



Team Fido

MONGOL RALLY 2007



NEWSLETTER 3

It's the final countdown...

Only a few days to go now and the enormity of what we have let ourselves in for is becoming scarily clear! There are still so many things that need to be done leaving us both running around in frenzy, particularly poor Toby who has to work this week as well as prepare for the Rally.

Worryingly, we still have not received our passports back with the relevant visas! Apparently those people who have had visas refused or need to reapply have been informed, therefore we are taking no news as good news. The word on the grape vine is that we will get them back at the launch in Hyde Park, but confirmation of this from the organisers would be reassuring. In previous rallies the disorganisation of the ironically named "organisers" was noted, therefore, we are not too worried.....yet! *Dan*

The target has been reached, no, exceeded!

We are delighted to announce that we have met our minimum fundraising target of £1000. To date we have raised £1126.80 for Mercy Corps and £500.50 for Send a Cow. This is brilliant, **THANK YOU** so much to everyone who has contributed thus enabling our charities to continue their brilliant work. *Dan*

Sponsorship

We are extremely grateful to those of you who have sponsored Toby and I personally, either financially or 'in kind'. Your generosity will make our journey to Mongolia a whole lot more comfortable.

Enormous thanks must also go to our Company sponsors for their help and generosity:

Dorchester Motor Company: Simon, your technical advice and guidance has prepared us well for most eventualities that we will encounter on our journey. Hopefully, we will not need to use the spares! Rest assured, we will try to avoid the pot-holes in Kazakhstan or at least, hit them slowly!

Grassby Stonemasons: Andrew, your generosity will enable us to spend a night or two in comparative luxury. The lure of a bath and a soft bed will be very welcome following many nights couped up in our tent – should make us smell a whole lot fresher too!

Hardy Signs: Jason, the artwork is brilliant! What better way to spread the names of our generous sponsors a third of the way around the world.

The Vincent Group: Craig and Dave, the Jerry cans will keep the three of us topped up with liquid refreshment (must make sure we don't drink Mel's and she ours!). The lights will enable us to see the pot-holes before we hit them and the tyres will be essential should one sneak up on us unexpectedly.

For more rally news see:

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

Contact us on:

Toby: 07968 269336
Dan: 07795 965455

Email:

rally@teamfido.co.uk

Correspondence:

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



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Dressed to thrill



Mel has now undergone her final transformation from trusty old banger to faithful and gorgeous rally car. Thanks to the wonderful craftsmanship of Jason and the guys at Hardy Signs, she has some brilliant graphics to help publicise the rally, our charities and most importantly our company sponsors. She will have the official rally sponsor stickers added to the doors and bonnet at the Rally launch in Hyde Park on Saturday 21 July.

The all important roof rack and spot lights were added, giving Mel an authentic expedition look, in time for Toby to parade her in the Hardington Mandeville Carnival last weekend.

The last few days have also seen the arrival of Fido, the team's mascot on the dashboard. Fido's persistent nodding will entertain us for many hours along the journey as well as provide the unwavering optimism required in times of need. *Dan*

The Ace Café

Following cancellation of the Wales meeting, the rally organisers arranged an alternative at the Ace Café, London a week later. The old truckers' café, just off London's North Circular, was an odd place to have a meeting of guys who were about to take old bangers a third of the way round the world. The cafe is famous as a bikers and car enthusiasts 'hang-out' as well as the place from which Fifth Gear do some of their filming.

The weather was a complete contrast to that of the previous week - brilliant sunshine all day. Following a successful exit from the North Circular, Mel and I arrived at the Ace Café only 15 minutes later than planned, just as well, otherwise I would probably still be driving around it as I write. Remind me, which way is it to Mongolia?

Mongol Rally cars pitching up at the Café must have been a shock for all the regulars, the road outside being full of bikers performing wheelies, burnouts

and other stunts. Rally cars present included a pink panda, a black cab and an apparent abundance of Nissan Micras. The evening was spent chatting to the other teams discussing the preparation (or lack of) and their plans for the final two weeks prior to departure. Reassuringly, I discovered that we had done a similar amount of preparation to the other teams present. A few of us gave an impromptu car mechanics lesson to the team with the black cab and tried to work out how the meter fitted to the dashboard so that they could attempt to run up the worlds largest taxi fare.

Considerable time was spent examining the options open to one adventurer from Oxford whose co-driver had dropped out. Fortunately he found a new team-mate, with the right visas for the right countries, at the café that evening. All in all, another productive get-together enabling those present to share their experiences to date and plans for the challenge that lies ahead. *Toby*

It's never to late to make a donation!

We may be away, but the fundraising will go on until the end of September. Should you, or anyone you know, wish to make a donation, please do so via the websites: www.justgiving.com/teamfido (Mercy Corps) or www.justgiving.com/teamfido2 (Send a Cow). Alternatively, cash or cheques, made payable to "Mercy Corps" or "Send a Cow", may be sent to the Team Fido HQ at the address shown on the previous page.

That's it from us

Finally, this is the last newsletter from Toby and I before we leave for Mongolia. From next weekend onwards we will be emailing/phoning updates to the Team Fido Rally HQ (ie my dear mother, Jane) where the newsletter will continue production and distribution while we are away.

It would be more environmentally friendly if we could email future newsletters to you rather than via hand or post. We would be very grateful if you could email your name and "Please send newsletters" to rally@teamfido.co.uk. *Dan*

