



CHAPTER 3 OUR HOLIDAY AT TT 2013

I know everyone promises to send a postcard when on holiday but honestly we were just so busy. And yes, you all can be bored to death with holiday photos they are on Facebook along with the incredible videos of our exploits.

Our hotel pad was absolutely marvellous in a perfect location with sea views overlooking Douglas Bay. With a room for each of us and a mid-section for the entire team to huddle when the sun went down and the heater was needed. (A twelve man tent – must be small men, plus our very own little fridge for supplies. Loaned by Ian & Jane Kirk, Thank you so very much.) Our posh neighbour in his caravan (Karl) never did get his awning up. At the beginning of the fortnight with the help of Gary and Tracy a little village of the Chandler camp and the Oscar camp with official photographer was established with the G4 staff trying to set up enough electric points to accommodate us all. Welcome gifts of Red Cross parcels from David Mahon and food parcels from Heather Paisley and a very welcome sweetie tree from Angela Katz which Stig and the boys squabbled like children over the red and black sweets in the bottom. Julie's scones and lemon drizzle cake didn't last too long either, along with Michael and Becky bringing us free Airline gifts kept us all going.

Oscar was unveiled to his adoring fans on the international stage via the TT webcam from the grandstand pit lane. (Apologies for the window needing washing for the first two days). Oscar's colour scheme and design was by Shaun from Edwin Dennis in the Isle of Man. Shaun who came up with the idea and laid the decals strategically to create the unforgettable green blur that was to be recognised around the course. Think you will all agree Oscar looked the part. Next, Billy from The Art of Billy took the image having had a conversation with Den from www.mugs4u.com and created a cartoon to provide the merchandise for fans all over the world with royalties coming back into the Oscar funds. All sponsors names were placed on the fairing for all to see with some being in the wording TT. You must have a rosy glow feeling in your hearts knowing that you helped to keep this old timer (Oscar) on the road & that Karl went back to the UK as a TT hero.

Practise got off to a great start giving Karl and I time to settle in together with Oscar. Dodging "Jackdaw" sat on the road at the bottom of bray hill and copious mouth fulls of grit and dirt from the winter roads and storms of flying gnats around the course. A sighting lap and two others on the Saturday night and that is how it remained until the Wednesday night due to bad weather and a red flag incident with Yoshinari Matsushita. The up's and downs of racing I am afraid but someone was looking after us as we were to discover returning from the pits on the Tuesday we started the engine to trundle back to camp and the chain promptly cut through the seat unit underneath my left leg. A gusset guard was created with lots of hammering of aluminium and jigsaw cutting and imagination, lots of laughter. One lap completed on Wednesday night in the pouring rain with the rivers of Lamb Fell and Glen Helen to contend with, on slick tyres with the rear suspension unit collapsed and unrepairable. Gusset guard needed a nappy guard might have been more appropriate that night. Little did we realise that only two more laps were going to be possible to qualify for Saturdays race with

racing incidents at Guthrie's with Inky Anne and Dave Saunders on the Thursday and a house fire at Kirk Michael on the Friday. We did get to drive around the TT circuit in the wrong direction back to the grandstand not many get to do that and it was fun going up bray hill for a change.

Saturday 1st June 2013.

Late into Friday night we were confirmed as starters in Sidecar Race A of TT 2013. One of the three things that was our prime thoughts throughout those long winter months having experienced the disappointment of missing out in 2012. On the grid at 44 from a start number of 62. New set of tyres, chain, front and rear sprockets, suspension unit and spring, plugs, oil and filter along with fuel and TLC Stig and Tim worked long into the night to ensure Oscar ready for the big day. An Irish flag sent from Gail Corr, Ellie and Finn and my grandfather gold watch chain inserted into the pocket of my leathers. New Zealand warrior tikki around my neck.

