cartalk June/July 2012







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

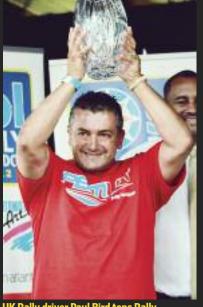
UK's Paul Bird may just be a great example of the old saying -good things come to those wait- after he copped the Caribbean's biggest mo-torsport event dubbed Rally Barbados during the weekend June 08-10, 2012. The five year wait could not have been could not have been sweeter by making it a Bajan double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

ter this year. Last year's winner, Roger Skeete experienced mechanical problems as 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 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 cal-endar attracting over 100 endar 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, wel-comed 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 Arm-strong in his 2WD Toyota Starlet placing an overall Starlet placing an overall fifth with super hero driv-ing skills also comes up for special mention. Crowd favourite, Scot-land's Allan Mackay in his "donut churning" Anglia and Bajan Andrew Jones in his "always sideways" MKII Ford Escort satisfied thousands of action-hun-gry 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



driver Paul Bird tops Rally UK Rally



Bird's WRC Focus at Duckpo





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