

# DRIVING HOME

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



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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## Media attention starts to build

Colin appeared on Midlands TV last week talking about his ambitions of Driving Home and the work of the Trust. Thankyou Liz and George for your emails of support and sponsorship as a result.

The interview will be soon appearing on the website alongside the newspaper articles in our new section 'Press / PR'.

You should also spot us in the next edition of the Land Rover Owner magazine or you can meet us in person showcasing at the Land Rover Show at Billings Aquadrome from July 14th—17th.

**Hereford Ball—raised £8,000**  
*Congratulations to the expedition team for their fantastic evening held at the Shire Hall, Hereford. Also to the generous people who attended and supported the event.*

Welcome to the **Half Marathon runners**....Sarah, Libby, Ed, Miranda and Donna. Please let us know if interested in joining this team on the beautiful island of Jersey for the run on the **20th November**.

## Next month

- Land Rover Show, Billings
- Sponsors listed
- The team is finally complete

## Spinal injuries in Africa

One of the exciting plans for the expedition will be to stop and visit spinal injury centres en route through Africa.

Colin is very aware how fortunate he is to have the help of the NHS, and the generosity of UK charities and social services with his spinal cord injury (SCI). Being born in Africa Colin is also very aware that the same opportunities for treatment and survival do not exist there. For example the life expectancy for those with SCI is currently only 2-3 years.

Colin is extremely motivated to learn more about the facilities available and to help

using the funds already raised at the Hereford Ball and Gilgil sports day.

We have been in contact with two specific projects who we will be helping that we have mentioned before. KASI (the Kilimanjaro Association for the spinally injured), in Moshi, Tanzania has a vision seeking the 'best and sustainable life for people with spinal cord injuries'. They have now specifically requested funds to buy not just medical equipment linked to SCI but also sewing machines. These will be an investment enabling women with spinal cord injuries to have a means to

earn money, and therefore survive. We are already impressed by their sustainable and long term plans.

Members of KASI



In Zambia helping children with SCI with mobility equipment will enable them to attend school and access an education, again giving them a future chance.

We really hope to help and look forward to reporting back mid-expedition on how the money is being used.

## Vehicle adaptation is delayed

After our interesting article on the Turney Seat technology we have sadly been let down by the designers and fitters. They have decided that it is not possible in the Discovery. This has been extremely frustrating and disappointing and has delayed the work on the vehicle by a month.

However, we are now looking at a hoist and winch design to enter the vehicle. This is

perhaps less dignified for Colin but we hope will offer us a solution. More on this later.

We are also now working with Steering Developments, a new company who will design and install the hand controls. Fingers crossed these will be in place to display the vehicle at the Land Rover Show in ten days time. Come and visit us on the Land Rover stand on the 14th-17th July to see

what the vehicle will look like. With elbow touchpads for indicators and lights and a small steering wheel it is a clever piece of simple technology.



*The steering wheel, accelerator and brake*

## And the training begins...

Land Rover Experience kindly invited Colin and Ben to Eastnor Castle Off-road driving course to experience a taste of conditions they will face in Africa.

It was a fantastic experience with many important lessons learnt. Fortunately for Colin and Ben they even witnessed a rescue mission when their driver became stuck in the

water! As Colin quotes "It was probably the best thing that could have happened. It was a great opportunity to learn how



*Who would have thought they would get stuck??!*

deceiving water can be. For me it was a little frustrating to

be stuck in the vehicle and not able to help in anyway. I would have been first to strip to my boxers, get a snorkel on and jump in..." (to read more visit his diary page).

Land Rover Experience have kindly offered Colin to return with his own vehicle when it is ready and adapted. Hopefully Colin won't get stuck for a second time!