



# POLAR NEWS

No. 78 January 2013

## FROM YOUR EDITOR

It was good to meet new members Marc and Sarah Waggitt at the Christmas lunch and we'd like to welcome new members Chris Pollin and Claire Howie from Stockton-on-Tees, Richard Levin from Glasgow and Jon Turner from Wakington. All joined following a visit to the NEC.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH



A crisp, frosty, sunny day saw a good number of Polars attending the Christmas lunch - although there were some



apologies - Nimal couldn't make it due to eye problems meaning he couldn't drive. The group decided he should get the Baxter Bear and that the £260 from the raffle should go to the Army Benevolent Fund's Children's

charity. After a delicious lunch and a very generous raffle, we settled down to the business part. A quick summary of the recent events - Classic Speedfair at Knockhill





organised by Andrew, the popular Shiny Day 2 put on by Jim & Aly and Brian & Mary and the Dream Rides at the NEC. Not many Polar Bears made it this year but Brian S reported that the Bears had about 90 cars, were in a much better hall, had the Stig, raised £32,000 which will be divided up amongst 13 charities.

The Polars have made presentations to the Border's Children's Charity, SACHD, CHAS and the Clowndoctors. We have supported 7 charities in 2012 and raised £6,060.

Membership is healthy as although we have lost 3 members, we have gained 8. Fiona is prepared to stay on as Northern Area rep if she is supported as well as she was this year - and she was assured of this!

The 2013 calendar was discussed and some ideas suggested. Kevin & Sandy suggested a two night tour of the Trough of Bowland for October 2013 or 2014, George & Sheila fancy a weekend to tie in with the September lunch and Nimal thought a Classic Car display at Edinburgh Castle in the summer might be good and Mike W thought we could team up with BVAC for this. Fiona to find out if this is possible and Mike will organise entries if it is.

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

This card was addressed to the Team at Sporting Bears with the message  
*"Thank you all so much for all your support. We are so very grateful. Love Clowndoctors"*.



Fiona also received cards and messages of appreciation from Vicky at REACT headquarters in London and from Debbie, the REACT Ambassador in Scotland. Carol from Whizz-Kidz sent the following message.

*"I'm just getting in touch to thank you so much for all your support over this year! You have helped us to provide mobility equipment, training, clubs and life skills to disabled young people across Scotland. Our Ambassadors - our young people - have really enjoyed the chance to meet up with similar young people and make new friends as well as doing serious campaigning work for the rights of disabled people. You can take a look at our*

*Ambassador Rebecca's Christmas message to you here:*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtlJPp71liQ>

*"This year you have helped us to develop our Ambassador Clubs in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen helping us to reach more young people who may otherwise have been isolated and sat at home watching the telly. They have had the opportunity to have an active voice by doing activities such as making a training video for bus drivers and undertaking a public transport access challenge in Glasgow. We have ran successful wheelchair skills training programmes in cities such as Dundee and Edinburgh where young people have learned how to mount kerbs, cross roads and navigate corners so they can do things that are important to them such as change classes at school without their carer or go to the shops on their own for the very first time.*

*We cannot do all the fantastic work we do in Scotland without the help of you, our supporter. We so appreciate you taking time out of your busy life to help transform the lives of disabled young children in Scotland. Because that's exactly what you do!*

*You may have seen David, a young person who has just received equipment from Whizz-Kidz on This Morning recently. He was asked:*

*"What would it feel like if you had to go back to your old chair?"*

*"It would feel like prison"*

**Visit us on the Web!**

[www.sportingbears.co.uk](http://www.sportingbears.co.uk)

"How would you describe your new chair?"

"Its Freedom"

You are responsible for giving young people that freedom and we can't thank you enough!

Thank you for changing lives, for making our Christmas and making our year! 2012 was a fantastic year for Whizz-Kidz! Lets make 2013 even better!"

**TEESSIDE CHILDREN'S  
DREAM RIDES –  
29 MARCH 2013**

Here is a note from Tony Beverley about the Teesside event to give Dream Rides to special children.

Hi All

Hope you've all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year. Now it's time to get ready for the first Bears' Event of 2013 with the Closed Event at Teesside Autodrome.