What a lovely Surprise! Suzanne Karl's wife along with John Chandler's wife Helen turned up from the UK with an hour to go before the chequered flag, brilliant, everyone happy. Team passes organised for the grandstand and road. Tony, Julie and Dad all making it. Karl's mum was still blissfully unaware Karl was at the TT due to not wanting her to worry. I promised the team I would shout WHEEEE all the way down bray hill on the first lap and so it was. Karl didn't put a foot wrong steady and no issues till.....coming through Union Mills lap 2 having re overtaken Michael Lines and Julie Hanks the gremlins arrived. Oscar decided he thought it was "Christmas", red lights, orange lights, F1 lights, fuel light. Sense prevailed letting Michael and Julie through before Ballacraigne then trying to remember where I could pull in safely off the course and where we might find a screw driver just lying on the hedge. There it is stop..... Laurel Bank 2 (Ebenezer Lane). Marshals brilliant familiar faces and sponsors (Andrew and Kay) all around us. What a place to stop, "making technical adjustments was the cry" Ten minutes passed in total by the time helmets and gloves off then back on and getting the ok to re-start. What a glimmer of hope we were given around the 32nd corner a little white spec going around the 33rd "come on Oscar chase them down you little beauty". The Karl gives me the signal at Hillberry someone quick catching.....oh it must be the leaders get a wiggle on, but leave room for them and then nothing until just entered the Nook and "double tap" about to overtake was Karl's signal oh no.....! not here was my cry, over to the right tight, brake, let him through Oscar don't get mixed up in this Reeves pops though, then the deep throat roar behind us There's a second one oh s.....t! brake again and Molly popped through sweep out and down into Governors. John Chandler and Annette Daykin cross the line followed by Tim Reeves and Dan Sayle followed by Dave Molyneaux and Patrick Farrance and finally Debbie Barron and Karl Schofield well that's how it looked on ITV 4 coverage, they didn't say lap two finishers and lap three finishers. Perfect timing Oscar. Catching John/Annette down into Brayhill and Quaterbridge Oscar was very excited and when an opening presented itself by John going wide at the Quaterbridge, Oscar decided to have a go up the inside. Unfortunately ballet was on his mind and a beautiful 270 spin was completed. Not touching any pavements or TT furniture and finally stalling to add insult to everything. Well Oscar just wanted everyone to see all his decals and sponsors names. A good cheer from the crowd and various comments about woman drivers could be heard and flashes of cameras and "get me out of here". Karl still bravely anchored a little bruised no doubt. Off we go again to chase them down again and finally overtaking John and Annette on the exit of Laurel Bank 2 for the folks to cheer about. We finished as best we could and we were not last and the second thought of the winter was achieved Karl was to go home with a finishers award.

Yet again Tim and Stig missed out on the Mad Sunday activities stripping Oscar to the bare chassis and making all necessary repairs and improvements. However spirits were lightened by Karl and Suzanne making breakfast followed with Torrie from Imagination Station painting our faces and arms with war paint to ward off evil electronic gremlins. A couple of Ice-creams were the order of the day at the beer tent watching the purple helmets and the chief bar person do what they do best.

Our Monday of race week "day off" was spent in the company of two new friends from France Oliver and Chris from Mag Montardes France watching the bikes in locations such as Brandywell, Railway Union Mills, Glen Darragh, Bottom of Brayhill, Grandstand parc Ferme and the start of the electric bike races and back to the beer tent just for one. Felt like a proper race fan.

