



Sporting Bears Motor Club

Driving for Charity



POLAR NEWS

No. January 2016

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Many congratulations to Mike Webber on winning the Weitzmann Trophy, which was presented at the NEC Dream Rides by Chairman Mike McSean. The trophy was presented to the Club by Jane Weitzmann in memory of her husband who died about 5 years ago. It is an 'Unsung Hero' award for someone who has done a lot for the Sporting Bears, but isn't on the committee.



Well Done Mike!!

Congratulations also have to go to son Richard Webber who was recipient of the Skoda Design Award. Richard was presented with this at the Guild of Motoring Writers' Award Ceremony which took place at the Royal Automobile Club in London in December. The award is for the finest feature on automotive design, whether considering current, future or historical aspects. Richard decided to ask 3 elite car designers to redesign a classic model to their tastes Jonathan Wells of Morgan

chose the Ford Capri, Shiro Nakamura of Nissan chose the Austin-Healey 100 while Julian Thomson of Jaguar chose the Lotus Elise S1. You can read Richard's article "Creative Sparks" in the June 2015 edition of Autocar.

Many thanks to Andrew Carrie for both organising the Bo'ness Hillclimb stand AND writing an article. Thanks also to Fiona Davies for her article on the Concours D'Elegance and Sarah Forbes for pictures from the NEC.

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 was a successful and enjoyable year for the Polars. All of our events were dry, which was a miracle in itself, very enjoyable and all raised amounts of money which were generally on a par, or more than, the amounts raised at the same events in previous years. The total amount raised by Polar events, not including the substantial efforts of Tony Beverly and Paul Bonsall, was in excess of £5,400.00. This was donated to our six chosen charities for 2015, being SACHD, Smile for Life (received donations from Corbridge and John Rutter), Hearts&Minds Clowndoctors (benefitted from from Classics in the City), REACT (money raised by Bo'ness & lunch raffles), CHAS (donations from Doune) and Borders Children's Charity (donations from NEC Dream Rides). A big thank you to all drivers, helpers, can-wielders, bear re-homers, lunch attenders, and supporters, for this splendid result. In addition to the Polars' events, several members helped to raise funds by joining Paul Bonsall's Gambol Too, and helping or otherwise contributing to Tony's events and NEC Dream Rides, as well as other Bears regions' events.

On the social front, in addition to our lunches, some of our number went separately to the Concours of Elegance at Holyrood Palace, and were universally impressed by the collection of virtually priceless machinery in the palace court. In addition, visits included the Leyburn Forties weekend, courtesy of Jim and Aly Harris, and the Historic Wheels Classic Show at Brodie Castle. We also carried out a couple of fact finding missions at the Forres Classic show and the Ingliston Revival show, with a view to attending in an "official" capacity in the future. The jury is still out on both of these events.

I believe we all have reason to feel satisfied with this year's efforts, and in 2016 we will be doing the same events as 2015 so hopefully they will be just as enjoyable and raise similar amounts. However if we want to raise more money we need more events and more active participants. We have few event suggestions from our members, and it may be the case that there are very few events in our area with a high enough level of public attendance to make it worth our while in terms of charity collections. This applies particularly to Dream Rides, where the event also needs to satisfy other criteria such as a suitable route, good entry and exit, etc. Could we ask you all please to think hard about events in your area and let us know if you believe there may be an opportunity for us to attend, have a good day out and raise some money for our deserving causes.

We wish everyone a happy and successful New Year.

Dick and Pat Nortcliffe

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BO'NESS HILLCLIMB REVIVAL

We were delighted to attend Bo'ness Hillclimb on Sunday 6 September. The hillclimb track was the first true motor racing venue in Scotland in 1934. It closed in 1966 when the Lothian Car Club moved to a new venue at Doune, near Stirling.

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 as a "Revival" event 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 Rail Preservation Society, and also a motor museum.

The event is centred around the hill climb racing, which included a variety of historic race cars, some over 100 years old, as well as a number of other classic and interesting cars. It's great to see these cars being used as originally intended.

The event includes an ever-growing static display of classic cars, with everything from huge American cruisers to little tiny bubble cars for the public to see and admire. Unfortunately, increasing pressure for space meant that we didn't have our "prime spot" of previous years, but were among the club stands – still at a reasonably prominent spot though!

