



# Rally Jamaica 2009

## Event Report

And the dust finally cleared at approximately 8p.m. on Sunday December 6, 2009 at the National Stadium in Kingston. Another successful staging of Jamaica's premiere motor sport event came to a close with three Special Stages around the stadium.

After two days of competition Gary 'The Colonel' Gregg and Hugh Hutchinson re-captured the



Petcom/Hilton Rally Jamaica trophy from defending champions Jeffrey 'Fudgie' Panton and Michael Fennell

Jr. and staved off the foreign onslaught of Paul 'The Surfer' Bourne from Barbados and John 'Penti' Powell, a Jamaican living in Trinidad.

Gary Gregg/Hugh Hutchinson in the BD Gregg and Sons sponsored 2005 Ford Focus WRC completed the two day event with a total elapsed time of 1:28:02.400, followed by Panton/Fennell in their 2001 Ford Focus WRC in a time of 1:30:05.392, followed



closely by John Powell/Michael March in their Subaru S12 WRC with an overall time of 1:30:23.735. Even



though the special stages at stadium had Panton/Fennell having the best time followed by Powell/March then Gregg/Hutchinson,

this wasn't enough to gain any momentum on Gregg/Hutchinson who led the event by over a minute at the end of day one.

To many, Panton showed true determination throughout both stages, as he lost 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> gear on the very first stage which limited his ability to obtain the kind of top speeds the car is capable of. John Powell was witnessed losing time due to his unfamiliarity with his newly acquired ride. We can look out for him posing a more serious threat next time.

Barbados hopefuls, Paul Bourne/Stuart Maloney in their Banks

sponsored 2007 Ford Focus WRC were on paper the most likely



duo to take the trophy from the shores of Jamaica. However, for the second year in a row, they were not able to complete the event.

## Day 1

Day one in the mines of Lydford, Rio Hoe and Airstrip in St. Ann, the attrition rate normally experienced on day one stayed true to form as there was a severe dent in the entry list. This wasn't however, due to the treachery of the stages, as, aside from dust, stage preparation was admirable to say the least.

Notables such as Natasha Chang/Michael Worme, Salvador Solis/Nigel Lyn, Thomas Hall/Andre Gordon, Dion Gardner/Gina Tomlinson, Steve Olivier/David

Jackson (St. Vincent), and Matthew Gore/Raymond Farquaharson were all not able to



complete the grueling St. Ann stages.

The team of Richard 'Sir Rich' Rerrie/Winston Dawson was plagued with maladies before the first stage had run.

Though experiencing gear box problems, Panton/Fennell were able to get the jump on the others on the first stage. Throughout the day, the top four WRC cars swapped times and remained relatively close throughout the day.

Doug Gore/Mark Nelson in their SLAM/Motor Sales



sponsored Mitsubishi Evolution 10 kept pace with the leaders ahead of his other JA8

rival, Steve Olivier/David Jackson of St. Vincent in their Mitsubishi Evolution 8.

James Betts/Jeremy Gonsalves of Barbados stayed



true to form in the Subaru Impreza N9 throughout the weekend to finish ahead of the other JN8 competitors.

In the 2WD category, Ian 'Wee Wee' Warren/Graham Gittens of Barbados in their Simpson Motors/Stewarts Auto Sales/Automotive Art/Shell V-Power sponsored Suzuki Swift were more familiar with the 4WD vehicles than they were amongst the other 2WD competitors. They maintained pace with the



JA8 competitors, while brushing aside quite a few JN8 contenders except for Harold Morley/Geoffrey Goddard of Barbados in their



Net2Vu sponsored Subaru Impreza N14, and Dean Serrao/Brian Gibson also of Barbados, in a Subaru Impreza.

The lone local JN8 competitor with any hope for



podium was first time rally entrant Joel Jackson/Dmitri Dawkins in their

Jetcon/Catherine's Peak/National Outdoor Advertising/Spanish Court Hotel/Leapro Group sponsored Subaru Impreza. Local spectators had high hopes for Natasha Chang/Michael Worme in their College Lifestyle Magazine sponsored Mitsubishi Evolution 5 and Salvador Solis/Nigel 'Nya' Lyn in their Intec Research sponsored Mitsubishi Evolution 3. Both Natasha and Salvador were never to see the end of day one, as Natasha experienced an engine failure, and Salvador had a rough and tumble time of it during SS9 – Airstrip. However, Sal and Nya were to be congratulated for their roll at the awards ceremony.

At the end of the first day (13 stages, with one cancellation), 21 competitors survived from the list of 34 entrants.

## Bog Walk

Yet again, the orange orchards of Bog Walk were invaded by thousands of spectators. A few competitors who limped out of day one managed to recover and attempt to claim honors for the Sunday Cup and highlight their sponsors for day two.