Tuesday morning I was more nervous than I have ever been in my entire life. I felt like a child, embarrassed. People looking at me, now they know what I look like. When you have our helmets on people can only imagine what's going on and how we feel; now it's here for all to see naked. Cameras, microphones, webcams for the presentation of The Susan Jenness Trophy on behalf of the ACU executive committee for the performance in 2012 by a female. What a fella Mick Jenness is made me feel a little easier and no fuss or nonsense. It was an honour to receive into my hands even for a short period of time a trophy so beautiful and special and expensive and with such meaning being in the memory of a fellow marshal. Finishing touches to "Oscar". Karl and Suzanne off to Castle Rushen for their friend's wedding stopping at the fairy bridge on the way back to make some wishes and bumped into more Oscar fans and sponsor Chris Holmes. The day was finished with a great tea from the Chinese with the helpful assistance of Karl, Suzanne and Sharon and his trusty side kick friend Batman "Brian". Glasses of wine, beer and monster juice consumed but no appearance of Robin thankfully. As we had enough trouble with the Austrian "Yeti" Manfred Wechselberger whom all I can say fell in love. 12,000 camels was not a fair exchange Stig thought. So when Stig went to the blue box at the entrance "Yeti" came to have a cuddle only to be pounced upon by Karl and Tim. Upon Stigs return the poor fellow was cable tied and carried back to Camp Austria and dumped on the tarmac unable to move with the words this is what happens when you mess with our woman. Cameras clicking and even fellow countrymen would not release him moving the snips just out of his reach..... Good sport. This is the reason for the Austrian hat at the second prize presentation.....

This reminds me of another high jinks occasion where team leader had to douse two team mates with extremely cold water from the water butt when they were trying to imitate sumo wrestlers..... Letting off steam me thinks.

Oscar and ourselves had so many visitors too many to mention you all forgive me if I have missed anyone. We made so many new friends and now followers of F2 sidecar racing it really did make time fly by and our time at the TT feel truly special. One evening an older couple of Island friends with a relative of theirs came to see Oscar and after about 30 mins I reckon she'd have gone home and been looking at Steve's place to purchase one. Three young folk Kirsty, Tom and Lee popped in and this was one of my highlights as I had not seen them for several years. Only making Facebook friends this pasted winter. Kirsty and Tom's father was Dave Saville, TT legend and British Champion who was also sponsored by my god father Reuben. Kirsty and I have discovered that we are related..... God Sisters if there can be such a thing as Reuben was also kirsty's god father. Small world. My final Sunday before going back to work was spent having a quiet pint on his bench wondering, did Dave know I that Kirsty would one day pit board me?

Another child hood hero was Mick Boddice snr, Chas Birks his then passenger had burnt his arm on the exhaust and they stopped at pinfold cottage and my mum had treated him. Mick came down the following day to thank you. Little did any of us know that in the 90th Anniversary of the TT "Oscar my baby" would be driven in the parade lap by Mick Boddice and passengered by neighbour and friend whom had helped Karl in the winter months with preparations Stu Castles. Truly special.

Wednesday 5th June 2013

Emails and messages, taps on the back or shoulder, hugs and kisses and into the zone. "Ping Pong" Delay 15 mins something to do with a Subaru and an American Journalist, Sulby Bridge and spoiling the marshal's lunch break and James jokes. Ah what else to do other than try and find shade under the bushes, not the same ones that Karl was watering! out of the eyes of the cameras you understand? 5,2,1 minute warning sounds last minute reassurances a kiss from Stig an hand shake from Karl a hug from Julie a tap on the shoulder and off to Ramsey we go Govag's. Averaging 107mph then up to the Bungalow and then again it slips away 97.2. Pit boards pop out of hedges and gardens Union Mills "Go Oscar Go", entering Ballagarey "24 Oscar" and then approaching Kirk Michael "Go Debbie Go" don't know if Karl saw them but I certainly did. It gave me more of a push to get a wiggle on because people out there really are routing for us to do well and we did our best Ramsey to Ramsey 99.7mph. However exiting Tower Bends a sidecar was against the wall and waved yellows then down into Brandish lack of adhesion and waved yellow fellow competitors had blown up and pushing off circuit. Half way around lap three the little voice on my right shoulder said ,stop chasing the 100mph, back off you are both tired, dehydrated, Oscar is in one piece, Karl and yourself need to go to work on Monday, finish on a high take it easy get the finish. Then shortly afterwards we came upon Julie Hanks Elliott and Michael Lines who had had a coming together with the grass at the gooseneck and would return home via the helicopter and not the finish they deserved.

