

BIRD RETURNS TO DEFEND SOL RALLY BARBADOS TITLE

Sol extends title sponsorship to 2016

Former UK National Rally Champion Paul Bird will face the largest field of World Rally Cars ever assembled in the Caribbean when he returns to the region to defend his title in Sol Rally Barbados 2013 (June 1/2). Thirteen cars, up from the previous record of 11, are entered in the WRC classes on the provisional entry list of 98 crews, revealed by the Barbados Rally Club (BRC) during a media conference today (Monday).

Last weekend (May 10/11), Bird took the lead of the MSA Asphalt Rally Championship in the UK with his third victory on the closed-road tarmac Manx National Rally, ideal preparation for his trip to the Caribbean. His Frank Bird Poultry/Rapid Solicitors/Fuchs Titan/MinxFlix Ford Focus WRC08 will arrive in the cargo hold of a Virgin Atlantic Boeing 747 a few days before Scotiabank King of the Hill (May 26); Bird will be hoping to win both events, as he did last year, when he described the experience as “the hardest and probably the best I’ve ever driven since I started rallying.”

In a lengthy and entertaining Q & A session in the Peninsula Suite of the island’s Hilton Hotel, Sol Rally Barbados Chairman Barry Gale and the Chairman and PRO of the BRC, Mark Hamilton and Neil Barnard respectively, dealt with wide-ranging issues revolving around the Club’s premier event raised by the assembled media.

All three emphasised the paramount importance of safety to all stakeholders involved in the running of Sol RB13, with a number of new initiatives introduced this year to further enhance control of spectator areas during the event. Barnard said: “In setting the route, our primary objectives were a compact and safe route, but also to inject something new into both days.”

There are 22 special stages, 11 each day. While some venues are familiar, others are less so, a major overhaul of the route creating what promises to be a more level playing field for local and overseas competitors. Hamilton said: “Taking into account particularly the Spring Vale stage on Saturday, competitors will have to be ‘on it’ from the start.”

There are 62 International drivers or co-drivers entered, one short of last year’s record number, 22 of whom are new to the event. The ‘Rally to Barbados’ promotional campaign run in association with the Tourism Development Corporation (TDC) has again proved it’s worth, with the largest influx of newcomers being from Ireland, although three of the six first-time drivers are in fact expat Irish based in New York.

Gale concluded: “The support of the media is vital, we wouldn’t be sitting here without you all in the room, and there is enormous international exposure, too. But I want to finish by mentioning our volunteers (that would be everyone who organises, co-

ordinates, marshals or otherwise assists with the event, and their families, without whose support they could not help) . . . so I take my hat off to all of them, and thank them sincerely.”

Title sponsor since 2008, the region’s largest independent oil company Sol was represented today by Barbados Country Manager, Ezra Prescod, who said: “Sol has been the proud title sponsor of Sol Rally Barbados now for six years . . . and we are happy to commit to another three years as lead sponsor of this event. Sol Rally Barbados has grown into one of the most anticipated events on the region’s sporting calendar and, as the leading regional petroleum company, we are happy to join with the Barbados Rally Club to bring this electrifying event to our customers and motor sport fans across the region once again.”

Sol is also sponsoring 12-time winner of the island’s premier event Roger ‘The Sheriff’ Skeete’s Subaru Impreza WRC S12 for a second season and has welcomed Neil Armstrong to the team, driving the rebranded Suzuki SX4 WRC. Both can be expected to be at the sharp end of the battle for supremacy, along with RB03 and ‘07 winner Paul ‘Surfer’ Bourne (Focus WRC07), who won the first three events of the local season.

In addition to Bird, the overseas entry includes Jamaica’s Jeff Panton (Focus WRC06), the first winner from the wider Caribbean, in 1998, and third last year, former UK National Champions Steve Perez (Focus WRC07) and Roger Duckworth (Impreza WRC S6), plus regular visitor Rob Swann in his UK-spec B13 Impreza, who finished fourth, sixth and seventh respectively in Sol RB12.

