

## Wingfield Motors Rally

Cape Peninsula Motorcycle and Car Club

WP4

25 July 2009

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Magnificent weather for a second successive weekend had competitors in festive spirit going into round four of the Western Province Rally Championship. Just the mood that Jean-Pierre Damseaux and Rob Williams appreciated enroute to an easy victory in the Team Total S5 / S2000 Toyota Run X RSi 4x4. Winning five of the six stages their only hiccup occurred when the water saturated roads had the Toyota splutter for a while on special stage five. Now if they can only take this commanding attitude to national events!

Mike Nathan and Derek Jacobs had no need to stick their necks out and were clearly happy to settle for second place overall in the neat S5 / N4 AWI Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX Turbo 4x4. When the Toyota gulped water on stage five they nearly got lucky and scored a stage win to make their day worthwhile. Thorsten Pey and Mark Palmer drove a calculated event in the S4 Winning Business Solutions / Forsdicks BMW 325i to consolidate their challenge with a fine third position overall. The big Beemer does not enjoy muddy roads and it was with genuine relief that competitors accepted the cancellation of the final special stage as the fan blades had snapped off in SS5 and the engine was running hot going into SS6. Not to mention the fact that a sunken treasure in one of the pools of water had resulted in a broken right front shock.

Abduraghman Amlay and Yusuf Ganief were even less fortunate as they had completed special stage six on a mission to catch the BMW and needed only 17 seconds to move into third overall. Leaving the end of special stage six they noted a bearing problem on the S3 Toyota Run X RSi and decided to withdraw – not aware of the fact that the final stage would in fact be cancelled!

Charl Strydom and Sakkie Bosman celebrated their return to the local scene with a fighting fourth overall in their Sabre Paints S3 VW Polo 1.6, just eleven seconds clear of the Team REACT S3 Toyota Corolla RXi 1600 of the old age home ie Andy Haigh-Smith and Bill Bright. No it's no printing error, the navigator was genuinely Bright senior and combined they respresented 127 years of youth! Patrick Vermaak found himself on the receiving end of the: "Change of date leading to irate wife scenario" and opted to not sleep outside for the balance of winter. Bill accepted the invitation to navigate (fortunately with pace notes there is no real need to read thus there were no need to swop between the reading and driving glasses) and finished the event with renewed respect for what competitors endure on rallies. (Thanks Andy – Bill, the weekend away was great!)

Stefanie and Willem Hugo enjoyed a determined day in the Wiel S3 Toyota Corolla RXi 1600, really committed through all the water and never missing a beat. The young lass really growing in confidence and the times becoming really competitive. With his regular Yaris still being rebuilt after the Algoa mishap Ashley Haigh-Smith and Hilton Auffray found themselves in old faithfull, the Team REACT S2 Mitsubishi Lancer GT1600. Not so fast but extremely reliable and absolutely fearless with respect to water the yellow submarine took the day in it's stride to finish seventh overall.

Gavin Grierson and Paul van Greunen made an all too rare appearance in their S4 Nissan Skyline 2.8 GTX and despite running out of shocks they still managed eighth overall. Gavin failing to receive his trophy at prizegiving as he was still trying to unknot his elbows – but clearly they enjoyed every second in the tail happy Skyline. Kesevan Naidoo and new navigator, Daniël Blaser, did their level best to drown the Freightmore S3 Toyota Conquest RSi 1600 but it recovered every time to limp home in ninth place overall, the final finisher from an initial seventeen strong field.

As already stated the most disappointing retirement simply had to be Abduraghman Amlay and Yusuf Ganief who inadvertently retired from a potential podium finish in their S3 Toyota Run X RSi. John Peiser and Brian Hoskins fell victim to water damage and the Speed Pro Cycling Equipment S5 Subaru Impreza GT 4x4 Turbo limped home with shod bearings after special stage four. Llewellyn Jones and Craig Gray

lost nine minutes on special stage one when they could not convince the S\$ VW Golf TDi that it was a submarine. Then they broke a CV on special stage three before finally retiring after special stage four with yet another broken CV.

André George and George du Toit encountered electrical problems at scrutineering and fell foul of even more similar problems after special stage four in the normally very reliable Flying Fridge S3 Toyota Conquest RSi 1600.

Clinton and Keenan Sassman looked good in their rebodied S4 BMW 325i but new car gremlins saw engine pulleys munch the fanbelt after special stage one and though Thortsen Pey sportingly assisted with spares the problem could not be rectified and they retired. Winston Neethling and Garth Ritsch failed to complete special stage one when the ex-Grobler S5 Nissan Sentra 4x4 gulped water and the motor expired.

Paul Emmanuel and Jody Eadie, S1 VW Golf 1.4i, and Warren Scholtz / Justin Gay, S3 VW Polo, vanished from the scoresheets with rumoured CV problems. The S1 Golf on SS1 and the Polo on SS3. The event ran in almost perfect weather conditions and the format proved very popular with spectators. Ironically repeating the stages in the water saturated state they were did not make life easier on competitors and the organizers wisely decided to cancel the final stage.

Only two weeks before the CCMCC All Tar Rally at Killarney on 7/8 August 2009. Do not miss this one as the entire event will take place at the Killarney Motorsport Complex.

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Patrick Vermaak

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