

EVENTS

Car Talk has seen the need to highlight the car culture/motorsport in T&T so feel free to post/email events for our attention.
Email: Retrodneey50@gmail.com or cartalk33@gmail.com

RALLY BARBADOS 2012

WOOS THE WORLD



T&T's team John Powell-Nicolas Telfer in WRC-S14.



Rally chicks.



Scottish Anglia tears up the course.

UK's Paul Bird may just be a great example of the old saying -good things come to those wait- after he copped the Caribbean's biggest motorsport event dubbed Rally Barbados during the weekend June 08-10, 2012. The five year wait could not have been sweeter by making it a Bajan double clinching the King of the Hill during the previous week.

The event has attracted UK's Bird and others from many international countries for a taste of the challenging Bajan tarmac stages set against sublime scenic landscapes. Bird teamed up with Scottish female co-driver, Kristy Riddick in a high performance WRC Ford Focus 2008 machine that held the competition at bay for most of the event. Jamaican Jeffrey Panton and Bajan Paul Bourne threw everything into the mix within their respective camps (both driving WRC Ford Focus cars) but Bird just seemed better this year.

Last year's winner, Roger Skeete experienced mechanical problems as well as the prolific Sean Gill. T&T's John Powell had a great chance at a Caribbean tripeat and looked good for the title until damaging his WRC S14's suspension on Day 1. His consolation came from a third placing in the

King of the Hill event. The Barbados event is cherished by the local authorities as one of the country biggest sports tourism drive on the calendar attracting over 100 teams from around the world and contributing on average - Bds \$2 million in revenue. The prize giving at the Boatyard Pub just outside Bridgetown, welcomed the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Richard Sealy and special guest driver, Ireland's Kris Meekes (back to back Rally Barbados Champion 2008-2009) to hand out awards in the various brackets. The outstanding performance by Neil Armstrong in his 2WD Toyota Starlet placing an overall fifth with super hero driving skills also comes up for special mention. Crowd favourite, Scotland's Allan Mackay in his "donut churning" Anglia and Bajan Andrew Jones in his "always sideways" MKII Ford Escort satisfied thousands of action-hungry rally fans scattered across the spectator stages throughout the adrenaline filled weekend. After this, Rally Barbados obviously looks good for 2013!

Photos courtesy: Rodney Granado - CarTalk, Lyden Thomas, Gerard Wilson, - www.trinituner.com, Wayne Benjamin



UK Rally driver Paul Bird tops Rally Barbados 2012.



Trini crew at Rally Barbados.



Bird's WRC Focus at Duckpond.



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