

Mull Rally offers prize trip to Rally Barbados 2024

One lucky 2wd entrant in the Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally will win a trip to the Caribbean next year. The prize announced today (Friday) is part of a promotional campaign for Rally Barbados 2024 being rolled out by the Barbados Rally Club (BRC) with support from Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc (BTMI), which will also see members of the RB24 organising team heading to Scotland, Sardinia and South America to promote the event and Motorsport Island.

Subject to final ratification by the Barbados Motoring Federation (BMF), RB24 will run from Friday, May 31 to Sunday, June 2, with The Rally Show and King of the Hill (KotH), the final shakedown and seeding event, on May 25 and 26. RB24 is the 34th edition of the Rally Club's premier event since the first International All-Stage Rally in 1990.

All 2wd entrants in the Mull Rally (October 13-15) will be eligible to win a free entry to Rally Barbados 2024 if they register for the prize before the start. The winner will be determined by a random draw from all official 2wd finishers and announced at the post-event Prizegiving in the island's capital, Tobermory. The prize covers entry to RB24 and KotH, inclusive of return shipping for one rally car from the UK to Barbados; the winner will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation.

This year's event has attracted an entry of more than 120, two-thirds of them in the two-wheel-drive classes, who will tackle 17 special stages in three legs from Friday to Sunday, for a total of just over 130 stage miles. RB24 Rally Director Neil Barnard is travelling to Mull, where he will be hosted by one of the Deputy Clerks of the Course Sue Sanders, who has been a safety advisor to Rally Barbados in the past.

Barnard explains: "Mull is a niche, unique rally that shares many characteristics with Rally Barbados: it is an island-based tarmac event run on closed roads and I am looking forward to promoting Barbados, our event and also getting an understanding of the challenges the organisers face and more importantly how they deal with them.

"I hope the prize drive will attract a good response. The random draw means any 2wd finisher can win and not necessarily the fastest, so there's a terrific opportunity for one of Mull's loyal clubman supporters to come and enjoy our event. We will also draw a couple of reserve drivers in case the winner finds it impossible to make the trip."

Mull Rally Clerk of the Course Richard Crozier said: "This is a tremendously exciting initiative, and we extend our huge thanks to the BRC for putting up this mega prize. Rally Barbados has grown tremendously in global stature from its inaugural running in 1990, and likewise the Mull Rally, formerly the Tour of Mull, has a proud history dating back to 1969, developing a passionate following both in the UK and overseas.

“Rally Barbados has seen a good number of Scottish and UK crews head across the Atlantic to compete over the years, all of whom have returned with big smiles and plenty of stories to tell, so this is a great opportunity for one of our 2WD crews to sample that. There are huge synergies between the challenges both events face as island-based sporting and cultural events, and we can’t wait to extend Neil a warm welcome to Scotland in October and continue to develop this nascent partnership.”

Situated in the eastern Caribbean, Barbados is roughly half the size of the island of Mull at 166 square miles, but with a population of around 300,000. Rally Barbados is a tarmac rally with around 20 special stages run on the island’s intricate network of public roads, under road closure orders granted by the Ministry of Transport, Works & Water Resources; the previous Sunday’s King of the Hill sprint, run under a similar arrangement, features four timed runs on a roughly four-kilometre stage, the results of which are used to seed the running order for the main event.

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