



ANOTHER TEST OF CHARACTER FOR CREWS ON VRYBURG 450

For the fifth time in six events crews will be heading into the unknown at the Vryburg 450, round six of the Donaldson Cross Country Championship, in the North West on September 12 and 13.

Earlier this season the RFS 450, the Toyota Dealer 450 and more recently the Toyota 1000 Desert Race and Force Fuel 450 saw crews tackling completely new routes. Now they face another test of character as the cross country fraternity return to their roots and spiritual home.

The Vryburg area was home to the infamous Trans Kalahari events and the Toyota Desert Race from 1981 to 1990 and has produced a string of top cross country drivers, including the legendary Apie Reyneke and Andre Kok. Last year's Vryburg 400 saw national racing return to Vryburg after a lengthy absence, with this year's race again based at the Vryburg Motor Club.

"An antic clockwise route will take competitors towards Louwna and Excelsior before heading for home," said route director Adri Roets. "Only about 20 percent of last year's route will be familiar to crews, with the rest virgin territory.

"After good rains the grass is long and the general conditions along the route are good."

Roets added the route was a good combination of open, sandy tracks and rocky section which would be tricky. While the route would provide competitors with a stiff challenge, it would provide for good racing.

Roets added the route also provided for plenty of spectator opportunities with cross country enthusiasts spoilt for choice.

With the season entering a critical stage for championship hopefuls, the Vryburg 450 could be make or break for some teams. This is particularly true for crews who have one or two non finishes to their names.

Competitors drop one score at the end of the season, and in terms of non finishes there are a number of top teams skating on thin ice. This applies to competitors in both the Production and Special Vehicle categories.

Race headquarters, the start/finish and designated service park will all be located at the Vryburg Motor Club on the outskirts of the town. Public entry to these areas and spectator points along the route is free of charge.

The qualifying race on September 12 to determine grid positions will start at 11:30 and the race at 8:30 the next day.

Ends

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WEBSITE

SA NATIONAL OFF ROAD CAR RACING ASSOCIATION
CHARMAINE FORTUNE 011 462 6243
www.crosscountryracing.co.za

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