferris on his special birthday.



*Only two cakes left! I can see a bun fight about to happen!!!
Kendral and Phil Ellis, Paul Bonsall, Brian Short, Tony Beverley and Sarah and Marc Waggitt*

SPORTING BEARS GUESTS AT ECCDS'S ANNUAL CELEBRATION EVENING

Seven of our members attended as guests at the Education Centre for Children with Down Syndrome's Celebration Evening on the 21st March.

The centre which is based in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham has held an annual celebration evening since it was formed back in 2005. The purpose of the evening (which coincided with World Down Syndrome Day) was to bring together all the children and their families, to meet with the

Trustees, staff and volunteers. Invitations were also extended to sponsors and fundraisers. The evening commenced with a young group 'Star' performing a number of pop songs followed by the real 'stars' of the night, the children of the centre taking the stage to perform their own party pieces. Needless to say audience participation didn't take long to kick in and the Bears did themselves proud singing and generally joining in on the fun.

It was also nice to receive thanks from the charity for the fundraising we have done over the year and their genuine excitement at once again being



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treated to their own "Dream Rides" at the forthcoming event at Teesside Autodrome on Good Friday.

A great festive night and lots of happy smiling faces.

Brian (Shorty) Bear

BO'NESS HILLCLIMB REVIVAL –

8 SEPTEMBER 2013

At our February meeting the Polar Bears decided to take part in a new event at the end of our summer season – the Bo'ness Hillclimb Revival on Sunday 8 September.

The hillclimb track opened in 1934, and was the first true motor racing venue in Scotland. Prior to then, any motor sport events were held on public roads (until 1925) or on sand. The pre-war track was 800 yards long. The track length was extended in 1947 to a full half-mile (880 yards) and it remained basically unchanged from then until its closure in 1966. At that time, it was run by the Lothian Car Club, who then sought out a new venue and opened Doune, near Stirling, as a hill climb track in 1968.

In 2007, the owners of the old Bo'ness track decided to hold a reunion of drivers and other enthusiasts from those early days, and it was so popular with them, and with spectators and visitors, that it has continued and grown every year since. Bo'ness is a little town on the south shore of the River Forth, between the Forth and Kincardine Bridges, accessed from junction 3 of the M9 motorway. As well as the hillclimb track, the town also boasts an excellent steam railway, run by the Scottish Railway Preservation Society,



and also a motor museum. The event is centred around the hillclimb racing, and will include a variety of historic race cars, as well as a number of other classic and interesting cars. There will also be static displays, bands, and possibly a repeat of last year's aerobatics display.

Visit the Revival website at <http://www.bonesshillclimb.org.uk> for further details of any of these individual events.

We will have a stand where we will be re-homing bears, big and small, in aid of children's charities. We are also planning to hold a teddy bears' picnic with food and fun for all the teddy bears and their carers.

Over the day, there will be demonstration runs and cavalcades, which I hope we will be invited to participate in - so you might get a chance to show off your pride and joy on the move (and give those teddies a bit of a run at the same time).

We also plan to take part in the spirit of the event by appearing in period dress. Yes I know, some of us dress like that all the time! Use your imagination - it's up to you!

Please come along for what promises to be an excellent event. Names please (and details of accompanying vehicle) to Andrew Carrie at Andrew@acarrie.net. I am still in discussion with the organisers about our arrangements, but I will forward more details to anybody interested, as soon as I hear.

CHAS PRESENTATION

Arranging a mutually convenient date, time and place made this a wee presentation with a difference. The date: Saturday 10 November; the time: 11.15ish; the place: the Farmers' Market on Castle Terrace in Edinburgh where CHAS had taken a stall for the morning. Those attending were Mike and Helen Webber, Andrew Carrie, Mike and myself and we all went up town on the No 11 bus, with the laddie Andrew being the only one not in possession of a bus pass so he had to pay a fare – both ways! We met with Kirsten Dugan who had just returned from getting a hand-warming cup of tea as the stand they had been allocated was at the windiest

See You Soon!

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3 – 5 May The Caper Revival Tour new participants especially welcome. Contact Paul Bonsall 01539623242

12 May Sunday Lunch and Meeting at The Collingwood Arms Hotel, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland

2 June Dream Rides at Thirlestane Castle. Contact Fiona

7 July Classics at Corbridge car show. Contact Bob Selby email cobra.gpt290s@blueyonder.co.uk

12 August Tees-side Children's Dream Rides. Contact Tony Beverley email tonybev52@gmail.com

8 September Bo'ness Hillclimb Revival – Teddy Bears Picnic. Contact Andrew Carrie e-mail Andrew@acarrie.net

22 September Sunday Lunch and Meeting at The Collingwood Arms Hotel, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland

1 December Sunday Lunch and Meeting at The Collingwood Arms Hotel, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland

part of the market. Stripping off down to our Bears' sweatshirts we went in search of a less hectic spot with the Castle as a back-drop. At least the sun was shining and Kirsten was delighted to receive our cheque for £500. We then had the opportunity to enjoy the sites and smells of the various stalls and purchase cheese and pies before catching a bus home and

viewing the on-going tram works. Many thanks to Andrew for organising the Polar attendance at the Knockhill Classic Speedfair, where £300 was raised, and to Mike Webber and Fred Magill (new BVAC Chairman) for their very generous top-up donation. *Fiona*

TEES-SIDE CHILDREN'S DREAM RIDES

Because of the continuing wintery weather it was decided to postpone this event scheduled for Good Friday. Tony Beverley has now been able to make alternative arrangements with the track and charities involved. The new date is Monday, 12 August. Tony will be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to help out on that day.

FEBRUARY LUNCH 2



This was the patio at the Collingwood Arms on the morning of the lunch meeting. The snow made an attractive pattern on the garden furniture. No drinks on the patio before lunch though. *Fiona*

THIRLESTANE DREAM RIDES - 2 JUNE

I am delighted to say there has been a great many drivers expressing an interest in participating this year, so much so that I have had to start a 'reserve list'. Many thanks to those drivers who have already forwarded me

their insurer's consent or updated me with insurance details. I would ask all other drivers wishing to attend to now forward me the requested documentation. Thanks. Helpers, as opposed to drivers, are still required for Sunday duties in the garage area and to run the Cool Wall so if you are free and would like to be part of this greatly satisfying and enjoyable event then do please get in touch. *Fiona*

??DREAM RIDES AT RIPLEY CASTLE – 27 MAY??

Tony Beverley is currently negotiating with the organisers of a car event at Ripley Castle to put on Dream Rides. Anyone interested in participating should refer to the Polar Section of the Club's website which will be updated with details once arrangements are agreed and Committee approval has been obtained.

HARVEY COOKE

MG enthusiast and former Club member Harvey Cooke has died after a short illness. Our thoughts are with Wendy and the family at this sad time.

Contact Information

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Have a nice day!