



CAF NEWS

4th quarter 2001 - Issue 1

WELCOME TO CAF

I am very pleased to send you this first Issue of CAF News, which will keep you up-to-date with the latest developments within CAF and forthcoming CAF events. This quarterly newsletter will be supplemented with regular updates on the CAF website (www.caf-europe.org) which I encourage you to visit.

Exactly a year has passed since CAF initiated its first project in Tamil Nadu in India, where we collected funds to purchase blankets for the children worst affected by the hurricane that hit the region last December.

Since then, CAF has organized fund-raising events in Brussels to support micro projects in India which promote the children's rights and CAF News will bring you up-to-date on all these developments.

For example, CAF has won a grant from the fund-raising group, Femmes d'Europe, towards the purchase of a school bus which will ferry children living in 10 remote villages to school and so increase literacy levels.

And Malcolm Alessi has successfully completed the Crocodile Trophy, the world's longest, most gruelling mountain bike race, where he managed to raise BEF 190,000 which will go toward setting up a specialised IT school for poor children in Tamil Nadu.

Over the past 12 months, CAF has established a group of 10 enthusiastic volunteers which are responsible for the charity's overall development. The group is in the process of developing the aims and objectives for the forthcoming year, which I am sure will be a very exciting and productive one for CAF.

While CAF has achieved a lot over the past year we still need your support. We need to spread the word about CAF so that we can increase potential funding sources as well as human resources. So please feel free to spread the word and forward this newsletter to your friends and colleagues.

Best wishes for a "Merry Christmas" and all the best for 2002.

Pia Lovengreen, president of CAF

CYCLING TOWARD COMPUTER TRAINING

On 30 September this year, Malcolm Alessi crossed the finishing line of the world's longest and most gruelling mountain bike race, Australia's Crocodile Trophy. Alessi was one of 31 athletes out of a starting field of 39 that completed the 15-day endurance event which took the cyclists over 1,774km of some of the country's most unforgiving terrain.

On top of his physical and mental achievement, Alessi raised over BEF 190,000 (Euro 4,711) through sponsorship which will go toward establishing a computer training center in the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu state in south east India. The center aims to provide 20 young adults with one year of basic training in information technology (IT) followed by a second year of specialized study in different computer programs, for example, Java, html, graphic design and network administration.

A big chunk of the sponsorship cash was raised through a golf tournament organized by Ken and Maery Murray, along with Lori Pender at the Château de la Bewette golf club. The golfers chipped and putted their way to raising Euro 1,679 on the same day

that Malcolm dragged his weary body across the finishing line in Kuranda in north Queensland. CAF thanks Ken, Maery, Lori and all the members of la Bewette for their efforts.

The mountain biker's contribution of Euro 4,462 is around 50% of the IT project's total budget of Rupee 500,000 (Euro 10,421). CAF aims to raise the remainder through a Rupee 154,000 (Euro 3,850) grant from the non-governmental organization, Europe Tiers Monde.

We asked Malcolm why he decided to support the IT project and what it was like cycling 1,774 km across Australia...

"I got into IT when I started working for Danone. I started out working in the finance department but gradually got drawn into the IT part of the business. I decided to support the IT project in the Thanjavur region as I believe in sustainable development for poorer countries. The project will provide young people with the skills to generate income to support themselves and their families, as well as securing more opportunities for future generations. The IT revolution provides a more level playing ground

(continued on p.2)



CAF'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN ST GILLES

On December 11, Kirsten Andersen will fill the Association Suzuki de Bruxelles concert hall in St Gilles with music in aid of the disadvantaged children of Tamil Nadu, India. Kirsten Andersen is a graduate of the Conservatoire de Bruxelles. We asked Andersen why she became interested in CAF ...

"I've known Pia Lovengreen (president of CAF) for a long time. I can remember when she was planning her first trip to India and when she was working for a non-governmental organization (NGO) in Denmark, experiences that lead to the birth of CAF. It's just amazing what CAF has achieved so far and I wanted to help out."

CAF - What music will you play on December 11?

"I'll play a suite of Bach and a suite composed by Spain's Cassado and there will be surprise."

