

# DRIVING HOME

A Project in aid of The Colin Javens Spinal Injury Trust (charity number 1107143)

164 days on  
the road



Driving Home is a pioneering overland expedition from London to Cape Town, led by Colin Javens who is tetraplegic. Driving Home will raise funds towards spinal research and welfare of the spinally injured, and will promote disability awareness in the UK & Africa.

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## Colin's expedition diary

Please all log on to read the final diary entries which try to sum up the achievement of the past six months. They are well worth a read:

[http://  
www.drivinghome.org.uk/  
diary.aspx](http://www.drivinghome.org.uk/diary.aspx)

## 19th May Charity Dinner

We have a few seats available for the Cranfield Alumni Dinner in aid of the Trust. Please contact Jo on 01483 898 840

## Donation site still live

Please celebrate Colin's achievement by continuing to support his Trust. Please donate through the website or send a cheque to the address above.

We are still looking for participants in the 10km run on June 10th or the Land's End to John O' Groats bike ride in August. For more details please email [caroline@drivinghome.co.uk](mailto:caroline@drivinghome.co.uk)

## Thank you

Thank you everyone who met, looked after, watered and fed the team during their adventure through Africa.

## Next month

- Fundraising dinner update
- Colin returns to Hereford
- Summer plans
- How you can help

## Colin celebrates his success

After 22,014km, 164 days on the road— Colin and his team finally, after all the hard work and the worry of the past few weeks, drove into Cape Town. It was truly amazing to see Colin arrive safely, greeted by excited family and friends.

Colin was quickly in demand for interviews with the local papers, national radio and TV stations and feature magazines as a local celebrity.



Colin on the top of Table Mountain

Wednesday 19th May we were joined by members of the QuadPara Association of South Africa, Morne du Plessis (former Springbok captain and patron), and Vincent Gore MP for a trip up Table Mountain to mark the teams amazing achievement. A sponsored reception at PwC followed which included an appearance of Colin on national TV.



The Land Rover convoy departs from Signal Hill

The Thursday marked the true end to the expedition as Land Rover enthusiasts formed a convoy to Cape Point. The team gazed across the Atlantic with nothing but



The team at Cape Point

sea between them and Antarctica! They had made it!

The celebrations continued on, until the team (all but Kiko) said goodbye to Africa, returning home to the UK.

## "The miracle worker" hits the headlines

Whilst Colin hit the headlines in South Africa, spinal cord repair was becoming big news back in the UK. The Sunday Times magazine heralded some of the exciting current research results in spinal cord repair.



Professor Geoff Raisman, based at University College of London, is developing the ability of olfactory stem cells, found in all our noses, to regenerate areas of damaged spinal cord.

This is a one key area of research that The Colin Javens Spinal injury Trust will

look to fund, especially as the work moves towards clinical trials with carefully selected human patients this autumn.



The Sunday Times front cover—9th April

## What next for the team...?

As everyone catches their flights back to the UK minds have wandered to what next...

Dr. Chris will locum in London, until a training post for paediatric surgery becomes available, hopefully this autumn.

Woody still has a place open with Lynx Engineering and hopes to have time to develop ideas on wheelchair design.

Ben heads to the Alps in a few weeks time to complete his

Grade 4 white water rafting exams, before contemplating climbing in the States.

Chrissy returns to Australia in September to earn some money. She hopes to be back to do a Masters degree in Nutrition in London next year.



The team rest in Hermanus

Kiko has stayed in Cape Town for the summer, travelling to Namibia and Vic Falls. She will return to a PGCE at Exeter University in the Autumn.

And Colin, he will continue to work for the Trust, raising its profile across the UK through talks and fundraising events. As Ari reminded him "his work is only just beginning".

All the team will be back together for the RGS talk on 13th Sept. We hope you will be there too.