

Race against the clock for Team RallyMarshal

It's a race against the clock for Team RallyMarshal following extensive damage caused to the engine at the D'Isis stages rally at MIRA last weekend. Team member Paul Rees is taking the car to the Caribbean and competing in the Barbados Rally Carnival meaning the car leaves the UK on April 23rd for the long transatlantic shipping journey to Barbados.

Despite an excellent start to the season with Paul and fellow team member (and first time co-driver) Janice Hooley claiming 1st in Class at Hixon Airfield in March, the retirement at MIRA for the pair marked the teams first non-finish on an event. The D'Isis Stages was a 'shakedown' event for the driver and car to ensure all was well and doubled as a tarmac tyre test for the Rally Barbados. Following a steady first stage with the driver and co-driver warming to the venue and stages, the 2nd stage was started in attack mode with the pair going extremely well until the engine lost power on one of the straights and the decision was made to retire.

Following an engine stripdown the following day, it was discovered that the engine was extensively damaged so a newer higher spec engine has been sourced for the car and will need to be fitted before the April 23rd deadline for shipping the car.

As Paul noted *"Well that's rallying for you – but I'm just glad it let go here and not 4500 miles away in Barbados. I know the car will be ready in time as all the members of the team will pull together and get it finished but its not long to the deadline."*

The Barbados Rally Carnival marks a sharp departure for Paul and the car with a complete fortnight of motorsport activity including 2 days of rallysprint action around the Vacluse rallysprint facility on May 31st/June 1st and a 2 day 100 mile fully recce'd and pacenoted tarmac stage rally around the island of Barbados on June 7th and 8th. The gaps in the schedule are filled with all manner of motorsport and social activities around the Island making the Carnival something very special indeed.

Another member of Team RallyMarshal, Bajan resident Sean Lucas is stepping into the co-driving role for the event helping with local knowledge and island contacts. Pauls not daunted by the prospect of such a change however, instead commenting *"It'll be a big step up from the single venue events I've been used to with the narrow and slippery island roads and the addition of pacenotes and night-time stages as well. I'm looking forward to stepping up to the challenges presented by the island, making sure the team enjoys the event and keeps our rivals on their toes!"*

The event is well supported by the media with the 2002 event attracting:

- + more than six hours of radio and television exposure in Barbados
- + eight hours of television programming on Sky Sports in the UK
- + an estimated 25,000 spectators over the two days of Rally Barbados
- + regular coverage on 10 web sites in the region and further afield
- + exposure to approaching 1.5 million people in the UK
- + concentrated coverage in the Barbados print media over a three-week period
- + more than 100 companies, two-thirds of them non-motor industry-related, involved in sponsorship, either directly of the event or of one of the cars

and the 2003 event expected to gain even more coverage both on Sky Sports and within magazines such as 'CCC' within the UK. Anyone wishing to be involved with the unique PR and marketing opportunity presented by the Barbados Rally Carnival can contact Paul on paul@rallymarshal.co.uk or on 01623 404114 for further information. More information on the Barbados Rally Carnival can be found on www.barbadosrallycarnival.com.