Sol Rally Barbados 2013 (June 1/2) and Scotiabank King of the Hill (May 26) are organised and promoted by the Barbados Rally Club, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2007; title sponsors the Sol Group and Scotiabank. Marketing partners are Simpson Motors, LIME, Automotive Art, Banks and Karcher; official partners are the Barbados Hotel & Tourism Association, Barbados Tourism Authority, Tourism Development Corporation, Divi Southwinds Beach Resort, Geest Line and Virgin Atlantic Airways; associate sponsors are Chefette, Field Insurance, Glacial Pure, Little Switzerland, Redline Fuels, Stoute’s Car Rental and West Indies Rum Distillery.

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For further media information: e-mail - robin@bradfax.com
web sites: www.rallybarbados.bb; www.barbadosrallyclub.com

SOL RALLY BARBADOS 2013

At a glance

New for 2013

- + Scotiabank is now the sole title sponsor of the important 'shakedown' and seeding event the weekend before Sol RB13, Scotiabank King of the Hill; it also enjoys a new location at Luke Hill in St Lucy
- + Luke Hill is also the new location for the BRC's VIP Rally Experience, which will be open for both Scotiabank King of the Hill (9.00am to 5.00pm) and day one of Sol Rally Barbados (9.00am to 7.00pm). This maintains its usual format in terms of food, drink and infrastructure, and a Park & Ride system will operate on both days. Patrons can book tickets by e-mailing vip@rallybarbados.bb
- + 'Rally Central', the workshop for overseas crews which do not already enjoy a working relationship with friends or businesses in the island, has moved to the former Banks Brewery building in Wildey, St Michael. As before, it will provide secure storage, access to knowledgeable local engineers, and vital infrastructure, particularly for first-timers

Entries

- + 120 entries received on-line – 22 withdrawals (9 International, 1 Regional, 12 Local)
- + 98 listed on the provisional entry list
- + a record 13 cars in the WRC classes (beating 11 in 2012)
- + 30 International crews, equalling last year's record (beating 29 in 2003)
- + drivers or co-drivers from 11 nations (including Barbados)
- + 62 International drivers or co-drivers, 22 new to the event
- + 7 drivers or co-drivers from the wider Caribbean, 1 new to the event
- + 65 local crews, a record (the largest number to start Sol RB is 64, in 2012)
- + 10 female competitors, 1 driver, 9 co-drivers (including 4 Int, 2 new to the event)
- + cars from 20 manufacturers, Toyota best-represented with 21, having been topped in 2012 by Ford (16 this year), followed by BMW (10), Mitsubishi (8) and Subaru (7)

Rally schedule

- + 11 stages at three venues on Saturday
- + 11 stages at two venues on Sunday
- + total stage distance – 115.00km
- + new challenges on each day for local and International competitors, with stage configurations that will be unfamiliar to both

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SOL RALLY BARBADOS 2013

Provisional entry list at May 13

+ driver/co-driver (car) – listed alphabetically by class

+ some classifications subject to scrutineering

Key to nationalities (competitor from Barbados unless shown): ARG – Argentina; ENG – England; GUY – Guyana; JAM – Jamaica; NED – The Netherlands; NIR – Northern Ireland; SCO – Scotland; TCI – Turks & Caicos; TRI – Trinidad & Tobago; WAL – Wales

WRC-1

Neil Armstrong/Barry Ward (Suzuki SX4 WRC)

Paul Bird - ENG/Aled Davies - WAL (Ford Focus WRC08)

Paul Bourne/Jermin Pope (Ford Focus WRC07)

Jeffrey Panton – JAM/Michael Fennell Jnr – JAM (Ford Focus WRC06)

Steve Perez – ENG/Paul Spooner – WAL (Ford Focus WRC07)

Roger Skeete/Louis Venezia (Subaru Impreza WRC S12)

WRC-2

David Coelho – TRI/James Harris – ENG (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX)

Roger Duckworth - ENG/Alun Cook – WAL (Subaru Impreza WRC S6)

