

## REACT Vlakvlei Night Rally

Cape Peninsula Motorcycle and Car Club

WP4

7/8 May 2010

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Round four of the 2010 Western Province Rally Championship, the REACT Marketing Vlakvlei Night Rally, will be hosted by the Cape Peninsula Motorcycle and Car Club on 7 and 8 May 2010. Celebrating their centenary in 2010 CPMCC is the second oldest motor club in South Africa and under the leadership of newly elected chairman, Graham Vincent, and vice-chairman, Andy Haigh-Smith, their proud heritage will continue to grow.

Du Toit and Magda Schreuder host rally headquarters, service park, start and finish on their farm, Vlakvlei, and their hospitality will undoubtedly see this event become another popular addition to the annual calendar. Heavy rain have been keeping the Clerk of the Course on edge this week but at the time of writing the weather started clearing with the other West Coast tradition, mist, possibly the only unknown awaiting the twenty team entry.

Ashley Haigh-Smith and Hilton Auffray will return to challenge for a second consecutive overall victory in the REACT Marketing S3 Toyota Corolla RXi 1600. Possibly too young to have even spectated on the last night rally in the region Ashley have certainly matured rapidly as a driver night sight should prove of little concern to this talented youngster.

Thorsten Pey represents the other side of the coin with a reasonable amount of night rallying experience whilst his navigator, Mark Palmer, should find this quite an experience in the Winning Business Solutions / Forsdicks Tygervalley S4 E36 BMW 325i. A rare mistake saw the BMW clobber a gatepost on the recent WBMK Vlakvlei event and though they managed to salvage second place Veltie and his team had to mend quite a bit of damage sustained in this incident. Fortunately this will be the final event before the team re-shell their trusty steed.

Mike Nathan and Rikus Fourie should dominate the event in their S5 / Gp N4 Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9 4x4 Turbo, especially if it proves to be a wet event. Very experienced and in control of superior machinery the twice former N2 SA champion should make a winning return. André Cleenwerck is the current A5 SA champion and with Carl Peskin as navigator they will return to the regional championship in their rapid A7 / S4 VW Polo 1.9. On paper that sounds like another diesel powered entry but it has to be confirmed.

Shaun Jones and Ian Thebus another team who could surprise on their return in the 1.8 Turbo 4x4 S5 VW Golf Synchrony. The Naartjie always a popular addition to any entry list and this car have seen much work since the last appearance. Hopefully Llewellyn Jones and Christopher Pichon will find the reliability required to achieve the potential shown by their S4 VW Golf IV TDi 1.9.

Sebastiaan and Daniël Klaasen might find their lack of experience to their advantage as what you do not know cannot scare you and their appearance in the S5 Subaru Impreza WRX 4x4 Turbo will undoubtedly attract much attention. Both car and crew have been showing vast improvements and should they adapt to the night conditions this combination could well prove to be the biggest surprise.

Clinton and Keenan Sassman another team richly deserving of a good result in their ever improving S4 E30 BMW 325i, will this be the event where they finally break through? Stefanie and Willem Hugo have also seen a promising start to their season turn sour and will be hoping to change their fortunes in their S3 Wiel / Select Cars Toyota Corolla RXi 1600. This should be their final outing in this car as they have acquired the ex-Kosta Koumantarakis Gp N3 / S4 Toyota Run X RSi 1800.

Rupert van Zyl and Marius Rudolph will also be back in command of their S3 VW Golf MkII 1800 and this combination have the ability to surprise, but will be pushed by André George and George du Toit in their S3 Flying Fridge Toyota Conquest RSi 1600 and the similar machine of Kesevan Naidoo and Daniël Blaser.

Derrick Benjamin and Adrie Stander have now become a team in the S4 VW Polo 2.0 and this is another combination capable of a good result if they find the reliability to match their performance. Gavin Grierson and Paul van Greunen will be enjoying the wet conditions in their tail happy S4 Nissan Skyline 2.8 GTX.

West Coast newcomers to the sport, Divan de Goede and Henry Köhne, will make their night debut in the ex-Wessel Venter S3 Toyota Corolla RSi 1600 and are determined to finish the event intact. Paul-Hendrik Franken and Uwe Pey have stepped into S3 with 1800 power in their VW Golf CSL MkII and this is another youngster to watch as they have serious plans to move into A5 for 2011. The sole S2 team will be Stephen White and Patrick Vermaak in the well known REACT Marketing Mitsubishi Lancer GT1600.

Having tasted success Warren Scholtz and Justin Gay will be determined to finish another rally in their S3 VW Polo 1800 whilst Harry Giliomee and Fritz Blom will be chasing that elusive finish in their neat S3 rear wheel drive Toyota Corolla Bredvan 1800.

Former Clubmans racing champion, Brian Maunder, takes over driving duties in the Brian Hoskins S1 / A5 VW Golf Chico 1.4i and given his pace on track this could also prove to be a surprise entry on the event.

Unfortunately Charl Strydom and Sakkie Bosman have opted not to start the event as their A6 / S3 Sabre Paints VW Polo 1600 could not be prepared in time for this event.

To reach the start of this event turn onto the R45 heading towards Hopefield. Zero odo as you turn onto the R45 and proceed 46.90km before turning right at the Koringberg crossroads and join the gravel. At 52.40km turn right at signpost Leomoendrift, Vlakovlei, Boplaas. Drive slowly until you reach the farmyard at 56.83km.

Weather looking up with no rain forecast for Friday and Saturday. Also encouraging is the unlikely chance of mist overnight. To date some 23mm of rain have been received in the area but having been rather dry this is being absorbed well. The odd slippery section can however be expected but it is unlikely to be considered a truly wet event.

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Patrick Vermaak