

PINKS IN CHARGE

This year's Rhino Charge raised Ksh63638 135 (US\$1 million) for the last phase of the Aberdares fencing project. In the event's 20th anniversary the Rhino charge organisers recognised *Twende's* presence through the team it sponsored, the Pinks in Charge, who drove car number 18.

As promised, the *Twende* supported gals gave the guys a run for their egos during the event held last month at Namunyak ranch in Samburu District. Pushing their bright pink Land Rover to the limit, the Pinks made it to 10 checkpoints out of 13 – an impressive feat for first timers. "We would have gone all the way except for persistent trouble with our spark plugs getting fouled," says driver, Caroline Armstrong. Starting from scratch, they also raised Ksh500 000 for the conservation effort.

The *Twende* team followed their progress very closely. At the Vegpro checkpoint, covered in dust yet wreathed in smiles, the team admitted that the course was gruelling: Elodie was dying for water, while Caroline admitted to a sugar low. Though sweaty and grimy, they still managed to look girly in their rally gear, despite the rigours of climbing rocky, thorn scrubbed hillsides and braving dust drifts and almost vertical inclines through steep gullies.

Other teams fared even worse: car 25 sheared their rear control arm, and were rescued by *Twende* who helped Michael Ogwapit and Teeku Patel get to HQ for repairs. Two-time Rhino Charge winner and rally champ, Ian Duncan, driving car No 2 had to drop out due to a broken axle, and this time managed to walk away with only a Tiger Line section win in his Toyota Land Cruiser.

The event was won by Alan McKittrick and team (comprising Knight, Hutchinson and Trundell) in Car No 5 scoring 62.31kms over all 13 guard posts. The winning team also managed to raise the highest sponsorship, and scooped the prestigious Victor Ludorum trophy for the shortest distance.

Other winners were Mark Glen and Llewellyn in Car No 48 scoring 72.43kms over 13 guard posts for the second overall, and Sean Avery in Car No 38 who covered 13 guard posts with a long distance of 78.34kms who finished in third position.



PHOTOGRAPHS: NEL THOMAS



Still smiling no matter how gruelling the course! Above, clockwise from bottom right: driver Caroline Armstrong, co-driver Mary-Anne Kirubi, and runners, Patricia Wena, Elodie Sampere and Linda Karuru.