

OPTIONS LIST



10 RACE2RECOVERY

To read about where South African-built Hilux rally cars go when they're not in the hands of the Toyota SA Team, we have to mention the role of TG as we accompany a bunch of injured UK servicemen and their Wildcats on the final leg of their journey, from drizzly Portsmouth to slightly dusty London. If, however, you want to know about all the other easy stuff that came before TG and R2R's conquering of the Guildford bypass – y'know, the whole 9000km across-wildest-South-America-while-missing-several-significant-limbs-thing – we can very much recommend this official account of the R2R boys' big South American adventure.

It's a comprehensive tome, covering every step of their turbocharged journey from the charity's formation in the wards of the Headley Court rehabilitation centre in 2011, through training in the world's harshest climes (Devon and Morocco), all the way to the finish in Santiago. Oh, and a stage-by-stage account of the race, which – between crashes, mechanical breakdown and even fatalities – makes for bruising reading.

This much is clear: Phillip 'Barney' Gillespie and Matt O'Hare's lonely battle through the Andean dunes is just the tip of the Race2Recovery iceberg. Delve a little deeper, and you'll uncover the stories of dozens of annoyingly brave, implau-

sibly upbeat servicemen overcoming injury and setback to take on the world's toughest rally. Words like "inspirational" and "heroic" get bandied around too readily, but in this case, they hardly do justice to the scale of the R2R adventure. For such an inexperienced and injured bunch to cross the Dakar finish line was, quite simply, one of the most astonishing motorsport stories of this decade or any other.

If all that wasn't enough, each copy sold means a donation to the Help for Heroes and Race2Recovery charities. Plus, you even get a foreword from a man who knows a fair bit about the Race2Recovery team, some bloke called Richard Hammond... **R284; kalahari.com**

DRIVING MUSIC



THE ANTI RETRO VINYL TROUBLE

We're not sure why the young lady pictured on the cover of the debut CD album by hot, new, cleverly named Durban band is destroying the tape that (presumably) contains their music. Perhaps because she is, like the album's name "Trouble", or perhaps she is so moved by this band's sonic, out-of-nowhere dirty pop disco rock genius, that she can only destroy them in an effort to understand them. We think it's the latter.



OMD ENGLISH ELECTRIC

Ageless Eighties icons of synth pop lore return bleeping and tweaking back to the future with an album that gives the AutoTune generation a run for their money. Album number 12 for frontman Andy McCluskey and Co. sees the band gleefully returning to the sounds that first made them famous back then, while tinkering with new toys to give their almost trademark electro pop sound a techno-tinged contemporary feel.



CARO EMERALD

THE SHOCKING MISS EMERALD

About the only thing "shocking" in the relative terms of the Dutch songbird who surely spends a good part of each day wishing that she was born in the 1920s, is the fact that she's not more widely known (outside of the Netherlands). Her jazz-infected swing-pop grooves dominate in a genre that is tricky to master without sounding fake. Her vocals ooze the kind of smokey, gin & tonic sensuality that made swing jazz sound like such a fun & sexy place to be back then (as much as now!).

Jon Monsoon knows his music.
And he can write about it