Roger Hill/Graham Gittens (Toyota Corolla WRC)

Eddie Power - IRL/Michael Morrissey - IRL (Toyota Corolla WRC)

Kevin Procter – ENG/Dave Bellerby - ENG (Subaru Impreza WRC S7)

Dean Serrao/Josh Delmas (Subaru Impreza WRC S9)

Rob Swann – ENG/Darren Garrod – WAL (Subaru Impreza)

Group A

Avinash Chatrani/Julian Goddard (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo VI)

Joe McQuillan – NIR/Annette Daly - IRL (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo VII)

Group N

Martin Donnelly - IRL/Brian Docherty - IRL (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX)

Andrew Mallalieu/Geoff Goddard (Subaru Impreza N10)

Geoff Noel/Nigel Reece (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX)

Michael O'Leary - IRL/John O'Leary - IRL (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X)

Terry Sealy/Rommel Coppin (Subaru Impreza N12 WRX STI)

SuperModified 12

Martin Atwell/Chris King (BMW M3)

Justin Campbell/Juan Watts (BMW M3)

Owen Cumberbatch/Kelly-Ann Sandiford (BMW M3)

Brian Gill/Ryan Wood (BMW M3)

Trevor Manning/Derek Edwards (BMW M3)

David St Hill/Ian Grimes (BMW M3)

Martin Stockdale - ENG/Gary Miller - ENG (BMW M3 Compact)

Rhett Watson/Sean Corbin (BMW M3)

SuperModified 11

Eric Allamby/Andrew Skeete (Toyota Corolla)

Glenn Campbell - NIR/Sarah Whelan - IRL (Nissan Micra Kit Car)

Andrew Jones/Mick Squires - ENG (Ford Escort MkII)

Dane Skeete/Tyler Mayhew (Peugeot 306 Maxi)

Nigel Worswick - ENG/Lindsey Pilkington - ENG (Ford Escort MkII)

SuperModified 10

Brett Clarke/Chris Hoad (Citroen C2)

Raymond Conlon - IRL/Darren McCague - IRL (Toyota Corolla)

Allan Mackay - SCO/Mo Downey - NIR (Ford Anglia WRC)

Euan Mackay - SCO/Calum Macleod - SCO (Ford Anglia JWRC)

Roger Mayers/Barry Mayers (WR Starlet)

Enda McCormack - IRL/Kieran McElhinney - IRL (Ford Escort MkII)

Josh Read/Mark Jordan (Toyota Starlet)

Cliff Roett/Joshua Plaza (Toyota Starlet)

Ian Warren/Robert Warren (Suzuki Swift)

Ralph White/Joe Troulan (Toyota Starlet)

SuperModified 9

Carlos Edwards/Andre Waithe (Toyota Starlet)

Rhett D'Andrade/Tristan Gibbs (Daihatsu Charmant)

Allan Maynard/Marcus Beck (Toyota Starlet)

Winston Thompson/Scott Bentham (Toyota Starlet)

Modified 7

Jamal Brathwaite/Dario Hoyte (Honda Civic Type-R)
Norman Catwell/Stuart Leach – ENG (Volkswagen Golf GTI Mk2)
Daryl Clarke/Russell Brancker (Honda Civic)
Edward Corbin/Rodney Clarke (Corolla RunX)
Tommy Doyle - IRL/Liam Moynihan - IRL (Renault Clio R3)
Sean Field/Darnley Rayside (Peugeot 306 GTi6)
Freddie Gale/Kyle Proverbs (Toyota Corolla RunX)
Ron Greaves/Danny Wiles (Honda Civic Type-R)
Andy Hawkins - ENG/Del Johnson - ENG (Volkswagen Golf Mk4)
Paul Horton - TCI/Kristian Yearwood (Escort MkI)
Gary Mendes/Neil Pickering (Toyota Corolla)
Jeremy Sisnett/Justin Sisnett (Ford Fiesta ST)
Chris Ulyett/Derek Ince (Ford Escort RS2000)

