



News from Mirror World Championships

#1—5th August 2005



Mirror World Championships- Östersund. Sweden 2005

Finally the first proper e-mail with news from Östersund in Sweden from the Mirror World Championships.

We left South Africa on Sunday evening, groups from Johannesburg and Cape Town. In the picture on the right are the guys who left from JHB. On Monday morning we all met up at Heathrow and spent six hours busking and playing cards. Some even slept underneath the seats in an effort to escape the noise and light!

On Monday afternoon we flew from Heathrow to Stockholm and then on to Östersund. Arriving around 9 in the evening in bright sunlight, collected our fantastic cars sponsored by Avis and headed for the school where we were to stay. It took two trips to get everyone there and by the time we had unpacked the container to get our sleeping bags and mattresses it was pretty late. Fortunately the container had already arrived and been cleared and everything looked good. While the guys unpacked, Kareema and I went to find some fast food for everyone. We just caught the last hamburger place open at 11pm and bought the cheapest food available - burger, chips and a soft drink - R50 each! Our first glimpse into the cost of things here - a quick R1,400 later we had 28 meals ready to go. Staying at the school and doing our own food is proving to be a brilliant idea!

Next day was unpacking boats and getting them all measured and weighed. Only at the measuring was the damage to Tubthumper discovered. Two large depressions where the cradle had smashed into the boat. That was to keep myself, James and Robert busy for the next two days learning the Swedish language of repairs.

We settled into the gymnasium at the primary school which took a bit of getting used to but is now working fine. The girls have one side the boys the other. Breakfast is prepared for us in the school canteen by volunteers from the yacht club each morning between 7 and 8 and we make sandwiches for ourselves to eat for lunch. Judging by the costs of things here (Petrol R12/litre, beer R35, fillet R280/kg), the yacht club is doing us a great favour. The food alone must be more than what we are paying daily!

I apologize for the lack of e-mails and pics but hopefully that should recover after today.

Bye for now,

Mike Dann

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