JCT600

Volkswagen Bradford team prepares for charity Monte Carlo rally – in an old banger!

James Lowham, workshop controller at JCT600 Volkswagen Bradford, is leading a team of three colleagues as they attempt to drive 2,634 miles from Bradford to Monte Carlo next summer in a 19 year old Peugeot 306 to raise funds for JCT600’s chosen charity for 2014, the Association of Young People with ME (AYME).

The intrepid team will set off on the trip, which is part of the Monte Carlo or Bust Banger Rally Adventure, on June 14. They plan to complete the journey in just three days in the 1995 vehicle which they bought for under £250 and are customising themselves. James, along with fellow technicians Nick Stajkowski and Steve Weatherill and parts apprentice Ben Naylor are not only preparing the engine for the gruelling journey, but are also re-styling the car with a Volkswagen body as well as giving it a unique ‘safari’ look.

The foursome will cross the Channel, drive through France and Belgium to Luxemburg and then through Germany, Switzerland and Italy before arriving in Monte Carlo. They are encouraging colleagues, suppliers and friends to sponsor them and all funds raised will be donated to JCT600’s charity for 2014, AYME.
“We wanted to do something different and on a bigger scale that would be really memorable to support AYME. Taking our fundraising international seemed to be the answer and driving over 2,500 miles in an old banger looked like a suitable challenge, putting our skills to the test as well as being a great experience!” explains James. “It’s satisfying to know that we’ve been able to do all of the preparation on the car ourselves and, hopefully, will be able to fix any mechanical problems that arise along the way.

“JCT600 is giving us lots of practical support as we prepare for our mammoth road trip and we’re also grateful for sponsorship from suppliers and colleagues.”

To support James and the team, visit www.justgiving.com/teamjustlikeagolf

Staff at Yorkshire-based family motor retailer JCT600 chose AYME as its annual nominated charity for 2014 and throughout the year, the group’s 1,800-strong team will be taking part in a variety of fund-raising events in support of the charity. All of the company’s 47 dealerships are being given the challenge of raising at least £10 per colleague for AYME during the year with the target of raising at least £18,000 for the charity.

AYME (pronounced ‘aim’) is the Association of Young People with ME, a charity dedicated to providing support and information to the estimated 25,000 young people living with ME/CFS in the UK as well as their families, carers and professionals in health education and social care. Membership is free for children and young people with ME/CFS aged 0 to 26. Set up in 1996 as a grass roots self help group, it has become the largest ME/CFS children’s charity in the country. To find out more, about AYME, visit www.ayme.org.uk

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Picture shows (L to R): The JCT600 team comprising: Nick Stajkowski; Ben Naylor; Steve Weatherill; and James Lownham

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