



Banks Holdings Limited

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NEWS RELEASE

***'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 last weekend's 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 in the Banks Beer/Chefette Speed Team/MQI/FLOW/Castrol Ford Focus WRC07, 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 in the Sol/LIME/Simpson Motors/Michelin/Williams Trading Inc. Subaru Impreza WRC S12.

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 earlier this month finished third in the gravel and dust of Rally Trinidad.

"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 Scotiabank King of the Hill and Simpson Motors Scrutineering scheduled for the preceding weekend.

In lauding Bourne for his 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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