



POLAR NEWS

No. 76 September 2012

FROM YOUR EDITOR

We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Diane Carrie in August. She was a regular attendee at our lunches and charity presentations. Our thoughts are with Andrew and his family.

Many thanks to Fiona, Mike Webber and Alasdair Campbell for their articles.

PRESENTATION TO WHIZZ KIDZ

The Spirit of Adventure, my road trip around the UK in the Vauxhall Astra GTC, set out to raise awareness, not only of the impressive car I was using, but also of the excellent work of the Sporting Bears Motor Club throughout the country. It was not intentionally a fund-raiser, but the more people that heard about the trip, the more I was hearing phrases like "Put me down for a Tenner". With a few hastily arranged donation sheets distributed to friends and colleagues before I left, I began fearing I would come back to find a grand total of £13.26 waiting for

me. Of course, as the saying goes, every little helps, but I really didn't know what to expect.

When I arrived home and began to chase up the various donation sheets, adding up the £3-£10 donations, I was incredibly proud to see around £600 pledged for the club. All donations came through as promised and a cheque for £600 was duly sent off to our treasurer, Boo Grant. With additional contributions from Club Members the figure swelled and the charity Whizz-Kidz was nominated to receive the final amount.

Whizz-Kidz provides hi-tech wheelchairs and tricycles for children with restricted mobility, giving them a whole new feeling of independence. I'm sure each and every Bear will remember the day they passed their driving test and were let loose on the roads, on their own, for the first time. Whizz-Kidz gives the same sense of freedom to kids who have been, previously, so dependent on others to help them around.

On a dreary, wet Monday in July (is there any other kind of Monday?),

following a few aborted attempts, I met up with Carol McKinlay from Whizz-Kidz, at the Peter Vardy dealership in Motherwell, near Glasgow. It was my pleasure to present her with a cheque for £750, which Carol said, "will help the charity continue to make a difference to the lives of disabled young people." A keen driver herself, I'm sure it won't be the last we see and hear of Carol!

Thanks must go to Euan Cameron from Peter Vardy Vauxhall, for hosting the presentation and arranging the photographs, and to Fiona Davies for providing materials.

PRESENTATION TO BCC AND SACHD

Fiona and Mike organised this presentation to the Borders Children's Charity and Scottish Association for Children with Heart Disorders. Just under 20 folk from the Polar Bears, BVAC and the two charities assembled at Stanley House for the presentation and lunch.

The BCC had been recommended by Mike Webber and had already received the cheque for £2,700 from the Dream Rides at the BVAC show at Thirlestane Castle. However, Fiona presented Bronwyn with the gift aid forms which should let the charity claim back another £450 from the tax man. Bronwyn then explained just how the BCC had used the money. She was so pleased they had received it at the start of the summer and the charity was able to provide beds for children in desperate need of them, a holiday break for a child carer and outings for a mother and toddlers group. Bronwyn thanked both BVAC and the Polar Bears for





raising the money and assured everyone that all the money gets spent on the needy children. Mary Jane Ferris then presented a cheque for £350 to Roddy for SACHD. This was the money from their Lammermuir Lope and Coldingham Gala Day - topped up by the committee. Then we all fell on the wonderful lunch rustled up by Mike - both the beef pie and the fish pie were to die for, not to mention the lemon cheesecake and chocolate mousse! BCC Follow-Up: Bronwyn has sent

me copies of 2 thank you letters BCC had received from the Selkirk and Galashiels Family Support Centres. Trips to the beach, Harestanes, Traquair, Bowhill and Butterfly World as well as to the cinema and swimming pools had been organised as part of their Summer Programme. "Our families really appreciate these outings as, for some, this is the only trip that they do during the holidays". Twenty-three parents and 27 children from Galashiels Bumps 2 Babies Group enjoyed the trip to



Harestanes which was only possible because of the BCC donation which paid for the booking of a coach to transport them. Handwritten notes from the parents included: "Tyler and his Nana had fun" - "Had a fab time. My little one had lots of fun as well as Mummy and Daddy." - "Thank you for a great day out. We really enjoyed ourselves." Fiona

HISTORIC WHEELS CLUB AT BRODIE CASTLE



As anticipated, we found summer sunshine over the weekend of 11th/12th August when Mike and I ventured up to Morayshire in the MGA Roadster for the ever-popular event organised by the Historic Wheels Motor Club. In the past 15 or so years, we can only remember it raining twice. Yes, they have their own micro-climate there.

