



Strathendrick Rotary Classic Car Tour

24 April 2016

This year we were celebrating our tenth annual Classic Car Tour. The Charities supported by the Tour this year are CHAS the Children's Hospice Association of Scotland and Mary's Meals



The entry numbers exceeded all previous tours. 87 cars took part and there were a few unfortunate people on the waiting list.

The weather forecast was not particularly inviting for those with open top cars as showers, some with snow, were expected. Cars coming from the south experienced snow on the M74. There were a few rain showers locally but as the cars assembled once again at Dobbies car park near Stirling the rain stayed away and the sun shone.

Registration and distribution of route books and goody bags were in the capable and cheery hands of Pamela Maxwell with assistance from husband Edward.

This added to an overall cheerful crowd at the start. The great atmosphere persisted throughout the day.



As usual we had a tremendous variety of cars from the 1932 Austin 7 Arrow to a 2015 Lamborghini Huracan.

The cars were flagged off by Veronica Buchanan from CHAS



The route took the crews past Doune then through the Trossachs from Aberfoyle, The Dukes Pass on to Brig O' Turk then to Strathyre. After Lochearnhead where as usual Scotland's Finest were stationed with their little radar gun and passing through Glen Ogle and Glen Dochart, where more Boys in Blue had their cameras out, the route continued to

Crianlarich, down Loch Lomond to Tarbet across to Arrochar and on to the lunch stop.



This year again we were treated royally by the staff of the Lochs and Glens Ardgartan Hotel with its incredible view down Loch Long.

Following lunch the majority of the cars headed for the new "Old Rest and Be Thankful" road. This was open for us once again through the kind offices of Diane Davidson Kinghorn.

This year extra marshals were needed to keep the road clear of livestock if not their calling cards!



Some took the hillclimb in a spirited manner others were more sedate. Mike Pell in his 1932 Austin 7 assures me he was not responsible for the 20 yards of

black rubber left at the starting point! However rumour has it Mark Ryan in his Audi R8 switched off traction control and may be the culprit. Evidently he has a new set of tyres on order !

Then it was back down Glen Croe to Arrochar and Tarbet and on down Loch Lomond to Balloch. The route to the finish carried on the A811 to Arnprior then to the "Top of The World" before ending once again at Culcreuch Castle

The friendly atmosphere continued at Culcreuch the weather had remained fine for the whole route and it appeared that no one had their picture taken in Glen Dochart.



Following our meal our surprise guest appeared to assist Joe Norman our organiser in chief present the awards, none other than the Stig.

The award for most sponsorship was supported by the Winnock Hotel, Drymen and was won by

Robin Johnston and Guy Deakin in a 1973 V12 E Type Jaguar.

The oldest car to complete the course award sponsored by Gibbon and Wilson was won for the second time by Mike and Brenda Pell in their 1932 Austin 7 Arrow



The car driven furthest to take part in the Tour was the 1998 BMW Z3M of Darren and Cameron McGuinness, from Rossendale, Lancs. This award was sponsored by Brayon Classic Engineering



Culcreuch Castle is the sponsor of the award for "Spirit of the Tour". This year it was won by my John Bainbridge of Appleby who has taken part in most of the Tours but also encouraged a team of seven Rotarians from the Lake District to join the Tours.

The award sponsored by the Rotary Club of Strathendrick was presented to the most correct answer to Jim Bisset's Quiz. This was won by a single team this year instead of the usual draw from a number of correct answers. The outright winners were Derek House and David Hetherington in a 1988 Morgan 4+4.

Congratulations to Jim Bisset on setting a challenge that defeated the majority and many thanks to him for all the work he has put in over the years as our perennial quizmaster.

The Concours d'Elegance was won this year by the 1961 Morris Minor convertible of regular visitors from Muir of Ord Mike and Annie Herivel.

This prize sponsored by Stirling Council was a new book regarding Stirling Moss signed by the man Himself





A new award presented by Robert Dickie of Digital Video Team was a 10th Anniversary Photographic Record of all the Tours and was presented to Hamish McLeod and Irene Minto from Moffat in their 1949 Bentley Special.



In celebration of the 10th Anniversary photographs and prints donated by legends of motor sport including Sir Stirling Moss, Sir Jackie Stewart, John Surtees, Derek Bell and Susie Wolff from Oban were auctioned before the raffle

The auction raised £450. The raffle with many prizes donated by our principal sponsor as well as others raised £830.

This year our principle sponsor was again Graham and Janice Johnstone of SMS Tyres of Stirling. This year Graham and Janice fared better in the run in a Porsche 911 Turbo as they completed the Tour unlike last year when they had an early exit due oil loss when an oil cooler pipe failed.



The sponsorship of Graham and Janice of SMS tyres along with other sponsors Brayon Engineering, The Culcreuch Castle, The Winnock Hotel, Gibbon and Wilson and Lindsays Solicitors covers the expenses and so ensures that all money raised from entrants and from the auction and raffle goes to our Charities. This year that sum was over £7000.

The Rotary Club of Strathendrick is deeply indebted to all our sponsors and advertisers in the Route Book. Many thanks to Campbell's Shortbread, Beatson's Building Supplies Ltd., Hagerty Classic Car Insurance, SMS Tyres Stirling, Thomas Tunnock Ltd., CHAS and Mary's Meals for providing items for the Goody Bags.

We must also thank all those helpers and assistants especially the non-Rotarians who contributed to the smooth running of the event from start to finish.

Joe must be immensely proud that over the 10 Tours over £60,000 has been raised for Charities

Many have sent e-mails congratulating Strathendrick Rotary for the success of the Tour.



Weren't we lucky!



Local residents basking in the sun
On Sunday's tour at the start of the
Rest and be Thankful.



Two days later an isolated burger van at the
top of the Rest and be Thankful.