Modified 6

Wayne Archer/Lucas Nicolao - ARG (Peugeot 206)
Neil Corbin/Matthew Staffner (Toyota Starlet)
Jason Cozier/Alexis Jordan (Peugeot 205GTi)
John Foster/Jonathan Ince (Daihatsu Charmant)
Jeremy Gonsalves/Chris Corbin (Opel Corsa)
Trevor Mapp/Talia Mapp (Mitsubishi Mirage RS)
Brendon Mckenzie/Tony Pile (Toyota Corolla)
Danny O'Brien - IRL/Barry McNulty – IRL (Toyota Starlet)
Keith Power – IRL/Jonathan McGrath - IRL (Renault Clio)
Mark Thompson/Kurt Seabra - GUY (Toyota Starlet)

Modified 5

Sean Cox/Cody Foster (Suzuki Swift Gti)
John Hardman – NIR/Vishal Dhanraj - TRI (Nissan Micra)
Paul Rees – WAL/Paul Briggs - ENG (Vauxhall Astra)

International Historic

Andrew Siddall – ENG/Jamie Marsh (Ford Escort MkI)
Rob Weir - ENG/Ross Weir - ENG (Triumph TR7 V8)

Historic

David Brewster/Alex Kirton (Peugeot 205GTi)
John Corbin/Owen Proverbs (Toyota Corolla)

Greg Cozier/Natasha Farnum (Ford Escort RS2000)

Stuart White/Jason O'Neal (BMW 325)

Clubman

Fabien Clarke/Arlington Hoyte (Suzuki Ignis Sport)

Pierre Clarke/Ezra Gibbs (Honda Civic)

Jeremy Croney/Andrew Croney (Peugeot 206)

Peter Gallagher – IRL/Rene Ford (Peugeot 206)

Kenny Hall - SCO/Fenny Wesselink – NED (Vauxhall Corsa)

Paul Inniss/Rashid Phillips (Honda Civic)

Shannon Kirton/Lisa Roett (Datsun 120Y)

Rommell Martin/Alex Kellman (Toyota Starlet)

Conor Roach/Damien Johnson (Peugeot 106)

Miguel Toppin/Yakub Haveliwala (Peugeot 205)

Danny Williams/Alex King (Ford Fiesta)

*** Group B**

Andrew Costin-Hurley - ENG/Rob Brook - ENG (Ford Puma)

Stuart Deeley – ENG/Alistair Dodd - ENG (Lotus 62)

Duane Johnson/Dwayne Forde (Mitsubishi Lancer Turbo)

Maurice Moffett – IRL/Jason McKenna – IRL (Toyota Starlet)

Harold Morley - ENG/Mark Nelson - JAM (Porsche GT3)

Randy Reid/Antonio Charles (BMW 320i)

Geoffrey Ulliyett/Jason King (Datsun 120Y)

Frans Verbaas – NED/Kees Hagman – NED (Mini Cooper S)

** Group B will be split into GpB1 and GpB2 after scrutineering*

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SOL RALLY BARBADOS 2013

Special Stage Schedule

All stages run in a single direction; times indicate Car 0 due

Saturday, June 1

- 1000 Start – Greenland Agricultural Station
- 1015 SS1 – Automotive Art Luke Hill 1 (4.80km)
- 1042 SS2 – Karcher Sailor Gully 1 (4.30km)
- 1125 SS3 – Spring Vale 1 (6.00km)
- 1235 SS4 – Automotive Art Luke Hill 2 (4.80km)
- 1302 SS5 - Karcher Sailor Gully 2 (4.30km)
- 1345 SS6 – Spring Vale 2 (6.00km)

Service and lunch halt – Greenland Agricultural Station

Total stage distance, leg 1 - 30.20km

- 1535 SS7 – Automotive Art Luke Hill 3 (4.80km)
- 1602 SS8 - Karcher Sailor Gully 3 (4.30km)
- 1645 SS9 – Spring Vale 3 (6.00km)
- 1755 SS10 – Automotive Art Luke Hill 4 (4.80km)
- 1822 SS11 - Karcher Sailor Gully 4 (4.30km)

