



POLAR NEWS

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FROM YOUR EDITOR

Congratulations to Chris Pollin and Claire Howie on their recent engagement. Chris's proposal at the recent Teesside event took Claire totally by surprise. He had spent months planning the moment when he would propose, involving many of his friends in the arrangements which were kept secret from Claire.

Mouse in front of a huge banner saying "Will you marry me Claire?". When she accepted he presented her with a diamond engagement ring. How romantic!



As both Bears were great Disney fans they had dressed in costumes for the event. Chris was Mickey Mouse and Claire was Elsa from her Disney favourite, "Frozen" (a bit like driving about in a Westfield). She could not be persuaded to be Minnie Mouse.

Chris arranged to get Claire out on a Dream Ride and then "pulled in" by the Police to be met by Mickey

CORBRIDGE CLASSICS

This was once again ably organised by Bob Selby and we had 14 cars - well, 13 and the pack horse! Dick had loaded up his 4x4 with the stand stuff required and spent the night at Fiona's as Corbridge is a fair step from Ellon. He called round to us to collect the stuff that wouldn't fit in the Min (most of it!) and we were good to go at the crack of Sparrow whtsit.

Five of us met up for the convoy run down - with Andrew in the 911 as team leader and the Min constantly playing 'keepie up'. Andrew stayed between 60 & 65

mph, but the Min flagged on any incline - the combination of Brian and the stakes for the bunting being a weight too far! Anyway, we all arrived safely at Corbridge, met the other 8 cars and everyone quickly got the stand up - the main gazebo for bears, rattling cans and club info and the 'skivers' tent' behind. The forecast rain never appeared and it was a warm, pleasant day - with lots to see and delicious pizza to scoff. In addition Fiona and Mike had provided coffee and cakes for the R&R tent. Everyone had an enjoyable time, with much hilarity and interesting headware!



We had a good array of cars on show - a Mercedes SLK200, Jaguar





XKR, Jensen Interceptor, AK Cobra replica, BMW 635 Sport Coupe, Toyota MR2, Porsche 911 Carrera, Rover Mini Cooper S, Renault Turbo, a beast of a Nissan GT-R, TVR Chimaera, Porsche Carrera 4S and a Ford Escort RS2300 - something for everyone there. There was a constant stream of punters looking at the cars and being very generous about donating money or homing bears - George & Sheila Dodds, Ann Davison and Andrew Carrie were the main movers and shakers here and raised £459.76. In addition, John Rutter raised £237.16 in donations from Nissan, show organisers and the public for showing his Lamborghini Murcielago Prindiville at the Extreme Torque Show held at the Nissan factory. This means that Smile for Life will receive £696.92 - not bad for a pleasant Sunday in the sun! Thanks again to everyone who got up early, brought their cars and generally helped out.

Helen Kirkness



NISSAN EXTREME MOTORSPORT DAY 5TH JULY 2015

My first event as a 'Polar Bear' was well described as it was typically 'a bit nippy!' at the Nissan Manufacturing Plant as we say in the North. But great fun all the same. Firstly let me introduce myself. I have been a car enthusiast for many years having owned and restored many cars over the past 35 years. I had been aware of The Sporting Bears for many years and avidly watched the annual event at the NEC, however due to regularly working overseas, I have never had the time to join and be an active member. Work has now brought me back to the

UK and at the NEC 2014 I decided to join along with a few other friends. Dick kindly introduced himself early 2015 and invited me to join him and others at Thirlestane Castle, but my car (A De-Tomaso Pantera) was about to be sold and maybe it would be a little too risky.

Moving on a couple of months and I had been fortunate to acquire a modified Lamborghini Murcielago and was looking for a first show. One of my neighbours popped down to see the car and consequently invited me to Nissan's Extreme Motorsport Event. Never being too shy I would do so on the basis Nissan would make a donation to a charity of my choice. All agreed and I informed Dick who



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kindly suggested Smile For Life, a fairly new charity started in May 2014. What a fantastic charity (they all are) and I pity the committee who have to choose the worthy causes. Dick also informed me the SBs were at an event in Corbridge that day, and would I be fine working alone? 'No problem' as it was only a static display. Moving on a few weeks and Nissan agreed to pull together an advertising board (you can just see it in the background), and a vehicle detailer to come to my house for two days to get the car in shape.

The day was great fun; I am used to showing cars but not to talk about charities and asking people to dig deep. In most cases people were keen to support the event and anyone who wanted a photograph inside the car was charged £1:00, which I guess could have been more! I will learn. All in all I did enjoy my first event representing the SBs and managed to collect £237.16. Dick suggested we combine it with the Corbridge event, so in total almost £600:00 was collected at the two events.

I look forward to meeting others and representing the SBs in the near future.

