

RALLYE Sunseeker 2011

Bournemouth & Poole

February 25/26



In association with

Supporting



Charity No. 1115185

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME ~ FIVE POUNDS

RBF Charity Dinner & Auction this weekend

After a successful first association with Rallye Sunseeker last year, the Richard Burns Foundation is back, with a Charity Dinner & Auction at the Marriott Highcliff Hotel on Saturday evening, during which the event's major awards will be presented.

As last year, the Foundation will have a presence at the Somerley Speed Festival, while the highest-placed driver under 25 in Group N on Rallye Sunseeker International will win the Richard Burns Trophy and a cash prize of £1000 (see also page 41).

Special guest for Saturday's dinner is Stuart Turner; former boss of the BMC Competitions Department and subsequently Ford's Director of Motorsport, he is also an accomplished after-dinner speaker and prolific author. The auction will be conducted by two personalities familiar not only to viewers of television motor sport coverage, but particularly to Bournemouth regulars ~ they finished 12th overall in 1997 ~ Tony Jardine and Louise Goodman.

A few years before that, in 1992, 'Burnsie' and co-driver Robert Reid finished second in what was then called the Mazda Car-Line Winter Rally in a



Group N Subaru Legacy, going on to win the National Championship that year. Reid, recently appointed vice-president of the FIA's World Rally Championship Commission, has fond memories of that event: "The event was a very good start to a good year for us. It was ~ and is ~ a

tremendously well organised and publicised rally. The year we did it, the weather was pretty mixed, with one really foggy stage: I remember Richard was fantastic in that stage, as he always was in the fog, and took a lot of time

out of everybody else. It's great to be going back down to the event ~ and even better to be looking forward to what will certainly be a very entertaining night at the dinner."

Among the items already collected for the auction are:

- a signed pair of Marcus Gronholm overalls
- a passenger ride at the Goodwood Festival of Speed in a current S2000 car with a current driver, donated by Škoda UK; this will include two entrance tickets to the event
- two hospitality passes and race tickets for any 2011 round of the Dunlop MSA British Touring Car Championship (except Brands Hatch), donated by Tom Chilton

'Driven' would be a good word to describe 23-year-old Louise Cook, who embarks on her first season in the Dulux Trade MSA British Rally Championship this weekend; since her late father Robert bought her a child's electric jeep for her sixth birthday ~ this was used, among other things, to destroy conservatories and garden fences in the pursuit of speed ~ cars have played a big part in her life. It hasn't been an easy journey, though ~ having missed out on a fully-funded drive for 2006 by finishing second in the Silverstone Lady Quest competition, Cook (then just 19) took things into her own hands: a course at the Forest Experience Rally School to pass her Rally BARS test and get her competition licence was followed by the Rockingham Stages ~ her first rally, 51st out of 105 in a borrowed Peugeot 205 ~ and three weeks at Ice Drive Sweden. Awarded a scholarship in car design at Coventry University (following her father, whose

design work at Ford included involvement in the MkII Escort), she still wanted to drive, so a chunk of her student loan funded an unsuccessful crack at the Red Kite Rally. Her



father, a key driver of her enthusiasm, was diagnosed with cancer in 2007 (he passed away in July the following year), then Cook's second visit to Sweden in early 2008 resulted in nine broken ribs and a broken

Fit for purpose

Škoda UK is the new Official Vehicle Partner to Rallye Sunseeker, providing a number of four-wheel-drive vehicles ~ examples of the Yeti (pictured), Octavia Scout, Superb Hatch and Superb Estate ~ for the use of senior officials. Among them is a Superb 3.6 V6 Elegance Estate in full police livery, which will play a prominent safety role over the weekend in the hands of Dorset Police.

The relationship between Škoda UK and



Sunseeker organiser, the Southern Car Club (SCC), began at the 2010 Goodwood Festival of Speed, where SCC runs the Forest Rally Stage and Škoda UK Motorsport demonstrated its Fabia S2000, driven by Freddy Loix.

Rick Smith, Rallye Sunseeker Event Director: "Rallye Sunseeker prides itself on forging appropriate partnerships so, as we welcome Škoda as our Official Vehicle Partner, we see the association of two strong and valued brand names ~ Sunseeker and Škoda; both renowned for innovation and design for purpose. Our senior officials look forward to show-casing a variety of 4x4 Škoda models on our special stages."

collar bone, ending her season before it had started. After a year of chasing sponsorship ~ in addition to Laser Automotive Tools, MotoForce Springs, The Marine Travel Company and Medway Metals, she has more than 280 subscribers to her Promotion50 campaign (at £50 a go) ~ she contested the BRC Challenge in 2010, finished 10th overall (her personal target), won class RC4, and was fourth Junior driver. Cook knows her 2011 plan is ambitious: "It is a massive step, but it is the only way I can learn how to write notes on forest stages. No other championship allows gravel recce and, without getting that learning out of the way, I can't move on. But I have to treat it as a learning year." With co-driver Stefan Davis in the Fiesta, she aims to "survive the gravel rallies" (in which she is less experienced), then push from mid-season on the tarmac events she contested in 2010.