Two starts and Two finishes and a triumphant return to parc Ferme in 32nd position with average of 97.2 with fastest lap of 97.555 and increase of 10mph in a year. Karl sat on the back of Oscar slapping fans hands on the return road. Utter joy, and relief with family and friends and sponsors and team. Part of objective 3 obtained. Prize presentation and a few beers before Karl and Suzanne, Sharon and Brian would pack up and leave on the ferry on Thursday.

After the DJ David Jefferies crash 10 years ago every Thursday of race week TT and MGP we have a gathering of the marshals of Sector 2 and this year we raised monies for various charities. £1,600 on the night auctioning off Derek Donsworth signed images and some other goodies given to this year's causes. The pains Derek went through to get the images nobody will know, he'll never wear shorts again on a photo shoot. They have a hole in them! xxx

I came out today in the car to Peel to reflect upon this special holiday passing empty campsites, fast food outlets on the road back to storage. Not a bike in site except for dad's new Honda CBR 600 parked outside the Creek for Lunch. Listening to the Local radio station and the comments of the two brave souls still in hospital after the racing incident at the bottom of Bray Hill on Senior Race Day. "they will be back but just in a different location" the question is will Oscar ? Before TT I was confronted with a dilemma , Why do I put my loved ones through this? Why do we put all our money into this sport? Why the TT? Surely we would get the same buzz and enjoyment if we chose to go racing for 3 weeks on holiday and took Oscar to see his Belgium cousins. The entire team could go with us. Swopping Autosol for Ambre Solaire? But didn't we do that this year and didn't even leave

Manx waters? Honestly I climbed off Oscar on the final day and realised you know what? This is the day I was born for, the sport I was supposed to be good at, when you carry the heart and spirit of a Samaria Warrior, this is for when I am an old lady in a nursing home and the caretaker is fixing the wheel chair and I will be listening to the radio commentary of the modern day gladiators I can reflect on much happiness and friendships created by a sidecar family, team and world.

Special thanks have to go to Catherine Davis (famous physio as seen on ITV4 "Connors healer") for fixing the shoulder enough to be able to race and avoiding docs and the vet. Without her I am sure we would not have been at this year's TT despite all other preparations and work. For fixing the brain and believing in me and also introducing Stig and myself to Yoga in the winter. Massive thanks to Dave at the Hyperbaric also. Tim Andrews T.J.Racing (Oscar Mechanic) who worked with Stig and has prepared Oscar to be in perfect shape for the TT and S100. To Dave Molyneaux for proving to the world yes you can fit a fuel injected engine into the chassis and to Dave Hagan for working late into the evenings and a Sunday accommodating Oscar on the dyno and refreshing the engine. Thanks also to Tommy Bennett for hand making the exhaust system for another 4mph and spare suspension unit. Thanks also to the background team of Tony Corlett Julie Canipa and Suzanne and Dad getting us to the line as Tim always says and the rest is up to us. To my darling Stig who puts up with so much hassle and works so hard but doesn't even get to enjoy half of the excitement I would be lost without you. You are truly my special one and I couldn't do what you do, watching someone you love goes missing for 23mins 11 secs and then wait again not knowing.

Estelle Le blond the French superstar managed the 100mph lap record by a female, and in fact did 101mph in Race B. Congratulation to her and her passenger a wonderful feat and it was good to have two females out there as drivers and you never know maybe in the future a few more yet. Second part of objective 3 not achieved by Oscar this year 100mph lap.

Well Karl went home only to find he had lost his F1 sidecar ride to someone else, absolutely gutted for you Karl and hope something better around the corner for you. In three weeks Karl will be on with John Chandler at the S100 and we at Team Oscar "hope you do well Dad" as Stig would say. Stig is to passenger at the S100 and a finisher's award would be truly awesome for him. Oscar is to have new front discs made and master cylinders and rose joints sorted but pretty sure really to roll.