John Rutter (Durham)

CLASSICS IN THE CITY OF EDINBURGH – SATURDAY 18 JULY 2015

There's a saying "once bitten, twice shy". You would think that after the hassle we had last year organising our "Classics in the City", nobody with any sense would take it on again. And you'd be right. Nobody with any sense did, so it was left to me.

And once again, it is a story in 2 parts. Part 1 takes 6 months and still manages to almost go wrong in the last 4 days. Part 2 takes 6 hours and comes together almost seamlessly. Can you guess which of those two parts was under the control (I use the term loosely) of Edinburgh Council?

Somebody asked me at the event itself "why are we not in the same



space as last year", and my answer was a non-committed shrug – how do you explain the lead-up "behind the scenes" before we got as far as the "call for volunteers"? Well, here goes... If you prefer to think of events as "oh lovely, we all turn up, collect some money, have a chat and go home again" then look away now.

January – you start the year off fine (No wait, that was Neil Sedaka). I call the Council licencing department to find out what's available, and provisionally book Parliament Square West (where we were last year) for 18 July. With that confirmed, I submit

two applications – one to hold a charity collection (location, number of collectors, details of charity, etc) and another to hold a street parade. Even although we're not moving, the Council say we're a parade, marching on the spot. February – Another department points out that there will be weddings in buildings around the Square. I say "same as last year then, and it worked fine". They say "oh yes, that's ok then". Ten minutes later, I get an email from the same person "No it's not ok." After a quick telephone discussion, where I offer to meet to discuss any problem, it's all sorted again.



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March – I ask for confirmation so that I can send out our “call for volunteers”. They say “right ok we’ll get that out to you.” I’ll believe it when I see it.

April - See “March” except with phone calls and emails. Still no confirmation.

May – Half-way through May, I’m getting desperate. They tell me on the phone that we can’t use the Square – there’s been an objection in February.

Three different people in different Council departments have waited 3 months, for me to get back to them, but none of them thought to tell me that... They’re sorry, but the event is “off”.

After a “full and frank” discussion of alternatives, (during which the licencing officer, to be fair, is very helpful) they offer the sacrosanct space of the pedestrianised bit of the High Street. That’ll do! The event is back “on”.

This space is open until 10.30am for servicing of shops etc, and then closed by those “rising bollard” things until the next morning. The space is very popular during the Festival, full of street performers, who all have one thing in common – they walk in, none of them use vehicles. We need to be able to get in after 10.30am (after the service lorries have left) and out again at the end.

“No problem” says the bold Council, “we’ll give you a loan of a key, for a £10 deposit”. I check, and it’s easy – I have to go and collect the key a week beforehand, and hand it back afterwards.

So out goes the email asking for members. Once again, a fantastic response from Sporting Bears, far and near. Everything is just hunky-dory...

June – Everything fine!

July – A week before the event, I call the man about the key. “No problem, come in any time, it’s all in hand”.

So I go in on Monday, 4 days before the event. He’s off today.

Nobody else knows anything about it. Somebody else appears after half-an-hour with the original application form (for the Square) and says I don’t need a key – and anyway, they don’t hand it out, the other 3 people were all wrong, so if we want to use that space, we have to walk in. She’s not for turning, so I leave with no key. Another series of “full and frank” telephone discussions ensues, during which it eventually emerges (perhaps entirely coincidentally) that one of the bollards is developing an intermittent hydraulic fault, and isn’t working reliably, so they have the road closed with temporary barriers, which we can move – so there’s no problem after all!

And that, dear readers, is how we got to Saturday 18 July, which brings us on to Part 2, the event itself. We were very lucky to get a dry and reasonably warm day (for Edinburgh).

After a little bit of initial confusion finding each other, we got the cars set out, and set up the gazebo, with a fine display of teddy bears hoping for new homes.

On display we had Bob Selby’s AC Cobra, George and Sheila Dodds’ Mercedes SLK, Jeff and Mary Jane Ferris’ Marcos Mantara, Brian Hunter’s Nissan Skyline GTR, Sarah Forbes’ VW Karmann Beetle Cabrio, Fiona Davies’ MGA, Ron Dyer’s TVR



Have a nice day!

Chimaera, Hamish Cubitt's TVR 350, Chris Pollin and Claire Howe with their Renault 18 Turbo, and Chris Cooney's Panther Kallista. It was great to see them all, freshly scrubbed and gleaming in the sunshine. Yes, we surely have some handsome and beautiful owners – and the cars looked fantastic too!

Also in attendance were Dick in the support Jeep (somebody has to bring all the stuff!), Phil Roberts, and me in my recently-acquired Range Rover, full of quarter of a ton of sand barrels to build barriers around the cars.

