



FROM YOUR EDITOR

I do hope everyone had a great festive period and may be thinking of getting your car ready for its springtime debut - hopefully at the Doune Hillclimb! A warm welcome to new members Mark and Suzanne Bruce (it was lovely to meet you at the lunch) and Neil and Amanda McMillan (hope to meet you soon).

I have included a photo of 'It Really Was A Shame To Eat It' creme caramel made by Mike Davies - a man of many talents!



SUNDAY LUNCH

Eighteen Polar Bears enjoyed a delicious Sunday lunch at the Collingwood Arms. The journey down wasn't without excitement as a large tree had been blown down at Soutra and Hamish Cubitt had to call out the AA to replace a jubilee clip on his Porsche. After lunch, the raffle raised £105 for Whizz Kidz. Jim Kelman from SACHD received a cheque for £7,125 from the NEC Dream Rides and Bo'ness. Jim gave his thanks and told us that since 2008, the Sporting Bears has raised over £13,000 for SACHD and this



money helps out at Glasgow's Yorkhill and Edinburgh's Sick Kids as well as other children's cardiac units around Scotland. They also buy home use machines, defibrillators, sponsor family and teenager weekends, as well as maintaining the Pitlochry caravan. All the people at SACHD are volunteers so nearly all the money raised goes to helping the children with heart disorders. [We have in fact been supporting SACHD each year since 2006 and the total donated to date is £15,425 - Editor.] Doune Hillclimb is a new venture and the organisers are making it a family day out - Fiona and Mike have offered to

do soup and sarnies for club members for a donation to CHAS - do let them know if you'd prefer this to the standard burger. Thanks to the generosity of the following Polars we have been able to raise enough to purchase the gazebo: Andrew Carrie, Kate Cherrie, Hamish and Ann Cubitt, Robert Daniel, Mike and Fiona Davies, Ron Dyer, Phil and Kendal Ellis, Julian Foster, Brian and Helen Kirkness, James McChlery, Keith and Juliet Middleton, Dick and Pat Nortcliffe, Bob and Ann Selby and Mike and Helen Webber. The Club has donated £335 for a new flag and fitments, gazebo weights and a



carrying bag for side panels. We only need a further £100 towards the £310 printing costs - any donations welcome! Cheques made payable to SBMC and sent to Fiona please. The gazebo should be ready for Thirlestane Dream Rides setting up on Saturday May 31st. Contact Kate Cherry if you can help out and want lunch. For the Dream Rides themselves, BVAC are working on solving the driveway problem. Andrew Carrie has got the better of Edinburgh Council and obtained initial agreement to hold the proposed 'Classics in the City' on Saturday July 19th. We have an area allocated by St Giles Cathedral in the Royal Mile which can hold 10 cars and possibly the gazebo – weather permitting. The proposal is to rehome bears, do a street collection for the Army Benevolent Fund (Children's section) and advertise the club. Andrew is finalising the "small print" of the arrangements then we will be in a position to submit an Event Proposal to the Committee along with a Risk

Evaluation form. In the meantime, anyone interested please pencil the date in their diary and await confirmation that we have Club approval and are going ahead with this event.

The 25th Birthday Weekend is filling up and there are 24 Polars out of the 49 attending so far. Fiona is looking at organising a mini-bus to Edinburgh for the Saturday should any of the more Southern Bears wish to visit the Capital without driving themselves. Rooms are being held by the Cardrona until 31st July and Fiona will be pleased to hear from any other Polars who find they are now able to make this celebratory weekend over 3rd-5th October.

REACT received £750 from our 2013 lunch raffles plus the £100 from Richard Levin for the Johnny Herbert talk, which unfortunately was cancelled at the last minute. However, Richard has very kindly insisted that he doesn't want his £100 back. Smile for Life, recommended by George and

Sheila Dodds, has been approved and will receive the donations from Corbridge. Fiona reported to the club AGM that during 2013 the Polar Bears had raised £811 for Whizz Kidz, £750 for ECCDS, £275 for SACHD, £750 for REACT, £1,246 for Zoe's Place, Middlesborough and £3,000 for the Clowndoctors - a grand total of £6,832. Quite amazing! In the main Club, Hilary Cannon who took over last year as Membership Secretary now wishes someone else to take on Regalia. Derek Nicholson is taking over the Book-keeper's role from Boo Grant. All events now have to go through a two stage approval process which includes a risk evaluation.

HEINKEL RESTORATION



The Heinkel which I will be bringing to Thirlestane Dream Rides this year is a HEINKEL CABIN CRUISER (the British term) or a HEINKEL KABINE to use the German manufacturer's name. It was manufactured in Germany in 1958 and first registered in Sweden under the registration CEU186. It was taken out of service in Sweden in about 1986, imported from there by me in 2004 in the condition you see in two of the

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photos. It was completely unuseable and had to be taken to pieces and restored from the ground up. It has taken 9 years to complete. One of my objectives from the outset was to make it as identical as possible to the same Heinkel that Mary and I had as our first car between February 1959 and June 1962. Of the three bubble cars available at the time, I didn't like the Messerschmitt with its one-in-front-of-the-other seating and aircraft type cockpit, and of the two with side-by-side seats, I preferred the Heinkel because it had an engine with only one cylinder as compared with the Isetta which had two and therefore would be more economical than the Isetta.

