

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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Happy New Year

2005 will be an extremely exciting year of preparations and fundraising. We hope you had a lovely break and Christmas celebrations.



Why is it called Driving Home?

The name 'Driving Home' refers to the two main elements of the project. It was originally chosen as Colin, born in Kenya, has always dreamed of driving through Africa, back home to his original roots in Kenya. For the purpose of this Expedition it made sense to continue down to Cape Town to achieve driving through the whole African continent and linking up with our Patron there, Morne du Plessis, and his work with the spinally injured in Cape Town. The name also refers to our aim of 'driving home' the message of Spinal Injury Awareness.

Next month

- Medic recruitment
- Obtaining and adapting vehicles
- Charity Events to attend
- Getting everyone involved
- Expedition grants

Re-learning to drive

Independence behind the wheel is of huge importance to Colin. Colin spent seven months driving a vehicle around Australia in the year before his accident and had ambitions to drive through Africa after his degree. One of his key fears was that his injuries may prevent him from driving again.

After the year in Stoke Mandeville Hospital Colin was assessed and told that driving would be possible. It took time, however, before he had the chance to try. Family and friends, especially Dick Hughes, were instrumental in helping to find and pay for an adapted

vehicle, his current Ford Transit van. It was then adapted further for Colin.

Six months of trial and error driving around a disused air strip, and many hours of patience from friends accompanying him ensued. Finally Colin had control of the van and, with it, some independence.

His vehicle has an automatic rear door with lift, controlled by a key pad that enables Colin to enter the vehicle unaided. He then manoeuvres himself into the driving position and secures his wheelchair. A head rest turns into position which

provides touch pads with the head to activate lights, horn, heaters, windows, indicators and windscreen wipers.

Automatic transmission, a push start, push/pull accelerator/brake lever, no pedals and a 'tetra grip' steering wheel provides Colin some way towards the independence we all take for granted.



Colin in the driving seat

Sponsors wanted

In order to achieve our ambition of raising lots of money for the Colin Javens Spinal Injury Trust we are looking for partners to join us in our venture.

Leadership, Teamwork and Technology are key attributes to link with your company. Advertising space on the side of the vehicle is available which will be

showcased at events across the UK, including country shows, the Motability Show in Newbury, an international business conference in Jersey and a fundraising event in Surrey.



Do you know of a company who would be interested in getting involved—an interest in helping spinal research and the welfare of the spinally injured? Or attracted by the adventurous, pioneering spirit of the expedition? Or just Colin's determination and bravery?

Please put us in touch.

Vehicle adaptations

The 4X4 adapted vehicles will have to have similar adaptations to Colin's current vehicle, as well as adaptations for travelling overland through Africa.

Paul Marsh at Footloose 4X4 has agreed to help us with this. Based in Peterborough and with over 20 years of experience in overland trips and several in spinal injuries

(although never together) it will be a key training site for Woody, the mechanic.

Overland vehicles are always tightly packed but rebuilding the vehicles to include an area for Colin to sleep in the rear of the vehicle, space to store the wheelchairs and a specialized way for Colin to enter and exit the vehicle will be a great challenge.

Storage boxes, winches, tents, spares and space for the team will also all be tightly fitted in.



An example of an adapted 4x4