The drama started a few days before the event – you see, entry was by ticket only, and I was sent the tickets a good 2 or 3 weeks in advance. Then they disappeared, along with the house keys, 2 days before I was due to hand the tickets out. Of course "nobody had seen them." This resulted in a frantic tour of central Scotland on the Saturday to buy new tickets, and then to take those to Fiona and Mike who were



going to distribute them at our Sunday lunch... And oddly, by the time I got home, the house keys had mysteriously walked themselves back to exactly where they should be... Strange eh? Anyway, the big day dawned, not very long before I was there to "bag" our space – it is not unprecedented, at these shows, for the earlybirds to start shifting markers to give themselves more space. Ahem. Anyway, it gave me plenty of time to watch the Jaguar Drivers Club opposite us, manouevring cars as they arrived at random, into what seemed to be a pre-determined plan. This involved lots of double-shifting and temporary use of every stand around them.

It was almost a disappointment when other Sporting Bears arrived with our display stuff, and we had to divert our attentions to setting up our own stand. The gazebo was quickly erected and positioned, after we had spent half-an-hour figuring out where "north" is, so that we could work out where (or even if) the sun might just rise above the huge trees behind us. You point the big hand at the sun and... no that's not it – you divide the time by two and point the big hand... no wait... you line up two boy scouts until they have moss on one side... No wait, there's a compass on my phone after all! On display, we had Jeff and Mary-Jane's Bahama-lime-green Marcos Mantara, Ron's TVR Chimaera, Sarah's VW Kharmann convertible.

Fiona's MGA Roadster, Sid's Porsche Boxter, and my Porsche 911.

We also had a teddy bears' picnic with food and fun for all the teddy bears and their carers. We also had a wee bit of a period dress theme going on, with a range of costumes ranging from the 1950's, 60's and 70's. And that was before we got changed!

We raised just over £310.00 for the REACT charity, which is a pretty good result, only £5 less than last year, where we had better weather and, we thought, a better location. Just goes to show.



Also - we won a prize for the 3rd best club stand, behind the Jaguar drivers in 1st and the MG Caledonian centre in 2nd. Better organisation pays off, see?

A huge thank you to everyone who came along on the day, with such an interesting selections of cars for people to admire, and for your help throughout the day, in so many ways, big and small. Everybody's contribution is greatly welcomed.

Andrew

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CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

A number of Polars decided to attend this prestigious event held at the beginning of September as members of the paying public - and yes, you did have to pay a hefty £25 for an all-day ticket on the Saturday but this included entry to the Palace of Holyroodhouse as well. The event is only held in the grounds of Royal Palaces which gives an indication that it isn't just another classic car show. The 3-day event was preceded by a driving tour around The Trossachs then Friday was restricted to Owners' Day whilst the remaining 2 days were open to the public and they arrived in their thousands. With this in mind Mike and I, along with Dick and Pat, decided we would leave the cars at home and take public transport. This was the first time for many years that Dick - (who had to pay his fare since he hasn't got a bus pass although eligible for one!) - had boarded such a vehicle so we couldn't resist the temptation to record the Polar Clan Leader boarding a No 41 and share the images with you!



When we arrived at The Palace we took time to closely examine the selection of cars parked in the Courtyard. Various Car Clubs had applied to bring along the crème de la crème of their vehicles and, with only a few exceptions, the cars



displayed were immaculately presented. Andrew Carrie had been asked to provide his Porsche 911 and had prepared it accordingly only to be told at the last minute that the colour scheme of the display had been changed and it was no longer required! The Car Club displays were only an appetizer to what was beyond the wrought iron gate. Sixty incredible cars – some never seen before in the UK – took part in the main Concours event, converging on the Palace from all corners of the globe, including America, Australia and Europe. All cars are personally invited by the Concours d' Elegance's prestigious Steering Committee, so a place at the Palace is considered a victory in itself. For that reason, uniquely, the Best in Show award is voted for by the owners of the sixty invited cars.

The 2015 prize went to the 1903 Mercedes Simplex 60HP, as owners praised the incredible engineering in this 112-year-old car, powered by a 9.2-litre four-cylinder engine and capable of nearly 80mph. Only four are known to exist. Meanwhile, the 1927 Mercedes-Benz S Rennsport won the Spirit of the Tour award, chosen by the organisers as the driver and car pairing that was considered to enter most in to the spirit of the 200-mile Highland Tour. The Ferrari 275 GTS/4 NART Spyder was awarded the RAC Spirit of Motoring Award.

