

## NEWS RELEASE

Issued on behalf of Cancer Research Wales

Picture opportunity available

April 26, 2006

### **HAVE CAR WILL TRAVEL – TO MONGOLIA**

WORKMATES Alex Gray and Dave Matthews are planning to take the slow road to Mongolia on one of the last great motoring adventures.

Their challenge is to drive a quarter of the way around the world in just four weeks – in an old car designed for tootling around town.

Alex, 22, and Dave, 24, who both live in Cardiff and work for the National Assembly, are among 200 teams taking part in this summer's Mongol Rally.

Starting in London on July 22, the intrepid drivers and co-drivers will have four weeks to travel up to 10,000 miles across two deserts and five mountain ranges on some of the most inhospitable and non-existent roads in the world.

And their mode of transport must be a car that cannot be powered by anything more than a 1,000cc engine – from a Reliant Robin and a Vauxhall Nova to a Morris Minor and an old Ford Fiesta.

Heading for the Mongolian capital of Ulaan Baatar, the car crews can choose one of three routes – through Russia and Latvia; via central Europe and the heart of the former Soviet block; or south through Turkey, Asia and Northern Iran.

Alex, from Lanrumney, and Dave, of Colum Road, Cathays, will go via Turkey, and they're looking to buy an old Fiat Panda for the journey.

“Neither of us are mechanically minded or know the first thing about how a car works, but that's half the fun of this challenge,” said Dave.

“It's not a race. The idea is to get as far as you can – and make it to the Mongolian capital one way or the other in time for the end of rally party in the middle of August.”

.../2

Each team is supporting two charities of their choice, with Alex and Dave raising money for Cancer Research Wales in its 40th anniversary year, and the Christina Noble Children's Foundation in aid of homeless young people living rough on the streets of Mongolia.

"This is one of the last great motoring adventures," added Dave. "We've tried doing an AA route planner, but it only goes as far as Istanbul. After that there are no maps to follow and the roads are more like dirt tracks. We'll probably end up having to navigate by the stars.

"My main concern is the car breaking down and negotiating the various border crossings we'll encounter on the way. We'll either sleep in the car or in a tent we'll take with us.

"Whatever happens it's going to be a great experience and a lot of fun and, hopefully, we'll raise a lot of money for two very good causes."

Based at Velindre Hospital in Whitchurch, Cardiff, all the money raised by Cancer Research Wales is spent in Wales on funding cancer research projects being carried out by doctors and scientists in Welsh hospitals.

Anyone interested in sponsoring Dave and Alex on the Mongol Rally should contact the Cancer Research Wales fundraising office on Cardiff 029 2031 6976.

-End-

### **Notes for editors**

- Cancer Research Wales was formed by a board of trustees in 1966.
- Cancer Research Wales has its headquarters at Velindre Hospital in Whitchurch, Cardiff.
- Cancer Research Wales is a separate charity from Velindre Hospital and Cancer Research UK.
- All money raised by Cancer Research Wales is spent in Wales
- The money also funds vital research projects, doctors and scientists in Welsh hospitals
- Cancer Research Wales also funds the only dedicated cancer library in Wales, at Velindre Hospital
- The charity's patrons include Nigel Walker and Huw Edwards
- The research team is headed by Professor Malcolm Mason
- Over £3 million has been raised by the charity in the last few years alone.

For more information on this press release please contact Peter Bibby at [pbibby@effcom.co.uk](mailto:pbibby@effcom.co.uk) or telephone 029 2066 0119 or mobile 07779 783396.