

Free trip to Barbados for National winners

The Barbados Rally Club and the Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA) are staging a major promotion this weekend for Sol Rally Barbados 2011 (June 4/5), the Caribbean's biggest annual motor sport international.

The winner of Rallye Sunseeker National will receive free entry and shipping to Sol RB2011, plus flights, accommodation and rental car, an award valued at around £5,500; in addition, the promotion includes a major BTA presence at the Ceremonial Start and Somerley Speed Festival, and a return to Rallye Sunseeker for

Sunseeker again, I jumped at it. We should be better prepared this time, with a shakedown planned for Thursday, then the recce on Friday. Hopefully, I will be a bit more comfortable than I was in 2009 and can start at a decent pace."

Rally Barbados has played host to nearly 250 overseas competitors in the past decade; a two-day tarmac rally, with 24 special stages run under road closure orders, it follows the previous weekend's Scrutineering and Shell V-Power King of the Hill 'shakedown'.



four-time Barbados Rally Club group champion, Neil Armstrong.

Petra Roach, BTA vice-president, marketing & sales Europe, said: "There is a lot of synergy between the two events ~ both bring vital tourist income to their host venues at traditionally 'slower' times of year, winter in the UK and summer in Barbados, both are organised by extremely professional teams, and both attract huge crowds."

Sunseeker event director Rick Smith added: "We're delighted to be associated with Sol Rally Barbados; many of our regular competitors, like Paul Bird and Steve Perez, are well known in the island, and I hope we can build on this relationship in the future."

Backed by the Sol Group, the Caribbean's largest independent oil company, and the Tourism Development Corporation, Armstrong will drive a Sol RB2011-liveried Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX, prepared by MSR Motorsport. Two years ago, the 29-year-old Bajan and co-driver Max Ferri ~ winner of Rally Barbados 2005 alongside Roger Mayers ~ finished 17th overall and ninth in Group N in their first rally outside the Caribbean.

Armstrong commented: "Max and I had such a fantastic time in 2009 that, when the chance came up to do

Uddens stages get medical assistance

New sponsor for the two Uddens stages this year is emergencyunit.com, personal web site of Dr Rowley Cottingham, Consultant in emergency medicine and Rallye Sunseeker's Chief Medical Officer. Dr Cottingham, and wife Helen, are well-known in motor sport, having been members of the medical teams for both circuit racing (Brands Hatch and Thruxton are regular haunts) and rallying ~ they have been part of the Sunseeker team for the past decade or so. Among the many specialised medical services he offers ~ these include medicolegal reports and prehospital care ~ the area of most relevance in the context of this sponsorship is competition medicals, as the good doctor explains: "A lot of GPs are not terribly motor sport aware, and I am happy to consider dealing with competitors who otherwise may have difficulties with certain conditions, such as subtle colour blindness. Helen and I have thoroughly enjoyed our association with Rallye Sunseeker, and this is also a way of us giving something back."



*Welcome to Poole!
As the home of Sunseeker International, I am delighted to welcome the return of the fabulous parade of cars and Ceremonial Start of Rallye Sunseeker International to Poole Quay on February 25.*

Looking out over the largest natural harbour in Europe, Poole's picturesque Quay is the perfect backdrop for this wonderful event. A very warm welcome awaits you in the fantastic restaurants, continental style bars and traditional pubs that line the Quay, with their spectacular views . . . plus the chance to see those luxurious Sunseeker motoryachts being put being put through their paces.

Last year's event was spectacular and this year promises to be even better. I know you will have a fantastic time and hope you'll take the chance to see what else Poole has to offer.

I'm looking forward to a thrilling event and wish the organisers, competitors, spectators and everyone involved a successful and safe rally.

Good luck, have a fabulous time and come and see us again soon!

*Councillor Chris Bulteel
Mayor of Poole*