Total stage distance, leg 2 - 24.20km

Total stage distance, day 1 – 54.40km

Sunday, June 2

- 0900 Restart – Andrews Factory
- 0915 SS12 – Kendal 1 (5.40km)
- 0935 SS13 – LIME/Banks Golden Grove 1 (6.30km)
- 1010 SS14 – Tappy Pond 1 (4.60km)
- 1100 SS15 – Kendal 2 (5.40km)
- 1120 SS16 – LIME/Banks Golden Grove 2 (6.30km)
- 1155 SS17 - Tappy Pond 2 (4.60km)

Service and lunch halt - Andrews Factory

Total stage distance, leg 3 - 32.60km

1315 SS18 - Kendal 3 (5.40km)

1335 SS19 - LIME/Banks Golden Grove 3 (6.30km)

1410 SS20 - Tappy Pond 3 (4.60km)

1500 SS21 - Kendal 4 (5.40km)

1620 SS22 - LIME/Banks Golden Grove 4 (6.30km)

Total stage distance, leg 4 - 28.00km

Total stage distance, day 2 - 60.60km

Total overall stage distance - 115.00km

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SOL RALLY BARBADOS 2013

Programme of key events

Saturday, May 25 - Simpson Motors Scrutineering

- + 1.00pm to approx 8.00pm
- + Simpson Motors, Warrens, St Michael

Sunday, May 26 - Scotiabank King of the Hill

- + 10.00am to approx 4.00pm
- + round four of the Virgin Atlantic BRC Driver's & Class Championships
- + Luke Hill, St Lucy; one practice and three official timed runs
- + for overseas competitors, a shake-down before Sol RB13

Wednesday, May 29 - Sol RB13 Briefing Meeting

- + 6.30pm, followed by Sol RB13 Welcome Party
- + Divi Southwinds Beach Resort, Christ Church
- + the Briefing Meeting is for competitors, crews and rally officials only
- + the Welcome Party is essentially a social event, with limited formalities

Saturday, June 1 - Sol Rally Barbados 2013 – day 1

- + round five of the Virgin Atlantic BRC Driver's & Class Championships
- + start at 10.00am from Greenland Agricultural Station, St Andrew, which is also the Service Park for the day
- + 11 stages at three venues

Sunday, June 2 - Sol Rally Barbados 2013 – day 2

- + round six of the Virgin Atlantic BRC Driver's & Class Championships
- + restart at 09.00am from Andrews Factory, St Joseph, which is also the Service Park for the day
- + 11 stages at three venues

Monday, June 3 - approx 3.30pm – Sol RB13 Prizegiving

- + The Boatyard, Bay Street, St Michael

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PREVIOUS WINNERS

1990 to 2012

Rally Barbados

- 2012 Paul Bird - ENG/Kirsty Riddick – SCO, Ford Focus WRC08, 1h 02m 50.60s
- 2011 Roger Skeete/Louis Venezia, Subaru Impreza WRC S12, 1h 05m 51.95s
- 2010 Roger Skeete/Louis Venezia, Subaru Impreza WRC S12, 1h 01m 07.57s
- 2009 Kris Meeke - NIR/Paul Nagle - NIR, Subaru Impreza WRC S9, 55m 11.84s
- 2008 Kris Meeke - NIR/Paul Nagle - NIR, Toyota Corolla WRC, 1h 00m 00.06s
- 2007 Paul Bourne/Stuart Maloney, Subaru Impreza WRC S9, 57m 34.36s
- 2006 Gary Gregg - JAM/Hugh Hutchinson - JAM, Ford Focus WRC02, 51m 57.89s
- 2005 Roger Mayers/Max Ferri, Ford Focus WRC, 58m 46.99s
- 2004 Roger Skeete/Dave Crawford - ENG, Ford Escort WRC, 1h 03m 04.48s
- 2003 Paul Bourne/Louis Venezia, Subaru Impreza WRC, 1h 21m 05.43s

