



Team Fido

MONGOL RALLY 2007



NEWSLETTER 1

Fundraising so far...

First of all, we would like to say a **BIG thank you** to all those of you who have generously supported us so far. We have raised approximately £400 pounds to date (we are trying not to monitor too closely; we want to be pleasantly surprised). This is particularly pleasing as Toby has not really started canvassing support and I have really only pestered a few close friends. The campaign will start gaining speed in the coming weeks once we have completed the last of our coursework and have more opportunity to get out and about. *Dan*

Meet Mel - Team Fido's female element

A few minutes after meeting Mel I thought "she's the one for me". She had lovely curves and a beautiful complexion like you wouldn't believe. I realised that she would be an ideal travelling companion with her squat figure and low centre of gravity she would be brilliant at tackling any problems that nature might throw at us on the epic journey to Mongolia. Despite her more mature look, Mel is actually younger than both Dan and I, but she obviously has experience beyond her years and quite a head for technology.



Mel entered our lives one Saturday afternoon in late April following an introduction by Simon Dobinson of Dorchester Motor Company. A small 1988, F registration, 3 door, Nissan Micra with an engine size of only 988cc, Mel had done very few miles despite her maturity. Regular servicing and plenty of TLC during her lifetime would hopefully ensure her reliability on the journey to Ulaanbaatar.

Why Mel? Dan and I decided that if we were going to spend 3 weeks plus in very close proximity with our new purchase we ought to personalise her by giving her a name. We chose Mel because it reminded us of both Melinda Messenger and Melanie Sykes. We wanted something that would remind us of home when we are miles from nowhere – just the two of us and the mosquitoes for company.

Mel is mechanically sound, however, she will initially be based in Southampton to enable us to undertake checks and prepare her for the rally. We will use her for fundraising opportunities and gaining lots of attention for both the rally and our generous sponsors whilst in Southampton and on frequent trips back home to Dorset and Somerset.



In order to check Mel's reliability we will be driving her to shops on the weekly grocery run as well as taking her on a romantic weekend to Welsh Wales. One of the organisers has invited rally-goers to his farm for a bit of a charge around in a field with the opportunity to meet other people who have left their brains in a basket and decided to embark on the same crazy adventure as us. *Toby*

A special thank you

We would like to say a special thank you to Simon and his team at Dorchester Motor Company; not only for sourcing Mel, but more importantly for all the advice and support they have given us with the ongoing preparations of Mel for the rally.

DORCHESTER
MOTOR COMPANY

The challenge begins - Visas

If you're going to apply for visas for Russia and Kazakhstan, give yourself plenty of time and relax. Don't do what I did and spend a mad few hours in a strange Yorkshire town with a post office assistant who had a very confusing local accent. Both of these country's application forms need multiple mug shots and exact dates and locations of entry and exit from the country as well as the specific places that we plan to stay. This is incredibly hard to judge as we have no idea how long it will take us to traverse the atrocious "roads" in these countries let alone which towns we may pass through. On top of all that they were both badly translated and wanted multiple

copies. There was the added threat that applications may be rejected for the strangest of reasons such as staples at the wrong angle (it has been known).

At the other end of the spectrum the Mongolian visa form is as easy to complete as falling off a log. One page, one photo easy instructions and no fuss. The rally organisers have also made life easier by sending off all application "en mass" to the appropriate embassies in the hope that they are processed (and granted!) quicker than if we did it ourselves. Fingers crossed that all goes well. *Dan*

And finally.....

Embarking on the rally is not simply about adventure, but more importantly raising huge sacks of cash for people worse off than ourselves. The money we raise will be split between Mercy Corps Mongolia (Mongol Rally principle charity) and Send a Cow (our chosen Charity) – details of these can be found in our earlier newsheet or on the websites (read on).

If you have already made a donation, THANK YOU, your money will enable our chosen charities to continue their brilliant work in helping people less fortunate than ourselves. If you have not made a donation, but would like to, please read on.

We need your help

The most immediate way of helping is by financial sponsorship or donation. Any amount, no matter how small, will make a difference - every penny that we raise will help many people far worse off than us. Unlike many other participating teams, all money received will go directly to the charities and not to funding our personal adventure.

Cash or cheques, made payable to "Mercy Corps" or "Send a Cow", may be given to either of us or sent to the address below – please remember to complete and enclose the attached slip. Alternatively, payment may be made via the websites: www.justgiving.com/teamfido (Mercy Corps) or www.justgiving.com/teamfido2 (Send a Cow). Simply log on and follow the on-screen instructions.

Keeping you updated

If you have enjoyed this newsletter and would like to receive further copies, please contact us via one of the methods listed below. In order to keep costs to a minimum, we would prefer to contact you by email – please let us have your email address. If you did not enjoy it, please pass it on to somebody who will – the further we can spread the word, the more lovely dosh we can generate for our charities enabling them to carry on their brilliant work.

For more rally news see

www.teamfido.co.uk/rally and www.mongolrally.theadventurists.com

Contact us on

Phone: Toby 07968 269336 / Dan 07795 965455

Email: rally@teamfido.co.uk

Correspondence: Team Fido c/o 54 Balmoral Crescent, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2BW