Forgive me my English is better than your Brazilian Annette Daykin but only just, Oscar is to appear on Brazilian news/Sports coverage at some time in the future along with Annette's interview!!! Lol. Oscar has become a super star and his painting has been commissioned in a local gallery from one of Derek Donsworth images. A fund raiser in the Railway Inn Union Mills is planned in August to help cover some bills incurred. As for me back to work, swimming pool to run decisions on which lovely drawings of Oscar have won the T-Shirts supplied by www.mugs4u.com. How do I explain to my lovely assistant managers that one more year with the best people, the best weather and the best sport in the world on a tiny island in the middle of the Irish Sea is needed next year at the TT before I retire gracefully? My gran always said Debs you will be a champion one day and by the ways 4's will always be very special 2014 oh and I'll be 48.

Senior race day was spent in the pit area of the grandstand. Firstly as a nervous mother letting my child be in the hands of a teacher for the first time in my life. Oscar was with Mick and Stu headed down bray hill for the parade lap..... phone calls from all around the courseIt was really something that was what Oscar needed to be driven by a factory Ireson driver and then

given a clean bill of health re issues discussed. I.e. braking and gearing. Made a couple of TT hero's very happy. They loved Oscar 102mph lap average. So 105mph is in him for sure.

Remembering those days where Reuben brought me to watch as a four year old. A hive of activity and then the joys of seeing those heroes's climb the stairs to the podium. The day ended with a BBQ and a constant stream of wonderful company. Julie, Tina and Auntie , lol, Denyse & John and the children, Stig and Tim, Ciara and Heather and Mick and Jan (what a wonderful woman) and Sally and Rob. Jokes and tales from times gone past washed down with the odd red wine you understand , and the odd bang and explosion from the fireworks over the bay.

Hoping that all our overseas friends such as Daisuke Yamada from Japan our friend and marshal enjoys his trip around Scotland and Pitlochry and all our UK and Irish friends and sponsors made safe journey's back home and hope to see you all on our wonderful Island in the future.

Karl Schofield what can I say, fancy doing the TT and not telling your mum! Susanne was clearly on his mind the days we stopped at Kirk Michael and on the mountain at Gutheries Have to get Oscar fitted with an" APP" for use with mobile phone. Karl always does his best for other people & he gave everything to Oscar & me. His winter commitment with trips to the island and watching Mick Boddice and Dave Wells DVD and learning down to do the lie down transitions. Nothing seemed to faze him even the odd bush whacking him on the ass and the odd stone wall brushing his helmet, Waterworks 2 on the sighting lap. Commitment team player with discussions after analysis of Facebook images or videos, he never put a foot wrong entire fortnight. Well not till he said he wanted a see through undertray and platform so he can see where he's going as he gets bored and might fall asleep. Huge heart, and tremendous skill gave me the confidence to do the job in hand. A friendship and bond Oscar and I will never forget and who knows what lies in the future. Massive hugs to you.

Karl and myself wish to thanks all sponsors of Team Oscar for making Chapter 3 possible and Living the dream a reality. (In no particular order).

The Art of Billy, Mugs 4u.com, Castle Cutz, Dale & Colvin, Edwin Dennis Signs, Computech, The Holmes Family,Andrew & Kay Brown, Evomoto, Kaneens Petrol Station, Fusion Hair Design, T.J.Racing, Stig, Steam Packet co, Heather Paisley, Denyse & John Hill & family, Ken Williams, Ian & Myrtle Harrison, Anthea Mathewman, Helen & Dicken and David, Mike Blake, Kevin & Elizabeth Moggridge, Arthur Barron, Ian & Jane Kirk, Michael & Becky, Tony Corlett, Christopher Mille, Jools & Steve, "H" Henry Cubbon, John Wells, & finally www.2wheelworkshop.com.