Our display certainly attracted attention! A lot of that was from tourists, some of whom said they had never seen cars like these before.

Our charity for the day was the Hearts and Minds Clowndoctors, and we were assisted on the day by two Clowndoctors, namely Dr Sprout and Dr Mousse (also known as Lies and Rachel when they have their sensible heads on). They also attracted a lot of attention, as passers-by enjoyed their childish silliness. They bring a smile and a laugh wherever they go.

A huge thank you to everyone who

came along on the day, with such an interesting selection of cars for people to admire, and for your help throughout. Everybody seemed to be busy all day, either taking turns with the collecting tins, or with the bear re-homing, or just chatting to people about their car.

As a result of everybody's splendid efforts on the day, we raised £482 for the Clowndoctors – a great sum for 6 hours in the sunshine (well, in the shade for the first half). See, this organising lark is all worth it in the end!

Andrew

AUGUST LUNCH AND SACHD PRESENTATION

A beautifully sunny, but rather windy, day saw 19 Polars gather at The Collingwood for their summer lunch. It was nice that Barbara Cooney was able to attend for the first time. After we had all eaten well it was down to business. Dick passed on apologies he had received and advised that 4 new members had joined since our last meeting. A few Polars were to be attending the Holyrood House Concours d'Elegance as MOPs on Saturday 5th September whilst Andrew had been invited to put his

car on the Porsche stand that day. Admission tickets had been issued to those who had put their names down for the Bo'ness Hillclimb on Sunday the 6th. There was one space still available on the stand which was to be sited in amongst the other Car Clubs this year.



During the review of recent events Bob thanked all those who attended Corbridge and helped to raise £460 for Smile for Life. It was proving difficult to finalise a date for the presentation but he would be in touch with those local members who wished to attend once a date had been finalised. Dick advised that a further £237 would be added to the Corbridge amount. This sum had been raised by John Rutter who had been invited to display his Lamborghini Murcielago at the Nissan factory Motorsport day which coincided



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5-6 September Bo'ness Hill Climb.
Contact Andrew Carrie
07798646844 or email
Andrew@acarrie.net

13-15 November NEC Dream Rides. Contact Andrew Lake email
treasurer@sportingbears.co.uk

6 December Sunday Lunch and Meeting at The Collingwood Arms Hotel, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland. Contact Pat
01358723845

with the Corbridge Classic. Classics in the City had been a most enjoyable day and raised £495. The presence of 2 of the Clowndoctors for 3 hours had greatly added to the fun as well as helping the donations to flow in for their charity.

Leyburn's 40's Weekend had been a great mix of music, dance, costumes and other entertainment which combined with Jim and Aly's hospitality had proved to be a most enjoyable experience for those attending.

Another social event enjoyed by a few members was the Historic Wheels event held at Brodie Castle. This show is known for its wide variety of awards and this year John Ducker went home with a prize for the smallest car (his beautifully restored Heinkel) whilst Cherie Timney-Gunn received a prize for the best Mini.

Congratulations to both of them! The lunch raffle raised £120 which would be added to the £190 from the Spring lunch and together with whatever is raised at Xmas lunch this should be a nice amount to donate to REACT. CHAS had already received the modest £160 raised from the lunches at Doune



and Dick advised that he had nominated them to receive the Polar share of the NEC money. We were then joined by Sue and son Roddy McLean representing SACHD. We all ventured out into the gardens with Dick and Pat clutching the giant cheque for a formal presentation photo to be taken. Back indoors Roddy gave a wee speech in which he thanked the Polar Bears for their continuing support of SACHD. The services of Yorkhill Children's Hospital had been transferred to the recently opened new hospital in Glasgow with SACHD having funded a number of INR machines and 1 defibrillator. A pilot art therapy project run with young heart patients had been so successful that it has been extended to other patient groups. SACHD also continues to provide a caravan for families to use for respite together. Roddy finished by telling us that the promotional video on the Thirlestane Dream Rides compiled by Stuart Cameron of StuMedia has been shown at the SACHD AGM. The video included an interview with Fiona who explained why the Polars are keen to support SACHD. After Sue and Roddy left, the meeting continued with Dick asking for suggestions as to other events we might attend in the future. Chris Cooney was going to the first Revival show at Ingliston and

would report back on the feasibility of the Polars attending either in a static capacity or to provide Dream Rides on track. Robert wondered if it might be possible to provide Dream Rides at Glamis? Pat raised the point that this year she and Dick were faced with some difficult decisions when late entries and offers to put cars on display were received for Thirlestane. It would be helpful to know if any regular Polars offering Rides might in future consider continuing to support the event but attend in a non-driving capacity. All suggestions on how we can continue to improve Thirlestane would be gratefully received.

Fiona Davies

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