



This year we had the largest entry ever of 86 cars. On the day 80 cars and crews turned out at The Beech Tree Inn near Killearn where they were expertly parked in the one car park by our loadmaster Neil Cameron.

Coffee and bacon rolls along with registration were taken inside this time because of the rain and cold.

In spite of the weather the Provost of Stirling Mike Robbins arrived and inspected the cars for the Concours d'Elegance prize and then flagged off the cars on the Tour.



A shortened course was available for the elderly or frail cars, the remainder took off over the Stockiemuir to Blanefield then to Lennoxton and over the Crow Road to Fintry. The course then took the road to Carron Reservoir and from Carron Bridge to Torwood.

Two weeks prior to the event an inspection of the route involved passing through deep snow on the upper sections. Fortunately this year there was no excitement or mishap during the inspection and all returned safely.

The snow had gone for the event but those with open tops and no heaters the climate remained Baltic as it must have been for the bold Rotarian volunteers on check point and marshalling duties..

Travelling through East Stirlingshire the cars then crossed the Clackmannanshire Bridge and took the road to Saline and thence to Knockhill Motor Race Circuit.

If asked where Knockhill is the answer would be somewhere near the Arctic!

Lunch of soup and sandwiches had been organised at Kinnairds Restaurant where there was warmth in the welcome as well as the dining room.

All cars on the tour were able to join a parade lap round the racing circuit. 80 cars at sensible spacing took up the entire circuit so that the first was right behind the last car. We took three circuits before leaving to head homewards to Culcreuch Castle.



A clash with another rally meant that the course was somewhat abbreviated. We returned along the Hillfoot road to the Wallace Monument thence to Bridge of Allan, Doune and via Arnprior and The Top of the World road to Fintry because the Kippen to Fintry road was closed by roadworks.

Once assembled at Culcreuch Castle we were fed yet again and in spite of our early arrival the service was excellent and all went well.

The President of the Rotary Club of Strathendrick Pamela Maxwell greeted all participants and thanked them for taking part.



Pamela then gave a vote of thanks to Joe Norman for his prodigious effort in organising the event along with Hazel his wife.

This was met with acclaim.

Joe then thanked everyone for their generous donations which meant that around £7000 would be split between Macmillan Cancer Support and the 500 Miles charities.



The awards were then presented to the winners by Janice Johnstone who with her husband Graham were the principle sponsors of the event through SMS Tyres of Stirling.



The award for Most Sponsorship Collected was won by Robin and Helen Morris of Fintry.

The Oldest Car on the Tour was the 1926 Austin 12 of Ruairidh and Tanya Dunford and their three brave and lively tots Willow, Poppy and Daisy.



The Award for the car driven the furthest was given to Sharon Crichton and Mark Collier in a suitably economical LPG powered 3 litre Audi A6 from Blackburn, Lancashire, to where they were returning the same evening.



The Spirit of the Tour Award went to Stephen and Alison McPherson from Aberdeen.

They have attended every Tour, have gained large amounts of sponsorship over the years and present the Spirit for the prizes, specially labelled Whisky, the payment for which is given to the Rotary Club of Aberdeen.

As in previous years Jim Bisset from Strathendrick Rotary presented a taxing quiz for competitors. This year 9 Cars got the full house with correct answers and the winners picked by Janice Johnstone were Mike d'Ambrosio and Elaine Howatson from Edinburgh.

The Concours d'Elegance prize, a signed copy of Sir Stirling Moss' Scrap Book presented by Stirling Council, was won by Patrick Ross-Taylor and Alexander Anderson with their superb Riley Roadster of 1950. In the absence of The Provost held up by Stirling Council roadworks! The award was presented by Janice Johnstone.



The Provost Mike Robbins arrived soon afterwards and offered his apologies.

A quick raffle of goodies presented by SMS tyres and others then added to the sum to be donated to our chosen charities.

The Rotary Club of Strathendrick offer our sincere gratitude to all our advertisers and our generous sponsors, in particular SMS Tyres of Stirling, James D Bilsland of

Croftamie, Jamie Gibbon of Gibbon and Wilson, Edinburgh Audi, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and Stirling Council. We also thank The Beech Tree Inn for sponsorship but also for hospitality at the start and Culcreuch Castle for hospitality and sponsorship at the finish.

Our sponsors and advertisers generosity allows us to donate all the money raised by participants to charity.

All participants appeared to have finished in one piece, the only breakdowns seem to have been caused by overheating. It certainly was not the weather!

Planning has already started for next year's tour which takes place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014 - We hope to see you then.