On Saturday morning we arrived at the Old Station, Elgin to get our Mystery Tour instructions and chatted to the 30 or so other drivers of mostly classic cars who had signed up for the delightful drive through beautiful countryside which led us to Cawdor Castle – as mentioned in Shakespear's Macbeth. After a picnic lunch in the grounds we did a tour of this small castle which boasts a large collection of paintings (which is still being added to). A cup of tea in the courtyard preceded a tour of the walled gardens then an ice-cream to cool ourselves down. High tea is always an option but we were heading to Aberdeenshire to meet up with fellow Polars, Dick and Pat Nortcliffe. They too are regular attendees at this event and this year on Sunday they took the Scimitar. Our gathering location

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was Innes House, deep in the countryside between Elgin and Forres. Over 200 cars and motorcycles assembled in the grounds. After registering for the afternoon display there was lots of time for coffee and chat, a wander round the gardens where interesting sights met the eye, before then admiring the cars. An early lunch was served in a marquee for those who wanted it then it was time to head off on a 25 mile route which took us to Brodie Castle where large numbers of the public were already gathered in eager anticipation. The cars and



motorcycles are arranged along the avenue within the 16 different classes but this year there was a grouping of all MG cars to mark the 50th anniversary of the MGB. A splendid sight – although I admit to being biased!

This is such a friendly show with a refreshingly wide range of vehicles on display. Something for everyone to enjoy – and, of course, there is always an ice-cream van!
Fiona



TVRs and colour coordinated owners at Knockhill

CLASSIC SPEEDFAIR AT KNOCKHILL

A full report on this event will appear in the next edition of the Polar News. Suffice to say the day was dry and we had 9 shiny cars on the stand. We raised £263 from donations and the sale of bears for CHAS. Many thanks to Andrew Carrie for organising our attendance.

CHILDREN'S DREAM RIDES AT AINTREE



Following a brilliantly successful event last year, North West Bears ran Children's Dream Rides again at Aintree on September 2nd. Bears and guest drivers drove disadvantaged, disabled and unwell children, their carers and parents round the 1.25 mile sprint track. The track is what remains of the circuit which hosted the British Grand Prix on five occasions in the 1950's and 60's, the first being won by Stirling Moss driving for Mercedes in 1955 and the last won by Jim Clark for Lotus in 1962. The circuit runs inside the famous

racecourse and at one point the cars pass quite close to the imposing Grand National fences. These are extremely solid and our genial hosts, the Liverpool Motor Club, were at pains to point out that if you hit one with your car, the fence would win.

The 'summer' of 2012 has spoiled many an event and unlike last year, which was brilliantly sunny, September 2nd. dawned grey and drizzly. Things improved by lunchtime but the unpromising start to the day meant that the numbers of children attending was somewhat reduced, the difficulties of looking after severely disadvantaged children being magnified by poor weather. Nonetheless the event was a great success and those attending had a great time. Max Walker drummed up a superb selection of cars, the stars being a Lamborghini Aventador, an open Lola T70 and a Juno track car. The Aventador was a fearsome sight, a sort of Darth Vader on wheels. One small boy was so daunted by its demeanour that he refused to climb aboard.



See You Soon!

www.sportingbears.org.uk



WHAT'S NEXT

16 - 18 November NEC Dream Rides
Contact Andrew Lake
andrew.lake@rockingham.co.uk

Sunday 2 December Lunch,
Collingwood Arms, Cornhill-on-Tweed,
Northumberland. Contact Fiona Davies

However the Merseyside Constabulary were made of sterner stuff and came back smiling from a couple of demo laps, a thank-you for turning out with their BMW patrol cars which were popular rides. The children were allowed to sit in the front, the policemen explaining that their customers usually sit in the back...



The event was again sponsored by CES uk, a car parts distribution company which is very supportive of the Sporting Bears and met the cost of hiring the track for the day. CES have an excellent accessory and consumables catalogue under their Autosessive brand. The day could not have taken place either without the Liverpool Motor Club, who ran the track for us and ensured the safety of drivers and passengers alike. The pre-track briefing by club chairman John Harden laid great emphasis on responsible driving and the day passed without incident.

In all, the day was a great success and a credit to Max and Graham and the North West Bears. Mike Webber



WELCOME

Welcome to new member Stewart Brown, from Edinburgh, who joined up at Knockhill.

ITALIAN CAR AND BIKE DAY AT HOPETOUN HOUSE

A friend had suggested visiting the 'Italian Stallion' Day at Hopetoun House as a friend of his was taking an old blue Lamborghini. We agreed to go and then a certain jammy so-and-so (aka Brian K) gets offered a Ferrari 550 to take - just like that! Not one to turn down a good offer, Brian blags an entry and sets off with another friend and I get to pick up the first friend in Li'l Min - think I got the short straw somehow.

Anyway, glorious weather, a huge turnout of Italian Cars and Bikes and lots of MOPS (members of the public) made it an enjoyable day out. There were interesting cars in

the car park too! The Sporting Bears on show were James McChlery with his Countach and Diablo plus Graham Chappell with Ferrari F430 F1 Spider and son Carter.

SHINY DAY 2

A second Shiny Day proved to be an enjoyable and educational weekend in the Yorkshire Dales. Jim and Brian once again shared their knowledge and enthusiasm with Polar Bears. We look forward to some shinier cars at next year's events. There will be a full report in the next Polar News.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Please book early for this lunch as it is very popular and numbers are limited. It will be held in the Collingwood Arms, Cornhill-on-Tweed on Sunday 2 September. Call Fiona on 0131 552 2972 or email ysy705@aol.com.



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Have a nice day!