Some of you may recall the article which appeared in a past edition of the Bear Facts which documented our many



adventures in this wonderful vehicle and included an entirely trouble-free 3,000 miles continental trip which took us through France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy. Following the birth of our first daughter Fiona we went everywhere with her in a carrycot on the back seat, including from Bath to my home in Banbury several times, and to Kilmacolm several times, some 400 miles distant. No tie-downs, no seatbelts, no breakdowns and no accidents. I particularly like the photo of Fiona some 50 plus years later

sitting with Mary her Mum in the totally restored red Heinkel. She is holding a photo of the pair of them in our first car. Having offered this Heinkel for Dream Rides, Mummy Polar Bear asked if there were any differences between it and the blue Heinkel I have used on previous occasions. The answer is Yes and No! The top speed is the same i.e 56 mph, the engine size is NOT 198 cc, but 204 cc. The reason for the difference is too complicated to explain except that this was a German built machine which had the 204 cc engine, whereas those that were imported to and registered in the UK had the bore size reduced to under 200 cc for insurance purposes apparently! So much for the problems of 50 years plus ago. Seems ridiculous to us now!

John Ducker



See You Soon!

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20 April – DATE CHANGE Doune Speed Hillclimb (near Callander). Club stand with opportunity to rehome bears. Charity supported - CHAS. Contact Fiona ysy705@aol.com

9-11 May – The Northern Gambol. Weekend social and touring. Contact Paul Bonsall Tel 01539623242 or email enquiries@fatlamb.co.uk

11 May – DATE CHANGE Polar Lunch - Collingwood Arms, Cornhill-on-Tweed. Contact Fiona ysy705@aol.com

1 June – Thirlestane Dream Rides. Charity supported - Borders Children's Charity. Contact Fiona ysy705@aol.com

6 July – Classics at Corbridge. Club stand with opportunity to rehome bears. Charity supported - Smile for Life. Contact Bob Selby: Tel 0191 489 1980 or e-mail cobra.gpt290s@blueyonder.co.uk

11 August – Teesside Autodrome, Children's Dream Rides for children from 5 local charities. Contact Tony Beverley: Tel 07968 823172 or email tonybev52@gmail.com

17 August – Raby Castle Dream Rides. Charity supported - Zoe's Place. Contact Tony Beverley: Tel 07968 823172 or email tonybev52@gmail.com

7 September – Bo'ness Hillclimb and Revival Show. Club stand with Teddy Bears Picnic theme. Charity supported - Hearts & Minds Clowndoctors. Contact Andrew Carrie: Tel 07798 646844 or email andrew@acarrie.net

14 September – Polar Lunch - Collingwood Arms, Cornhill-on-Tweed. Contact Fiona ysy705@aol.com

3-5 October – Club's 25th Birthday Celebrations, Cardrona Hotel, nr Peebles, Scottish Borders. Contact Fiona or Mike Tel 0131 552 2972 or email ysy705@aol.com

14-16 November – NEC Dream Rides Birmingham

7 December – Polar Lunch - Collingwood Arms, Cornhill-on-Tweed. Contact Fiona ysy705@aol.com

I

CLASSICS IN THE CITY - AN ODE:

When your head is full of doubt
And difficulties make you pout
You even feel like checking out
Carry on.

When organisers just don't care
And drive you fast towards despair
And make you lose remaining hair
Carry on

When wading through the Council's rules
Authored, it would seem, for fools
Your tears will fall in steady pools
But carry on

The questions come in thick and fast
Each one stranger than the last
They'll piss around till our date's passed
But carry on

No problem is without solution
Despite the Council's convolutions
We'll get there by this resolution:
Just carry on.

Andrew

CONGRATULATIONS TO

> Bill Niven on his recent 70th Birthday. We look forward to hearing all about your special birthday present from Karen – ice driving in Norway – once the weather there is cold enough!

> Charlotte and Richard Talbot on the birth of baby James and to proud grand-parents Sandy and Kevin Talbot. Taking him to Doune Hillclimb in April is certainly an early start to introducing him to the family's love of all things motoring!

BAHAMA BEARS

Jeff and Mary-Jane have arrived safely in the Bahamas and are settling in now their possessions have caught up with them. Christmas dinner – a beach barbecue!

AND FINALLY

Get Well Soon to Bob Selby. Wishing you a speedy recovery from your back operation. We need you and the reassembled Cobra at Thirlestane.

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Have a nice day!