

# FROM BALL TO BALLOON...

WHEN one Oban woman bought a raffle ticket at an Anthony Nolan Trust Scottish Daisy Ball, she never imagined it would lead to a trip of a lifetime halfway across the world.

Twenty-year-old Catriona Gunn went with her boyfriend Scott Turnbull, 22, to their first Anthony Nolan Trust Ball and went home as winners of a hot air balloon trip.

To their surprise, the balloon trip prize also included a week-long holiday in South Africa.

'It was the last place we would have expected our trip to be!' said Catriona.

Whilst on their prize holiday the couple stayed in a country valley lodge set in an animal reserve.

'There were monkeys and zebras in the lodge grounds, which was brilliant,' said Catriona. 'It was a different experience being woken up by the monkeys playing!'

Although the hot air balloon trip was the main prize, Catriona and Scott were also taken on a safari, had a day trip to the town of Soweto, and spent a night in an elephant sanctuary.

During the visit to Soweto, which is well known for its poverty and violence, the couple were surprised to see it differed from its stereotype as the locality included many wealthy areas.

Catriona and Scott soon found out that the South African holiday was not all about relaxing and long lies in



- the day of the balloon trip brought with it a very early start.

'We arrived at the flight centre for 5am in order to take off at sunrise,' said Catriona. 'The trip lasted about an hour, and we even managed to have time for a champagne breakfast several hundred feet above the ground.'

When Catriona and Scott came back to earth, it was time to return to nature - a visit to Pilansberg Game Reserve allowed them to see hippos,

rhinos and buffalo in their natural environment.

'There was an encounter with a bull elephant who tried to charge at our van!' recalls Catriona.

The couple also got up close and personal with elephants as they spent their last night at the Elephant Sanctuary Lodge.

Catriona said: 'The elephants were incredible - we even had the chance to ride them. It was a wonderful last night being next to a stable of wild elephants.'

For Catriona and Scott, the trip to South Africa will be remembered always. 'The whole holiday was a wonderful experience which we will never forget,' said Catriona.

'We feel extremely lucky to win such a fantastic prize and are very grateful to Somerfield for their kind donation to the Trust resulting in an exceptional holiday.'



*A wee boy was crying in the corner of a playground when his teacher asked him what was wrong. Amid the tears he told her that a big boy had called him 'donkey.' 'That wasn't very nice,' said the teacher, 'why did he call you that?' Between loud sobs the wee boy said: 'Hee aw, Hee aw, Hee always calls me that!'*