



Banks Holdings Limited

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NEWS RELEASE

MISTAKE COSTS BOURNE OVERALL TITLE AT 'HAMMER TIME'

- Also finishes second at Valvoline Rally

An untimely error on the final run of day proved costly for Paul 'The Surfer' Bourne when the Motoring Club of Barbados Inc. hosted its 'Hammer Time' speed event from Cliff to Society in St. John on April 27th.

Locked in a battle for overall honours with arch-rival Roger 'The Sherriff' Skeete, the Banks Beer ambassador missed his braking point at a junction, which resulted in him going in the opposite direction – a mistake that essentially ended his chances of an overall victory.

"The final run was a major disappointment," said Bourne after climbing out of the Banks Beer/Chefette Speed Team/Castrol Ford Focus WRC07.

"However, it's not all bad news. Even though the times don't show it, I think I finally found my speed and I feel much more comfortable and confident to go fast again."

In the final analysis, Bourne recorded a fastest time of two minutes, 23.84 seconds to finish second behind Skeete, who posted the fastest overall time of two minutes, 21.56 seconds in the Sol/LIME/Michelin/Simpson Motors/Da Costa Mannings Auto Centre/WTI Subaru Impreza WRC S12.

Earlier in April....

'The Surfer' finds late speed to finish second at Valvoline Rally

Despite a puncture within the first fifteen seconds of the opening stage, Paul 'The Surfer' Bourne produced a consistent drive to finish second overall at the Valvoline Rally, contested in the north of the island over the tight and twisty Sailor Gully and Luke Hill special stages.

With new co-driver Thomas Woodburn of England beside him, the Banks Beer ambassador finished the 10-stage rally with a total elapsed time of 22minutes, 45.84 seconds - 27.77 seconds behind eventual winner Roger 'The Sheriff' Skeete.



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The impressive Josh Read, the highest placed two-wheel-drive competitor, rounded out the podium in the Stihl/Gliptone/Hankook Tyres/Weetabix/Royal Purple/EZone/Coffee Bean Toyota Starlet.

“From an organizational point of view, it was the best rally I have ever driven in. Overall, it was a great day,” said Bourne, who was buoyed by a third place finish in the gravel and dust of Rally Trinidad a couple weeks earlier.

“I felt a bit unsettled at first which probably accounted for me hitting some cut rock and puncturing the right front tyre on the first stage. However, I was much better by the end of the rally.”

Bourne also highlighted the performance of his new navigator and crew.

“It was great to have Tom with me and he did a fantastic job. The car also performed well and now it’s just left up to me to get it right...Rally Barbados could well turn out to be a dream rally,” he said in reference to the Caribbean’s largest annual motorsport International.

The 25th running of the Barbados Rally Club’s blue ribbon event will be contested on May 30th and June 1st, with the Scotiabank King of the Hill and Simpson Motors Scrutineering scheduled for the preceding weekend.

In lauding Bourne for his recent efforts, Bernard Frost, Group Marketing Manager of Banks Holdings Limited, said he was pleased with the Focus’ turn of speed.

“Paul has proven himself as a reliable and dependable competitor, and we are pleased that he has once again positioned the *‘Beer of Barbados’* at the sharp end of the field. As the rally-packed summer months quickly approach, we wish him continued success in all his motoring endeavors,” he said.

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