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The Montego Bay Moting Club with the help of The Jamaica Constabulary, The National Works Agency, KFC, Xsomo International, Lloyd's of Montego Bay, Bearings & Seals Auto Superstores and Spot Valley Sports Complex successfully staged the first rally event of the Jamaica Millennium Moting Club/King Midas Mufflers National Rally Championship this Sunday in the parish of Trelawney, using the fast Daniel Town to Clarke's Town stage and the twisty Rio Bueno to Brampton stage.



Of the fifteen entries that took the start under rainy conditions at Glistening Waters Marina and Restaurant, eight were to eventually reach the finish, as the high attrition rate would lead to approximately half the field out by lunch time.

First to go was Tarik Minott/Peter Clarke in the Suzuki Ignis. The bonnet came off the car midway through the first stage and damaged the engine belts and crank sensor. Christopher "Teach" Macfarlane and young Dejeanae Leahong in the bMobile/Jamspeed Adrenaline Rush reality TV series Peugeot Station wagon were sidelined with oil spitting out of their engine, though this was to be rectified and they would return after lunch for the afternoon stages. Rohan Jones and Walton Small took a wrong turn in their turbo-charged Hyundai Excel and were out of rally time when they returned to the start of the first special stage instead of heading to the next stage at Rio Bueno. Julian Gordon and Rohan Clarke had switched seats from last year and Julian was now behind the steering wheel with Rohan on the notes in their VW Golf Gti. They were to have an off on SS1, but recovered to finish the stage and the event with some very determined driving.

By special stage 2, Andrew Forsythe and Daryl King in a Honda CRX were out of fuel, Thomas Hall and Andre Gordon in a fast Toyota turbo Starlet had spun and damaged both the front and rear suspension, but still made it to the finish while Marvin Porteous with female co driver Tricia Ann Groves were out with a blown cylinder head gasket in the Spot Valley Toyota Starlet, after showing promise on the first special stage.



Gas, axles, head gasket anyone?



The various approaches to the school corner for the top 3 finishers

Midway on SS3, Leroy Spence and Terri Chung had axle failure on their Honda CRX, first timers Orville Johnson and Matthew Isaacs were delayed by oil loss woes which eventually led to engine bearing damage and behind the closing marshal, but defending champion Richard Rerrie now with co driver Winston Dawson (borrowed for this event from his cousin Rory King) were stretching the lead they had from the start of the event, as the Puma/Leroy's Auto Glass Subaru Impreza WRX Sti stretched its wings and flew through the stages under the power of its new engine. National Rally Driver's champion Dave Lee with Colin Chambers on the pace notes were secure in second place, a position that they calmly kept to the end. Macklin Peterkin and Wayne Chuck never seemed to be in contention for more than third place, as issues relating to their stock suspension may have played a part in a spin on the last running of the Daniel Town stage caused them to lose about 10 seconds and any hope of climbing higher in the standings.



L-R: Whittingham & Maxwell @ Teach's corner, Bahadoursingh & Lee, Hall & Gordon.

Maurice Whittingham with new co driver Charles Maxwell from the Jamspeed Adrenalin Rush TV series were very determined to do well and finished the day as the fastest two wheel drive (2wd) competitors as well as winning the JA2 class, with Ivan Lee and Robert Bahadoursingh entertaining in the rear wheel drive Toyota Corolla and finishing fifth overall and first in the JA4 class. Thomas Hall and Andre Gordon were 6th overall and second in the JA4 class.



L-R: Gordon and Clarke in their correct seats while Hall and company have a word with Solis.

Gordon and Clarke finished the day in 7th place overall and the final classified finishers were Salvador Solis and Sonnique Henry in a smoking Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution II, also placing third in the JN8 class.

A serious accident occurred on the penultimate running of the Daniel Town stage when the car of McFarlane and Leahong struck a tree after losing control negotiating the very chicane that was placed on the course to slow the competitors on their approach to the corner where three years ago McFarlane had left the road and struck another car. Both were released from hospital with only minor cuts and bruises and muscle soreness, though the car fared far worse.

The next major event on the motor racing calendar will be the Jamaica Karting Associations meet #3 at the Palisades International Raceway on March 16, followed in a week's time by the Jamaica Race Driver's Club Easter race meet at Dover Raceway in St. Ann on Easter Monday, March 24, where a host of new cars and drivers are expected to thrill a capacity crowd of motor racing fans at the English speaking Caribbean's most challenging circuit track.

Results

Name & Overall position	Car	Class	Time
1. Richard Rerrie/Winston Dawson	Subaru Impreza WRX	JA8	27:27.249
2. Dave Lee/Colin Chambers	Lancer Evolution VIII	JN8	28:40.453
3. Macklin Peterkin/Wayne Chuck	Subaru Impreza WRX	JN8	29:01.971
4. Maurice Whittingham/C. Maxwell	Toyota Corolla FX	JA2	30:11.484
5. Ivan Lee/Robert Bahadoursingh	Toyota Corolla SR5	JA4	31:31.288
6. Thomas Hall/Andre Gordon	Toyota Starlet GT Turbo	JA4	36:47.779
7. Julian Gordon/Rohan Clarke	VW Golf Gti	JA3	37:46.664
8. Salvador Solis/Sonniq Henry	Lancer Evolution II	JN8	38:05.032

Did Not Finish:

Tarik Minott/Peter Clarke	Suzuki Ignis	Engine
Rohan Jones/Walton Small	Hyundai Excel	Lost
Marvin Porteous/Tricia Ann Groves	Toyota Starlet	Engine
Orville Johnson/Matthew Issacs	Toyota Tercel	Engine
Andrew Forsythe/Daryl King	Honda CRX	Out of fuel
Leroy Spence/Terri Chung	Honda CRX	Axle
Christopher McFarlane/Dejeane Leahong	Peugeot S/wagon	Accident