



**Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Bourne looking forward to 2014 campaign**

Fresh off pre-season testing in the United Kingdom, Paul 'The Surfer' Bourne is brimming with confidence as his gravel-strewn, season-opener in neighbouring Trinidad and Tobago fast approaches.

With the trials and tribulations of 2013 firmly in his rearview mirror, the Banks Beer ambassador will again be at the helm of his immaculately prepared **Banks Beer/Chefette Speed Team/Castrol Ford Focus WRC07** for what he says will be "a packed season" of rallying.

"Last year could only be described as a challenging year. It started out really well but mechanical problems made it quite difficult. Right now, it's all about focusing on the positives and having a productive year behind the wheel," he said.

Bourne's first assignment for 2014 will be Rally Trinidad (March 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>) – a fast, sweeping gravel rally based in the southern foothills of the twin-island republic.

"We recently built a 40-foot container to house the car and support van, in addition to all the peripherals needed to compete in a foreign rally. It's been a while since I last travelled to compete, so I'm very much looking forward to Trinidad," he said, adding that he will also compete in Rally Barbados in June and Rally Jamaica in December.

"A couple Bajan drivers are going down as well, so this will be a nice test of speed for us. I can't wait to get going."

Bourne recently returned from the United Kingdom where he put the Focus – which has an attractive new livery - through its paces during pre-season testing with CA1Sport. The local ace also had the opportunity to take a new works Ford Fiesta WRC for a spin, though he downplayed switching machines at this juncture.

"The Fiesta is really nice and the chassis is phenomenal. But my Focus is a great car and it's competitive," he said.

"At this point, I will compete in the Focus and see where the chips fall at the end of the year. Hopefully everything runs smoothly and we have a great season."

Bourne is dedicating his 2014 campaign to Troy, a longtime friend and crew member who recently passed away in a car accident.

*\* I shall dedicate this year to my friend Troy, 'The Bear', who made us all happy. May his Spirit run free. Love and respect. – Paul 'The Surfer' Bourne*

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