CAF - How long have you studied music for?
"I spent seven years studying music formerly in the Conservatoire. We studied subjects like the theory of music and the history of music as well as music itself. A lot of the curriculum was home study but the course demanded 3-4 hours practice per day. But in total I have been playing the cello for 17 years now."

CAF - Why did you choose to play the cello?
"My parents chose it for me. My three sisters and I all played the violin and my parents introduced me to the cello to avoid sibling rivalry. Neither of my parents play the cello, though."

ALESSI COMES THROUGH FOR CAF

to achieve these goals as it does not require (continued from p.1)

the same infrastructure and investment costs as traditional business activities."

CAF - You spent two years training for this event, what was your training schedule like?

"My training schedule was intense. It's a well known fact that cycling requires that you "put in the kilometers". My goal was to do 250 km every week and on a mountain bike it takes an hour to do 25 km. My training schedule also included aerobic training through running and 'spinning', as well as weight training. In all it amounted to around 14-15 hours per week."

"I soon realized this amount of training was having effects on my eating habits. If you calculate that an hour's training burns 800 calories, these needed to be accounted for by proper nutrition. Other side effects of training were not going out too late at the weekends so as to be able to train the next day."

CAF - Was it difficult training for a mountain bike race in a country as flat as Belgium?

"I used 'spinning' to get over this obstacle. With this sport it is possible to simulate high mountains and it proved to be of great help once I got to Australia."

CAF - What were the best and worst moments of the Crocodile Trophy for you?

"The best moment was finishing the last stage. I will never forget those emotional last 10 km. The worst moment was the whole race except those last 10 km. But apart from that it was when I fell on day three and had to cycle 165 km with one hand as the other one hurt too much."

CAF - You have now completed the world's most gruelling mountain bike race, what will your next challenge be?

"I have promised that there won't be another one but then again some promises are made to be broken... "

CAF - Lastly, did you see any crocodiles?
I saw "Salties" (the six meter long ones that eat humans) only in wildlife parks but I did see "Freshies" (one meter long and relatively harmless).

CAF WINS CASH FOR SENGPATTY SCHOOL BUS

CAF has raised funds to buy a school bus for Budaloor Block of the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu state in southern India. We have been awarded an Euro 6,000 grant from Femmes d'Europe and the Rotary club of India will provide the balance. This project will directly benefit over 200 children whose education would otherwise not progress beyond primary level.

In order to attend middle and high school, children from 10 outlying villages have to walk for 7-10 km across paddy fields, muddy

roads and through forests to reach the school in Sengipatty. Around half of the eligible children make the journey every day to and from school but many parents do not send their children because they are afraid of possible attacks or other dangers.

The minibus will take at least ten children from each village to and from the school so more than 200 will be able to continue their studies during the coming year. The amount of children to benefit from this project will increase over time.

CASH FOR CAF

Once you've bought our Christmas cards, shelled out for our Christmas concert and handed over all your foreign coins, there is still another way to give your hard-earned cash to CAF.

It's the season for giving so make a bank transfer this Christmas in favor of:

Children Are the Future

KBC Bank

Account no - 734 00 454 73 86

CAF MISSION

CAF seeks to improve the health and education of children in impoverished communities, in ways that respect the environment, through sustainable

projects identified as priorities by local children, parents and community members.

CAF VISION

CAF envisions a world where children have the right to good food, shelter, education and play, the right to say what they think, to be listened to and to be protected from abuse, consistent with the "Convention on the rights of the child."

CONCERT FACTS

WHEN	Tuesday December 11 at 20:00
WHERE	Association Suzuki de Bruxelles, rue Fernand Bernier 10 1060 St. Gilles, Brussels
HOW	Call Sharon Foulston on 0473 25 0569 or send her an email on sfoulston@clara.co.uk or buy tickets at the door
PRICE	BEF 400 (Euro 9.90)
EATS	Mince pies & mulled wine.

NB - Bring along all those foreign coins left over from trips to the 12 nations that will switch to the Euro on January 1, 2002. CAF's team of volunteers will convert them into much-needed funds for micro projects that improve the conditions and promote the rights of children - absolutely free of charge!