



THE Horn

NEWS UPDATE

→ The Horn Newsletter

Editor: Julie Roach
Production: Neil Bridgland



Save The Rhino International
Winchester Wharf
Clink Street
London
SE1 9DG

Tel: 0171 357 7474
Fax: 0171 357 9666

e-mail: save@rhinos.demon.co.uk
Internet: <http://www.cm-net.com/rhino/>

Founder Directors: David Stirling
Johnny Roberts
Office Manager: Kate Halliday
Marketing Manager: Julie Roach
Events Manager: Jane Morris
Events Co-ordinator: Neil Bridgland

Registered Charity: No.1035072

→ We would like to thank the following for their support in the production of this newsletter:

Design:

telepathic

0181 944 7341
0181 695 1583

Print:

Edward Dudfield Ltd.
0181 478 5425

Paper:



0181 980 2233

Parks & Recreation

RUNNER'S

WORLD



Save The Rhino at the New York Marathon

→ The New York Marathon

This was my first marathon and as such Sunday 2nd November 1997 was one of the most exhilarating days of my life. I ran the New York Marathon as a "zookeeper", my mission to have one or more of the eight rhino participants under my wing for the course of the race and supply them with water, food when available, guidance when necessary, and plenty of moral support. Rhinos and zookeepers started out as a group, surging excitedly up onto the Verrezano Narrows Bridge, full of anticipation after the weeks of preparation, emotive music blaring out.

Brooklyn, the rhinos had dispersed, I made a second toilet stop and began to feel more comfortable. I settled into my stride, stopped worrying about my lack of sleep over the last few nights and put on a spurt.

I found Alex rhino, thrusting a plastic cup of water into the rhino head. Our partnership began, we didn't see another rhino until the finish, but were kept informed of James rhino's progress ahead by the vigilant and noisily enthusiastic crowd who simply love the rhino costumes (one of the highlights of the day).

As the race progresses the bond between rhino and zookeeper increases, the rhino becoming ever more dependent for water and encouragement, or bullying and bribery. I bribed Alex with sweets, given to me by eager children lining the route, if he ran to the next mile marker he could have a sweet and a walk for a couple of hundred yards. In this way we progressed quite well, Alex getting odd moments of respite from the chafing and →

pain inflicted by the weight and awkwardness of the costume, but never walking for too long.

Mile sixteen, we crossed into Manhattan, the heavens opened and what had been light drizzle became torrential downpour. The runners literally slogged their way up First Avenue which seemed more river than street. The rhino costumes and running shoes took up water and the going became even heavier. I began to shiver, Alex inside the costume still steaming with heat.

Central Park, the last few miles, the rain had abated, the sun shone and the Autumn

colours were amazing. The finish line was just around the park and the crowds became ever denser and more encouraging.

I repeated their yelled admirations into the dark hole of the costume along with more and more water to pour over Alex's head. Against this background of cheers I continued my progress report; as I shouted "only one mile to go", "here's mile twenty-six" and "I can see the finish line" I became more and more choked with emotion, our huge achievement in sight.

I couldn't resist sprinting to the finish and

then turning to join the cheering crowd welcoming my exhausted rhino across the line. Five and a half hours, not a bad time at all and second rhino finisher out of eight. Alex was ceremoniously presented with a medal and yet more admiration. I reminded the race organisers that I had run a marathon, and please could I have one too!

If you want to join the rhino team in the London or New York Marathons, call us for information - you don't have to run in the costume - we also welcome "normal" runners.
Jane Morris

→ Over To Cape Town...

I had the good fortune of escaping a rainy British January by joining Ben Harbour and Shani Glover - the Save The Rhino team in Cape Town - to help co-ordinate our attendance at the Investment In Mining Conference and the annual Save The Rhino Gala Evening for conference delegates.

The Gala Evening started with a Champagne Reception and an excellent talk by Stephen Boler, the owner of Tswalu, the largest private game reserve in Africa. Tswalu is home to the black rhino and, in recent years, Stephen has dedicated himself to ensuring the survival of this species. The talk was riveting, matching the stunning surroundings; Stephen spoke in front of a huge tank in the predator room of the Waterfront Aquarium.