Last year's was my first attempt at organising something like this and thanks to Max and Janet for their enormous support and of course, YOU, my fellow Bears, it was a great success!!! On the back of this we are doing the same again and I cordially invite you to join what hopefully will be another cracking day. It will be run on the same format as last year which, after a few teething issues, went very well and everyone went away very happy..... so please get in touch and let me know if you can make it. Get in touch anyway – it's always nice to "rub up a tree" with a fellow Bear.

I am contacting the charities that were involved last year and they were:

- Zoe's Place
- Butterwick Hospice
- Kiltonthorpe School
- When You Wish Upon a Star
- ECCDS (Education Centre for Children with Downs Syndrome)

My contact details are:

Mob: 07968823172

E-Mail:

tonybev52@gmail.com

The track address is: -

Teesside Autodrome, South Tees Motor Sports Park, South Bank Road, Middlesbrough, TS6 6XH

[www.teessidekarting.co.uk](http://www.teessidekarting.co.uk)

Thanks for reading this and looking forward to hearing from you all.

Regards, Tony

Last year's event was a great success with the invited children and their families. The drivers enjoyed it too!

**AND TO CLOWN 2012  
OFF...**

**A DAY WITH THE  
CLOWNDOCTORS!**

Over 2012, we have been collecting at our lunches, raffles etc, for the Hearts&Minds Clowndoctors programme. We suggested that, rather than just hand over a cheque, we would like to see the Clowndoctors in action, during a hospital visit. Fortunately, the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh were happy for two of us to join them on a visit on 19 November, so all the arrangements were put in

place. Due to family commitments, Fiona had to call off at the last minute, so Mike and I went along to meet the Clowndoctors on the day.

We were met at the hospital by Magdalena Schamberger, the driving force behind the Hearts & Minds programme, and Pip Quinn, the Fundraising and Communications Officer, who explained that we couldn't go round together, so the Clowndoctors would take each of us round for a while. We were then joined by the lovely Dr Sprout (Lies, pronounced "Lease") and the handsome and dashing Dr Doodle (Calum, pronounced... em... "Calum") while we presented a cheque for the marvellous amount of £800. Sincere thanks to all who contributed over the year! Mike then left with the Doctors, while Magdalena, Pip and I popped along the road for a coffee and an interesting chat about the work of the Clowndoctors, and the work of the Sporting Bears.

Then it was time to swop with Mike, and off I went with Drs Sprout and Doodle. First they discussed which children they were going to see, and what their objectives were. Then the notes went in the pockets, and they immediately slipped into "Clowndoctor" mode, with Sprout playing harmonica while Doodle provided ukulele accompaniment. The children

**See You Soon!**

[www.sportingbears.co.uk](http://www.sportingbears.co.uk)



**24 February** Sunday Lunch and meeting at The Collingwood Arms, Cornhill-on-Tweed. Contact Fiona 01315522972

**29 March** Children's Dream Rides at Teesside Autodrome. Contact Tony Beverley 07968823172 email - tonybev52@gmail.com.

**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

**15 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

obviously recognised this wee "theme tune" and were waving as we passed.

I obviously can't say too much about the individual children we visited, but the first was in isolation (highly contagious) so they had to entertain through a window or from at least 3 feet away in the corridor. They did it though! It was funny but also deeply heartwarming to see the look on that wee face. Then we had to go to a side



room to wash up, just in case, before we went on to the rest of the ward. Out came the notes, another discussion, then back on with the red noses and back to the silliness.

In between all the silliness, though, there were very clear and unmistakable signs of affection and care between the Doctors and the children. The Clowndoctors are very skilled, very talented and dedicated, and I found it a wonderful experience to witness their work at first hand. I can still hear that haunting harmonica and ukulele refrain...

You can read more about the Clowndoctors and the Clowndoctor programme on their web site at <http://www.heartsminds.org.uk/clowndoctors-meet.html> - have a look at the "case studies" there as well.

Thanks are due to Magdalena and Pip for giving us the opportunity to take part, and to Dr Sprout and Dr Doodle for their time and

explanations, but mostly, to all of the Polar Bears for supporting this valuable work. *Andrew*

## **POLAR BEARS ON THE WEB**

The new club website is now up and running with a new facility for regions to put news up on their own page. Go to [www.sportingbears.co.uk](http://www.sportingbears.co.uk) and scroll down and click on Polar Bears. Mummy Polar Bear will try and keep this page up to date.

### **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

**Happy New Year!**