An impeccable Jaguar SS1 took home two prizes, winning both the RAC Club Trophy and the inaugural Jaguar Trophy. Two independent panels of judges, which included HRH Prince Michael of Kent, Jaguar Director of Design Ian Callum and



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Aston Martin Head of Design Marek Reichman, were unanimous in their decisions. As winner of the RAC Club Trophy the SS1 will be invited to take part in the main Concours in 2016.

The weather was perfect for all three days of the Concours. The gardens of the Palace of Holyroodhouse were looking their best and Arthur's Seat provided a stunning backdrop. The cars were given lots of space to make each one a star in its own right and despite the event being so well attended it never felt crowded. Cars of special Scottish interest were also on display and included those of Jim Clark, Jackie Stewart and Dario Franchitti along with the transporter of Ecurie d'Ecosse. We ran out of time and didn't manage to view the other Car Club displays in the car park beyond the Palace. Nimal Jayaratne had travelled up from the Midlands to display his beautiful Jaguar E-type but we did catch up with him the following day at the Bo'ness Hillclimb Revival. So, in conclusion, was it worth the ticket price of £25? Answer - a resounding "YES". If you have an opportunity to attend the 2016 event at Windsor Castle then do go. It may well be many years before the event returns to Holyroodhouse.

Fiona Davies

CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Twenty-six intrepid Polar Bears



braved the serious flooding and road closures to get to the Collingwood Arms Hotel for their festive lunch. It had rained non-

stop for a week (although the Sunday was dry and sunny) courtesy of climate change and storm Desmond. There was flooding all across Cumbria, Yorkshire and the Scottish Borders - we passed through Coldstream where we could see just how far the Tweed had burst its banks, although the main A68 was clear. However, due to a cyclist being killed outside Pathhead, the A68 was closed at the Stair Arms, but it was an easy diversion and we all made it OK, if a little shaken.



The hotel did an excellent lunch and there was a good selection of raffle prizes - so many that everybody got one and some got two! This raised £165, so many thanks to everyone.

Dick then went over the previous year's events (see his Annual Report) and Mike Webber gave a quick report on the NEC and Chris Cooney reported on the Ingliston Revival in September. We then went over the 2016 calendar to decide the best dates for lunches.



Andrew Carrie then said that Classics in the City 2016 needed an organiser and he was happy to help anyone who felt brave enough to volunteer, by giving contact details and advice on dealing with Embra Council! Seriously though, it would be good to get a local volunteer to take this on.

Finally, it was decided which charities would benefit from next year's fundraising - the Children's

Happy New Year!



WHAT'S NEXT

April 3rd: Lunch at the Collingwood Arms, contact Dick or Pat Nortcliffe

April 17th: Doune Hillclimb, contact Dick Nortcliffe

May 20th-22nd: Northern Gambol, contact Paul Bonsall

June 4th & 5th: Thirlestane Dream Rides - set up on the 4th and the show on the 5th. Contact Dick Nortcliffe.

June 4th: Liverpool Dream Rides, contact Max Walker

July 3rd - Classics in Corbridge contact Bob Selby.

July 11-12th: Cholmondeley Pageant of Power, contact Max Walker

July/August: Classics in the City - needs an organiser!

July 29th-31st: CarFest North, Dream Rides, contact Max Walker

August 14th: Dream Rides at Raby Castle, contact Tony Beverley

August 15th: Teeside Dream Rides at Teeside Autodrom. Contact Tony Beverley

August 21st: Lunch at the Collingwood Arms, contact Dick or Pat Nortcliffe

August 6/7th: Historic Wheels event at Brodie Castle. Individual entries. September 4th - to be confirmed, Bo'ness Hillclimb Revival.

August 27-28th: Dream Rides at Battle of Britain at Croft Circuit, contact Tony Beverley

September 4th: Aintree Children's Dream Rides, contact Max Walker

November 11th-13th: NEC Dream Rides

December 4th: Christmas Lunch at the Collingwood Arm, contact Dick or Pat Nortcliffe.

Hospice Association Scotland is to receive money from Thirlestane Castle Dream Rides, the raffle money to go to WhizzKidz and Hearts and Minds Clowndoctors should get the Polars' share of the NEC Dream Rides.

Helen



NEC DREAM RIDES

Regular Polar attendees included Mike and Helen Webber, Phil and Daniel Roberts, Chris Pollin and Claire Howie and Phil Ellis. Sarah Forbes was there for the first time. Many thanks Sarah for providing the photos.



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