



# WHY WE CHARGE

My charging journey started when a friend persuaded me to join a team to take part in the 2006 charge. Our team leader was full of ideas, and was very persuasive. Our hybrid car was a product of James Kelmanson's imagination; was heavier than the Golden Gate Bridge and provided much entertainment. The whole charge experience was an adventure; from our transport vehicle's brakes locking solid on the road from Archer's post, arriving late at night long after scrutineering had closed, to the early morning of the Charge itself and arriving at a checkpoint and needing to open the car bonnet with an axe as the great inventor had omitted to consider access to the engine bay fully.



The whole experience provided, as it has done for every year since, an ever extending list of what we would do differently next time, as well as an increasingly strong bond between team members who have become life-long friends. The combination of the friendships made and the never-ending challenge to improve, combined with the intrigue of visiting a new, unique place, for the first time, proved an irresistible combination.

2008, in Namunyak, was my favourite charge. Our trusty steed caught fire on the way to our start control; after this unlikely start, our team battled away for the whole day. In the dying embers of the day, with every part of our team and car on the very edge of failure, but still going, we rounded a corner to find a leopard in the middle of the road. With this omen spurring us on, we finished just in time to a surprise 4th place.

Every year provided a different set of unmatched experiences; it's difficult to explain how much happens in one short ten hour day; and how that translates into a burning desire to come back, improve and do better again the next time. Every day of the year, building sleeplessly towards the next time, our team would arrive in the new dawn at line-up, ready to do it all over again. Moving to the Organising Team, was a decision not taken lightly.



However, the bigger picture is clear as it can be, that the work done by Rhino Ark, is critical to our futures and those of our children and their descendants too. Being part of helping to support this cause through organising the Rhino Charge, is something I am honoured to do.

With an incredible team of volunteers who put the Rhino Charge together, I love sharing the Charge experience with more and more people, and hope to inspire others to join in, and take that first journey to join the Charge... See you at line-up....

Don White  
Rhino Charge Clerk of the Course  
Rhino Charger 2006 - 2018