

Raymond Conlon
 entertains his 'Bajan'
 fancub.



Record entry of WRC cars building for 2013

Confirmation in mid-March that three-time British and National Rally Champion Steve Perez would be returning to Sol Rally Barbados in his ex-Marcus Gronholm Ford Focus WRC07 brought to 10 the number of cars confirmed for the event's WRC classes.

New Barbados Rally Club (BRC) regulations in force from 2013 to 2015 have WRC cars divided into WRC-1 and WRC-2, with cars built up to the end of 2003 falling in to the second category – currently, five entries are confirmed under each heading, with more in the pipeline promising to break the 2009 record of 12, which was equalled last year.

Perez will face Jamaica's Jeffrey Panton (Focus WRC06), who won in 1998, plus local aces Roger Skeete (Subaru Impreza WRC S12) – he has 12 wins to his credit in the event's 23 years - Paul Bourne (Focus WRC07), winner in 2003 & '07, and Neil Armstrong, confirmed last month as the new driver of the Suzuki SX4 WRC.

Britain's Kevin Procter returns for the first time since 2009 with his Impreza S7 now in WRC-2, where the opposition will include island regular Rob Swann in his Impreza, built to UK B13 regulations and Irish newcomer Eddie Power (Toyota Corolla WRC); the 'home team' comprises Roger Hill in a sister Corolla to Power's and Dean Serrao (Impreza S9).

Attention all marshals: win a trip to Barbados!

Volunteers working on the Cartell.ie Killarney Rally of the Lakes next month will have the chance to win the holiday of a lifetime: the prize-winner whose name is 'pulled from the hat' will enjoy an all-expenses-paid return trip across the Atlantic to attend Sol Rally Barbados 2013, courtesy of the organisers of the Caribbean's biggest annual motor sport International, the Barbados Rally Club (BRC).

The competition, organised in association with the Caribbean island's private-sector Tourism Development Corporation (TDC) and Pacenotes Rally Magazine, is the latest in a series of such promotions, as Neil Barnard, the BRC's PRO, explains: "Over the past three years, with the valuable support of the TDC, the Club has offered prize trips to competitors, spectators and marshals... and it is those volunteers without whom motor sport simply could not survive that we are concentrating on again this year.

"These competitions have

been the core of our European promotion of Sol Rally Barbados, which has resulted in a significant growth in first-time competitor numbers, particularly from Ireland. Of the 20 new crews entered last year and for Sol RB13, no fewer than 14 have come from Ireland."

Run over the May Day weekend (May 3-5), the Rally of the Lakes is a round of the Irish Tarmac Rally Championship, The Windscreen Company Southern 4 Rally Championship and – for the first time in Ireland – the FIA European Historic Rally Championship. After a Friday evening Ceremonial Start in Killarney Town Centre, another first for the event, there will be two days of rallying, with approximately 150 stage miles.

Pacenotes publisher Simon Mooney said: "It's great to be able to put something back into the sport, and I've seen first hand what a fantastic welcome our winner will get. Volunteers are the life-blood of motor sport the world over, and I saw the same

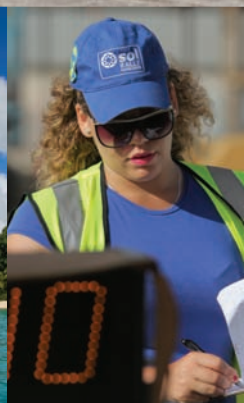
enthusiasm and commitment in Barbados as we're used to at home. Whoever wins will certainly enjoy themselves... but might find it difficult not to join in!"

Clerk of the Course Dermot Healy said: "We hear more and more about Sol Rally Barbados, as the Irish contingent seems to grow every year. On behalf of all our volunteers, I'd like to thank the Barbados Rally Club for this terrific opportunity. I know that whoever wins it will fully deserve the prize."

All signed-on volunteers and marshals over the age of 17 will automatically be entered into the competition, to be drawn after the event. The prize includes return flights on Virgin Atlantic from London Gatwick, accommodation for 12 nights and rental car for the duration.

So, if you haven't already volunteered for Killarney, get to it! Contact Chief Marshal Darren McCormack on 085 1455856.

Rally to BARBADOS!



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