



MOTORING CELEBRITY TO GO CROSS COUNTRY RACING

A co-presenter of the iconic Afrikaans motoring programme La't Wiel on Kyknet on the DStv bouquet will get more than his weekly dose of adrenalin on the Thaba 'Nchu 450, round seven of the Donaldson Cross Country Championship, on October 24 and 25.

Hannes Visser, who co-presents La't Wiel with Waldo van der Waal, will co-drive for former South African champion Terence Marsh in the Imperial Auto Celebrity Challenge. The challenge forms an integral part of the Donaldson series, and the pair will be out in one of the two Regent Racing Nissan Navara V8 models running in the premier Class T in the Production Vehicle category.

Visser joins a host of sports and entertainment celebrities to have taken part in the Imperial Auto Celebrity Challenge. Among those who have competed this season are rugby stars John Smit and AJ Venter, Stefan Terblanche, actress Hlubi Mboya and TV personality Jeannie D.

A motoring and motorsport enthusiast from an early age Hannes wrote and presented the first edition of La't Wiel way back in 2004. The rest is history.

A decade later La't Wiel has gone on air more than 350 times, and there is little doubt the programme has carved for itself a special niche in South African motoring and motorsport circles. The programme covers a wide diversity of motoring and motorsport subjects and, over the years, has attracted a huge following with Hannes and Waldo injecting into the subject matter a combination of humour and information.

After leaving school with stints in the army and college Hannes joined a motoring public relations company, and these days combines his television work with writing for a variety of motor publications. His special affinity is rallying.

"Hopefully a stint in the Regent Racing Nissan Navara will convince Hannes cross country racing is the way to go," said Marsh, who is also team principal of the squad which runs cars in Class T, Class S and Class G in the Production Vehicle category, and Class P in the Special Vehicle championship. "With his background in motoring and motorsport Hannes has a slight advantage over the other celebrities.

"But with the likes of Hlubi, John and Jeannie D all picking up top 10 finishes on recent events, Hannes has a tough act to follow."

The Thaba 'Nchu 450 is the penultimate round of the Donaldson Cross Country championship with race headquarters, the start/finish and designated service park all located at the Black Mountain Hotel on the outskirts of the town. Public entry to these areas and designated spectator areas along the route is also free of charge.

The qualifying race to determine grid positions will start at 11:30 on Friday, October 24 and the race at 08:30 the following day.

Ends

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