

A driving desire

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British 2nd generation have a reputation across continental Europe for generally not knowing how to drive. On STF, for example, many of my peers had valid driving licences whereas I had never even had a driving lesson. After 4 failed attempts, I finally acquired my licence on the 5th attempt a few years ago, and I've been enjoying driving ever since.



Last weekend I had the privilege of being able to offer this life skill for the sake of the visit of a very important person. I was asked to be one of the drivers for Kook Jin nim's party during his visit to London from Saturday until Monday. I've never supported in this role before, so I was naturally quite excited. I felt privileged to be a part of a team of people I really respect, including Derrick Davis, John Newburry, Jason Parsons and a whole bunch of other really amazing individuals, not to mention the UK and European staff. I simply expected to be a support driver, so I was very surprised to discover Kook Jin nim was going to be in my car for the majority of the weekend.



My vehicle was an automatic VW Transporter with TDI. As a relatively new vehicle, it was quite nice to look at (as you can see from the photo) and on the whole it was a nice car to drive. Personally I prefer a manual gearbox over automatics – you can't get the same control over the engine with an automatic – but everything else about the vehicle was rather nice, especially the copious amounts of space inside. It reminded me of MFT, and I found myself wanting to sleep in my vehicle for nostalgic reasons.

I'm pleased to say that the weekend past by without major incident, all journeys completed safely. I hope I get the chance to drive again, as I did rather enjoy the honour of ferrying people around, even on the occasions when Kook Jin nim wasn't in the van and I was offering lifts for the security or media teams. If you don't already have a driving licence, I encourage you to get a provisional and start lessons. You never know who might be driving in the future.