



FROM YOUR EDITOR

A VACANCY!

Due to Brian's health situation, I'm having to stand down as Polar News Editor and we are looking for a willing volunteer to take over. It isn't too onerous as Mike Davies does the layout of the newsletter - all you have to do is persuade, cajole or bully people into writing articles or sending you photos! I have to say, most Polar members have been willing and able to do this.

Your other duty (should you decide to accept the challenge) will be to send out the Polar News when you and Mike have got a 'final copy'. All (bar nine) are sent electronically so it is very easy to do. The nine who don't 'do email' get printed copies and you will get the Sporting Bears photocopier to print them up from a good master you have to print from your computer. I have just bought inks for it, so they should last for a while.

I have some paper and some envelopes left, but no stamps. You can claim expenses from Derek Nicholson, the Club's Assistant Treasurer. I have a list of emails and the addresses of the nine for posting, which I'll also pass on. You'll also get sent the up-to-date membership lists from Hilary Cannon. Don't all rush at once!!

Helen Kirkness

APRIL LUNCH REPORT

The first lunch of 2016 saw 22 members making their way to The Collingwood Arms. Most arrived early enough for tea/coffee/biscuits/chat before sitting down for our enjoyable meal. The raffle raised an impressive £145 to be set aside for



our chosen charity. Dick then brought the assembled members to order and worked his way through the agenda. The diary of possible events was discussed. We were expected at Doune Hillclimb but our position within the site would be dependent upon the number of entries in the paddock. The Club had been approached by the organiser of a Vintage Weekend event in Edinburgh's Grassmarket but any cars attending would need to be over 25 years old. Help and cars are needed for our Dream Rides at Thirlestane on 5th June as well as setting up on the 4th. Kate Cherry had confirmed she would again be happy to organise the Saturday lunch.

Dick had received details of a new event in Northumberland to be held on 26 June, namely Ashington Town Fayre. Cars would take part in a drive around the town then park up allowing a stand to be



erected and collections to be taken for a charity of our choice. Discussion ensued as to how much Club equipment might be needed, how it would be transported and whether arrangements could be made which took account of minimising the movement of equipment from Thirlestane to Ashington and then to Corbridge. Bob Selby confirmed that Corbridge is likely to go ahead despite recent flooding in the town. Smile for Life is the nominated charity. Sid Palmer has volunteered to organise Classics in the City of Edinburgh and has submitted the necessary paperwork to the Council where the appropriate Committee would make a decision on 22 April. If it goes ahead the Hearts & Minds Clowndoctors would be the beneficiaries and a couple of the Clowndoctors would make an appearance at the event.



The organisers of Carfest North and Carfest South (Brand Events) are venturing north of the Border by staging the Ignition Festival at the SSE in Glasgow. Max Walker, in collaboration with Polar Alistair Campbell, is organising the Dream Rides and any members who are interested in taking part should contact Max with details of their car. Brand Events decide which cars they would wish to have participating and owners would be

advised accordingly. Dick had been asked to seek nominations for a Scottish charity to benefit. Fiona suggested it be Whizz-Kidz as it is based in Glasgow and also was first nominated by Alistair a number of years ago. Whizz-Kidz would likely benefit by a substantial sum so Fiona suggested that perhaps an alternative charity could be given the lunch donations.

Note: A decision has been made to donate the lunch money to James Rennie School along with any money raised at Doune.



Another new event taking place this year is the Royal Deeside Speed Festival on 21 August. It is now too late to go as a Club as all stand space has been allocated but it was decided to move the date of the next lunch to allow Dick and Pat, and any others members interested, to attend as members of the public and ascertain if it would be a worthwhile event for next year's calendar.

Finally Andrew confirmed that the Club is entered for Bo'ness Hillclimb but the club stands may be moved to a different part of the estate.

Dick then moved on to the remaining items on the agenda. He advised that a new North East region had been set up with Tony Beverley as the Area Rep. Membership would cover those living in Teesside and further south.



He reiterated the Club position that members from any region are always welcome to participate in events throughout the country. Dick and Pat had attended the recent AGM and received a warm welcome where they met the new Chairman and her Deputy. Keith and Ann Davison had attended the Wake Up Ball at Sharnbrook in Bedfordshire which was ably organised by Baz Firth. As long-time members of the Sporting Bears they were surprised that they only recognised 6 other Club members! A large contingent from the Lamborghini Club were in attendance.



Keith then led a discussion on which direction the Club was going in and expressed his disappointment at the lack of "driving" events as opposed to Dream Ride events. Dick acknowledged that some day events were held by the more southerly regions but their membership came from a much smaller area making it easier to organise this type of event. Robert Daniel suggested that we have an annual informal Polar weekend away and this wouldn't need the production of route books etc. The meeting agreed that this was worthy of further consideration.

A card for Brian Kirkness had been circulated during the afternoon and signed by all present. Helen had intimated that she would wish to temporarily cut back on her involvement with the Polars during Brian's illness and asked that a replacement Editor for the Polar News be sought. Anyone willing to take on this role should contact Dick.

Please note that the date of the next Polar lunch has been moved back to Sunday 28 August to accommodate the date of the Royal Deeside Speed Festival.