Gregg/Hutchinson managed to stay in the lead while being hounded by Powell/March and Panton/Fennell who incidentally suffered a flat tire on the New Works stage, while still suffering from gear box issues.



Frustration set in for Gore/Nelson as they experienced a severe loss of power due to a damaged turbo. However, they managed to hang on to an insurmountable class lead as a result of a



Olivierre/Jackson DNF on the first day, distant JA8 debutants Peter Jaggon/Victor Handal in their Tile City/Jaggon's Gases sponsored Mitsubishi Evolution 7; and event co-sponsor Junior 'Flette'



Barnes/Courtney Murphy in their Bay Waata sponsored Mitsubishi Evolution 8. Rerrie/Dawson returned only to withdraw once



again before lunch.

The 2WD class was heating up, especially amongst the JA2 competitors, with the main rivalry for overall championship honors coming



from Jordan Powell/Chad Pearson Lloyd's of Montego Bay/Gunk sponsored Toyota FX; Daryl King/Rameses

McGregor in their Ankara Auto/Knot Nice sponsored Toyota Starlet and Andrew Forsythe/Basil McIntosh in their Advantage Realtors/Leroy's Auto Glass/Kinn's Auto



Parts/Ranger Protection/Exmil sponsored Honda CRX. Re-entrants Matthew Gore/Raymond Farquharson in their

Liquid Lightning sponsored Toyota Starlet were seriously gunning for the Sunday Cup, while Maurice 'Whitty' Whittingham/Andre Forbes in their Toyota Starlet were trying to gain ground on the leaders.

Defending JA3 champion, Bobby Marshall/Carlington Brissett in their Motor Sales sponsored Mitsubishi Mirage will only settle for JA3 honors ahead of the only other class finisher Leroy 'Ice' Spence/Jason





Bailey in their Lucozade Sport sponsored Honda CRX.

After an additional 11 stages, everyone made their way to the National Stadium for a dazzling display of speed and control on a mixed tarmac surface.



Toyota Starlet followed by Jordan Powell/Chad Pearson in a Toyota Corolla FX and Andrew Forsythe/Basil McIntosh in a Honda CRX.

Ian 'Wee Wee' Warren/Graham Gittens of Barbados in their Suzuki Swift were the sole representatives of the JCI class, but finished 8<sup>th</sup> overall.

The Sunday Cup was captured by Matthew Gore/Raymond Farquharson ahead of Olivierre/Jackson and Dion Gardner/Gina Tomlinson in a Petcom/Pace Lubricants/Autosource/Sign Express sponsored Mitsubishi Mirage. Overall results including stage by stage times can be viewed at the [www.rallyjamaica.com](http://www.rallyjamaica.com) website.

In addition to Hilton Kingston Hotel and Petcom, this event is also brought to you by the following associate sponsors:

- Xsomo International
- True Juice - Trade Winds Citrus
- KFC
- Red Bull
- Bay Waata
- Seaboard Shipping and Freight Ja. Ltd
- Seafreight Jamaica Limited
- Kingston Industrial Garage
- Hose Assembly and Supplies
- Jamaica Bauxite Mines
- Tankweld Equipment
- CVM
- Advance Performance Parts
- Tropical Battery
- MegaJamz FM
- ProSound Jamaica Limited
- Windalco

### Summary

Gregg/Hutchinson wound up the championship at the stadium by completing their three runs in characteristically clean fashion.

While adding to the entertainment and stadium win, Panton/Fennell wrestled second overall from the clutches of Powell/March, who were also very entertaining, and topped of the evening with a dazzling display of car control and entertaining action.

The JN8 class succumbed to the foreign invasion as James Betts/Jeremy Gonsalves of Barbados claimed top honors in their Subaru Impreza giving them a 4<sup>th</sup> place overall finish, ahead of Harold Morley/Geoffrey Goddard in a Subaru N14 placing 5<sup>th</sup> overall and Dean Serrao/Ryan Farmer in a Subaru Impreza placing 7<sup>th</sup> overall, all from Barbados.

In the JA8 class Douglas 'Hollywood' Gore/Mark Nelson in their Mitsubishi Evolution 10 completed the event atop the class and a 6<sup>th</sup> overall placing ahead of Junior Barnes/Courtney Murphy in Mitsubishi Evolution 8 and Peter Jaggon/Victor Handal in Mitsubishi Evolution 7.

Jamaican hopefuls Joel Jackson/Dmitri Dawkins finished outside the medals in class, but were still in the top 10 finishers for the first loose event in their immaculately prepared Subaru Impreza.

The next highly contested class, JA2 was narrowly captured by Daryl King/Rameses McGregor in their