



## **SPECIAL VEHICLE TITLE CHASE WINNERS AND LOSERS IN DONALDSON CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **Crews tick profit and loss boxes after Toyota Kalahari Botswana 1000 Desert Race**

After spending a chilly night in the desert a couple of seasons ago the Toyota Kalahari Botswana 1000 Desert Race has been kind to Phalaborwa based Wichard Sullwald and father Hermann.

A win on last year's race rocketed them into title contention and with the two racing sections on this year's event scored as separate races, a fifth place and a win in the Elegant Fuel Stryker has again brought them back into the championship picture. They lie fifth in the overall and Class A standings, but father and son now have the unique distinction of winning the only marathon event on the Donaldson calendar both as a driver and navigator.

A solid second place on day two of the Botswana event has taken the other half of the Sullwald family, son Quintin and father Kallie, in the Elegant Fuel BAT to the top of the standings. They take over the championship lead by 10 points from Jimco pair Gerhard du Plessis and his teenage son, Hardus, who were excluded from the race one results and did not start the second leg.

The big winners in the overall standings were KwaZulu-Natal newcomers Arthur Barnes and Anthony Usher (BAT) who move up to third, at the expense of Laurence du Plessis/Gielie le Roux (Zarco), who won the first race and did not start on day three. Another KZN team, James Watson and John Thompson (BAT), won both Class P races to leapfrog into fifth place in the overall standings.

For Barnes/Usher it was their first Toyota Desert Race experience with the pair delighted with sixth place and a maiden podium for second in race two. Watson and Thompson were also first time winners and shot up the Class P championship leaderboard.

Wichard and Hermann Sullwald now slot into sixth position in the overall standings ahead of Class P crew John Thomson/Maurice Zermatten (Zarco), and reigning Special Vehicle champions Evan Hutchison and Danie Stassen in the Motorite BAT. But spare a thought for the Motorite pair who were on the way to a second leg victory, when the car caught fire two kilometres from the finish and robbed them of a certain 25 points.

On the Class A front Quintin and Kallie Sullwald now lead from Gerhard and Hardus du Plessis, with Barnes/Usher making an upward move to third place ahead of Laurence du Plessis and le Roux. They are followed by Wichard and Hermann Sullwald who move ahead of Hutchison/Stassen.

A hugely successful Toyota Kalahari Botswana 1000 Desert Race for Watson and Thompson has taken them into joint first place with reigning champions Thomson and Zermatten in Class P. A good race for Sean Reitz and Michael Abramson (Regent Racing Zarco) moved them into third place ahead of Rob Wark/Ashley Thorn who sat out the Botswana race.

The next round of the Donaldson Cross Country Championship is the Force Fuel 450 at Sun City in the Pilanesberg on August 8 and 9.

Ends

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