Fiona Davies

FROM YOUR POLAR REPRESENTATIVES

Our Polar year started in February when Pat and I took the unprecedented step (so we understand) of a Polars' organiser attending the AGM. We were delighted and a trifle embarrassed to receive a round of applause for this feat. The results of this meeting have been reported elsewhere. For us the main points of the meeting were the election of Lisa Binfield as Chair, and Jo Parish as Vice Chair, the first time that this position has existed. Our best wishes to Mike McSean who has adopted the job of Club Archivist. There were also several changes to the Club rules, a full copy of which appears in the latest Bear Facts. The year has started off on a good note at Doune, as none of last year's antics were repeated this year, and those few of us attending had a very pleasant day. The forthcoming events are listed at the end of this issue; could we please ask everyone to attend these events if they can spare the time. While we appreciate that some are not as lucrative as Dream Rides, nevertheless they do raise some money and more importantly the profile of the Bears with the public and the general motoring fraternity. We had a total of five cars at Doune and for the additional events in our Email of 21st February we received virtually no interest. For the first two, i.e.

the ABF event at Glencorse barracks in March, and the Vintage event in the Grassmarket in Edinburgh, we have had to notify the organisers that we have not received sufficient interest to make an official SBMC presence worthwhile. Hopefully things will be better for the remaining additional events, since we have received some interest in the Ashington Town Fayre in June, and for the Royal Deeside Speed Festival in August, which we hope to make into a loose social gathering. In order to accommodate this, we have moved the date of the August lunch to the 28th, to avoid a clash with the Deeside event on the 21st.

Could you please note that we need helpers at the Thirlestane Dream Rides, both to assist with setting up on the Saturday and at the event itself on the Sunday. Please advise us at the Polarbears address if you can assist on either of these two days.

A further event this year is the Ignition Festival at the SECC in Glasgow on 5-7 August. Max Walker has been approached by the organisers to provide a Dream Rides event in a similar manner to Carfest North and South. If you would like to be a driver here please contact Max direct. However, Max may be looking for helpers on any one of the days so if you're interested in turning out please contact us.

Dick and Pat Nortcliffe

DOUNE HILL CLIMB



Thanks to Dick, we were again able to attend the opening Hillclimb of the season at Doune, near Stirling. After the difficulties last year with the number of entries and space in



the paddock, and the event over-running, they reduced the number of entries so there was more space for everybody, including us!

So we arrived early and claimed our territory, as you do, and soon had the new marquee up and our bears displayed for adoption. Lined up in front were Ron's TVR Chimaera, Fiona's nice new Mazda MX5 replacing her Toyota MR2, Jeff and Mary-Jane's Marcos, Robert's Rolls Royce Silver Spur, and my Porsche 911 Carrera. With Dick and Pat bringing all the gear, and Mike Davies who I haven't mentioned so far, we soon had everything under control.



The organisers were very helpful, and came and asked for some details of our events this year for the commentary. We were also invited to take part in the lunchtime run up the hill, and Jeff, Ron and I had a go at that. Even at low speeds, the track is really narrow, and the racing line is simply "drive in the middle and don't hit any walls, fences, bankings or people" which is easy at the speeds we are allowed to go, but looks as if it will

be really scary at the speeds competitors are going. Maybe I just have an overdeveloped sense of my own mortality.

I enjoy a wee hillclimb visit because the paddock is open and nobody is too precious about keeping you away from the cars - and considering the number of classes, there's something there for everybody! We ended up chatting



See You Soon!

www.sportingbears.co.uk



WHAT'S NEXT

20-22 May Northern Gambol
Contact Paul Bonsall email
enquiries@fatlamb.co.uk

4-5 June Thirlestane Dream
Rides. Contact Dick Nortcliffe
email Polars@sportingbears.co.uk

11-12 June Cholmondeley
Dream Rides. Contact Max Walker
email
northwestbears@sportingbears.co.uk

26 June Ashington Town Fayre.
Contact Dick Nortcliffe email
Polars@sportingbears.co.uk

3 July Corbridge Classic. Contact
Bob Selby email
cobragpt290s@blueyonder.co.uk

16 July Classics in the City of
Edinburgh. Contact Sid Palmer
email Sid@sidpalmer.co.uk

5-7 August Ignition Festival
Dream Rides, Glasgow SECC.
Contact Max Walker email
northwestbears@sportingbears.co.uk

13-14 August Historic Wheels
Brodie Castle. (Individual entries)
Contact Dick Nortcliffe email
Polars@sportingbears.co.uk

14 August Raby Castle Dream
Rides. Contact Tony Beverley
email tonybev52@googlemail.com

15 August Teesside Children's
Dream Rides. Contact Tony
Beverley email
tonybev52@googlemail.com

21 August Royal Deeside Speed
Festival. Contact Dick Nortcliffe
email Polars@sportingbears.co.uk

28 August Bears' Lunch at the
Collingwood Arms. Contact Dick
Nortcliffe email
Polars@sportingbears.co.uk

4 September Bo'ness Hill Climb
and Classic Show. Contact Pat
Nortcliffe email
Polars@sportingbears.co.uk



to a number of competitors and spectators, about their cars, our cars, and the Club.

We collected a total of £134.22 for James Rennie School, which is fine seeing as it was mainly a social event "starter to the year".

It was freezing though, with a "fresh breeze" making sure that you didn't build up any little cocoon of heat around you. Thanks to Fiona and Mike, there was a plentiful supply of tea, soup and sandwiches, supplemented by the bacon and sausage rolls from the snack van at the far end of the paddock.

Thanks are also due to everyone who participated and for help throughout the day in putting up (and holding down) the marquee,



re-homing bears, rattling collection tins and generally being great company.
Andrew



Contact Information

The Polar News Editor's position is currently vacant. Please send any copy/photos to Mike 01313361691 email: ysy705@aol.com or Dick
Polar Representative
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Crawhead
Ellon AB41 8HB
email:
Polars@sportingbears.co.uk

Have a nice day!