The guests were then transported by boat, to the Hard Rock Cafe for dinner and a fundraising auction. The evening was a great success and was enjoyed by everyone.

I left Ben and Shani busy recruiting cyclists for the Argus Cycle marathon around the Cape and building the merchandise business at the barrow stall in the Waterfront Arcade, to return to a rainy British February.

Our thanks to Stephen Boler for giving his time to come along to speak at the Gala Evening.
Kate Halliday

→ Mkomazi: The Rhinos Return Safely

In our last newsletter, we included information about the rhinos which were due to be returned to the Mkomazi Game Reserve.

We are delighted to announce that 4 black rhinos were safely delivered from South Africa to Mkomazi on November 4th 1997. All went smoothly and the animals were calm.

The handover was attended by large numbers of Tanzanian and South African politicians, including the South African High Commissioner of Tanzania.

We understand that the rhinos are settling in well and we will give you an update, complete with photographs, in our next newsletter.

Our thanks to Motorola and their Kenyan dealer, ICS who donated essential radio equipment.

→ The Georgina Coltart Trust

Georgina Coltart was due to attend The Horny Ball to raise funds for Dan's trip. Writing to Dan's brother Andy, she expressed her excitement about the event, "We are really looking forward to it, it sounds ace, and in London Zoo as well - how cool?"

Tragically, Georgina died just before the Ball took place. As this was her last commitment to a charity, her parents established a Commemorative Trust, with funds being donated to SRI. To date, more than £1,300 has been donated by her friends and family throughout the world, in memory of Georgina.

After close consultation with the Coltart Family, SRI used the money to establish a Radio Communication Centre in Kenya's Tsavo National Park. Located within the Centre is a plaque, dedicating the area to Georgina, to highlight what a unique and special person she was; who managed to fit so much into such a short space of time.

Says Andy Ling, "George's greatest quality was her selflessness and the time she had for other people. No doubt, had she been around today, she would still be supporting projects such as this, and it is thanks to the strength of her friends and especially her wonderful family that has made this possible."

→ Cycle Across Africa

Save The Rhino is approached by an increasing number of individuals and groups with crazy ideas for fundraising expeditions with the rhino costume; but few have come close to the efficiency of organisation achieved by Dan Ling's cycle across Africa.

Dan and three university friends arrived in Cape Town after a 4,000 km, 40 day ride from Victoria Falls, vowing never to sit on a bicycle again! Instead, they enlisted the help of the British High Commissioner, who handed over a cheque for £7,500 to SRI, on their behalf.

The rhino costume made frequent appearances on the bikes throughout the trip to maximise publicity and fundraising potential, but the majority of the funds were raised from The Horny Ball held at London Zoo on February 15th 1997.

Special thanks to sponsors Virgin, for flying the four to Africa, Land Rover for the support vehicle, Yurgen for the caravan, Cadac for camping supplies, Vodacom, the British High Commissioner and Col Paul Davies along with Col David Steele for invaluable support.

→ John O'Groats To Lands End

A huge Thank You must go to Chris Watkins, who on 8 August 1997 started his 1042 mile cycle ride from John O'Groats to Lands End to raise funds for Save The Rhino International and Survival International.

15 days later, Chris signed his name in the Land's End Book to celebrate his achievement. Says Chris, "I took one day off for some beer, had one puncture and replaced crank bearings, completed a record 103 miles in one day, encountered hot sun and driving rain and suffered from a very painful bottom and even worse hands, which take the most punishment".

In Dumfries, Chris came across a kitch 1960's bus shelter with a huge plastic rhino on its top! (Sadly his camera didn't work on that day; it would have been a sight to behold). He wryly comments that despite completing his "End to End" to raise funds for charity, he still had to pay the entrance fee and officials tried to charge him £5.00 to take a photograph under the final signpost! Good job that Chris believes it's the journey that counts, not the end!



Chris Watkins