International All-Stage Rally

- 2002 Roger Skeete/Dave Crawford - ENG, Ford Escort WRC, 1h 16m 49.80s
- 2001 Roger Skeete/Dave Crawford - ENG, Ford Escort Cosworth, 37m 53.21s
- 2000 Roger Skeete/Dave Crawford - ENG, Ford Escort Cosworth, 43m 57s
- 1999 Trevor Manning/Michael Ward, Mitsubishi Lancer Evo V, 1h 03m 14s
- 1998 Jeffrey Panton - JAM/John de Mercado - JAM, Toyota Celica GT4, 51m 15s
- 1997 Roger Skeete/Dave Crawford - ENG, Peugeot 306 S16, 55m 55s
- 1996 Kenny McKinstry - NIR/Sean Gill, Ford Escort RS2000, 37m 02s
- 1995 Roger Skeete/Dave Crawford - ENG, Peugeot 205GTi, 37m 04s
- 1994 Roger Skeete/Dave Crawford - ENG, Peugeot 205GTi, 38m 55s
- 1993 Kenny McKinstry - NIR/Robbie Philpott - NIR, Subaru Legacy RS, 43m 24s
- 1992 Roger Skeete/Dave Crawford - ENG, Peugeot 205GTi, 24m 26s
- 1991 Roger Skeete/Roger Fields, Peugeot 205GTi, 15m 46s
- 1990 Roger Skeete/Charmaine Skeete, Peugeot 205GTi, 16m 08s

King of the Hill

- 2012 Paul Bird - ENG/Kirsty Riddick – SCO, Ford Focus WRC08, 1m 49.18s
- 2011 Roger Skeete/Louis Venezia, Subaru Impreza WRC S12, 1m 56.44s

2010 Paul Bourne/Stuart Maloney, Ford Focus WRC 07, 2m 00.16s
2009 Roger Skeete/Louis Venezia, Subaru Impreza WRC S12, 1m 50.95s
2008 Paul Bourne/Stuart Maloney Subaru Impreza WRC S9, 1m 13.02s

Key to nationalities (unless shown, competitor is from Barbados):

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The Sol Group

Sol is the premier supplier of petroleum products to the Caribbean basin, providing customised energy solutions to customers every day and for generations to come. The Sol Group supplies fuels, lubricants, and LPG through an extensive service station network and supplies petroleum-based products to commercial customers who are involved in shipping, luxury boating, aviation, mining, trucking and fleet operations. Sol uses the Shell brand under licence across its Shell Service Station network and parades its own Sol Service Station model across several countries in the region. The link between Sol and motor sport is clearly seen in the synergies which motor sport shares with our core business.

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www.solpetroleum.com - [Facebook/solbarbados](https://www.facebook.com/solbarbados)

Scotiabank

Scotiabank is one of North America's premier financial institutions and Canada's most international bank. With more than 81,000 employees, Scotiabank and its affiliates serve 19 million customers in more than 55 countries around the world. Scotiabank offers a broad range of products and services including personal, commercial, corporate and investment banking. In December 2012, Scotiabank became the first Canadian bank to be named Global Bank of the Year and Bank of the Year in the Americas by The Banker magazine, a Financial Times publication. With assets of \$668 billion (as at October 31, 2012), Scotiabank trades on the Toronto (BNS) and New York Exchanges (BNS).

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www.scotiabank.com – [Facebook/ScotiabankBB](https://www.facebook.com/ScotiabankBB)

The Barbados Rally Club

The Barbados Rally Club was founded in 1957 following the successful running of the first June Rally; now called the June Safari, it boasts the longest continuous history of any motor sport event in the region. Always at the forefront of the sport's development in Barbados and the wider Caribbean, the Club was among the first to encourage regional, then international, competition. Sol RB2013 is the 24th running of the Club's annual International All-Stage Rally which, from small beginnings in 1990, has developed

into the Caribbean's biggest annual motor sport International and a major contributor to the island's sports-tourism product.

For further media information - robin@bradfax.com

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