

REISVERSLAG

**'N BESOEK AAN DIE 2013 TOYOTA 1000 DESERT RACE (VELDREN)
BOTSWANA, KALAHARI, KUMAKWANE
(June 2013)**



PERIODE : 21 Junie tot 23 Junie 2013

PLEKKE BESOEK :
Gabarone, Kumakwane,

TOTALE AFSTAND AFGELÊ: 978 km

OPGESTEL DEUR : J.E. Aspinall
(19-12-2013)

Kopiereg op die inhoud en fotos word voorbehou.

1. INLEIDING

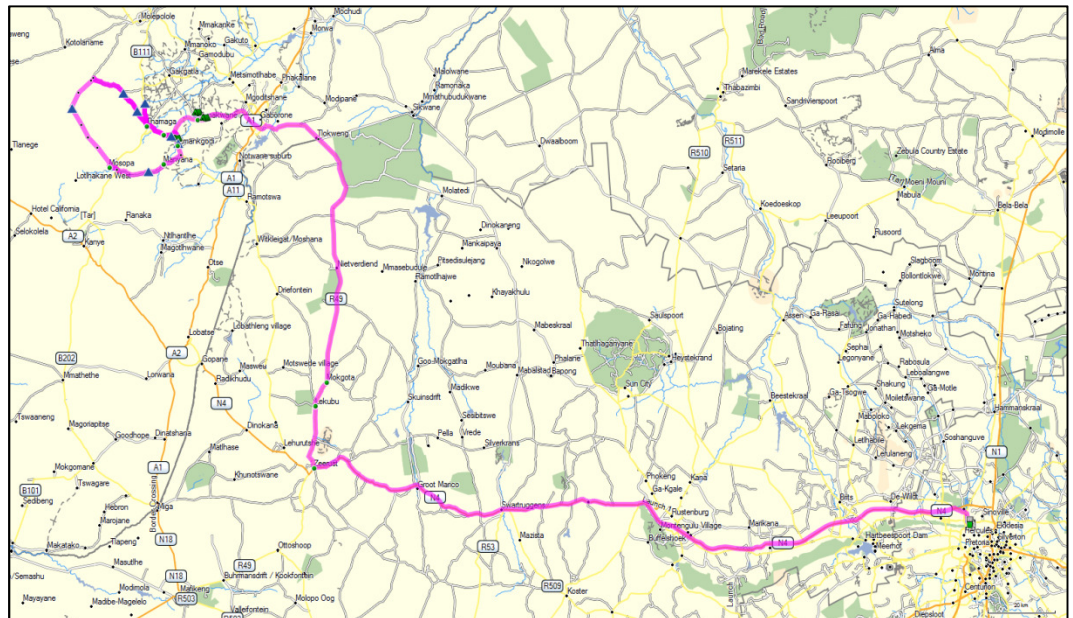
1.1 Wie het gery :

Vier manne en 'n dame. Ek en my twee seuns Edwin en Emile het lus gehad vir 'n manne naweek. Ons nooit toe 'n neef van Hermien, Gregor van Deventer wat ook baie van motor wedrenne hou om saam te kom sodat ons die ruimte en gemak in die Meano dubbelkajuit ombouing behoorlik kon toets met vier volwasse manne oor 'n lang afstand. Maryke, Gregor se dogter besluit toe om ook saam te gaan vir die fotografiese ondervinding van so 'n spesiale tydren.

1.2 Waarmee het ons gery :

Met my 2013 Toyota Land Cruiser 4.0 V6 Meano dubbelkajuit 4x4.

1.3 Die roete wat ons gevolg het :



Ons het die grens oorgesteek by Kopfontein (RSA) / Klokweg (Botswana) grenspos met beide die gaan en terugkom slag. Die grensformaliteite aan beide kante vir so 'n besige naweek was binne 15 minute afgehandel. Dit is seker een van die lekkerste grensposte om deur te gaan met vriendelike personeel aan beide kante.

1.4 Waar het ons tuis gegaan:

Die gedagte aanvanklik was om iewers langs die roete in die veld te kamp, maar daar aangekom en die groot aantal omstanders het ons gou laat besluit dat 'n formele kampterrein meer geskik sou wees veral as ons die veldrenvoertuie deur die dag wou volg. Ons eerste keuse was die amptelike Desert 1000 kampterrein so 3km vanaf die wegspringpunt, maar die was lankal vol bespreek. Hierdie is 'n idiale plek aangesien daar sekuriteit is, jy ontbyt en aandete daar kan bestel en almal om jou in wedrenne belangstel. So as jy daar wil bly, bespreek lank voor die tyd.

Die beste alternatief wat ons kon kry wat naby die wegspringpunt en die dele van die wedrenroete wat graag wou besoek was Bahurutshe Cultural Lodge. Die kampplek was soos ons dit graag wou hê sommer in die veld maar met 'n redelike ablusie blok nie te vêr van die kampplek self nie. Daar is seker nie meer as 3 kampplekke nie, dit is veilig en jy kan ook op die perseël 'n bier koop as jy uit voorraad sou raak of as jy dringend 'n koue een sou benodig.

2. Kort Opsomming :

2.1 Hoogtepunte :

- (a.) Om die groot manne in SA veldrenne in aksie te sien.
- (b.) Om die nuwe DAKAR aspirante te sien veg vir 'n kans om aan die volgende jaar se DAKAR wedren te kan deel neem.
- (c.) Die spontaniteit en vriendelikheid van die toeskouers. Vir Botswana is dit een van die belangrikste byeenkomste op hul sportkalender.
- (d.) Ten slotte die professionele en vriendelike wyse waarop die Botswana polisie die verrigtinge hanteer het. Ons het NOOIT onveilig of geïntimideerd gevoel nie. Alle polisie manne en vroue kon jy deur 'n ring trek, hul uniforms netjies skoon en gestryk. Ons het hul ook nooit sien rond lê of slaap waar hul ook die dag gestationeer was nie. En dit was warm deur die dag. Hier kan ons polisiemag werklik iets leer. Die respek wat elkeen toon aan 'n polisieman het nogal uitgestaan. As hy of sy vir jou op sy beleefte wyse sê jy kan nie hier parkeer nie praat niemand teë nie en almal gehoorsaam onmiddelik, iets wat ons nie in die RSA ken nie.

2.2 Laagtepunte :

- (a.) Werklik nie een nie.

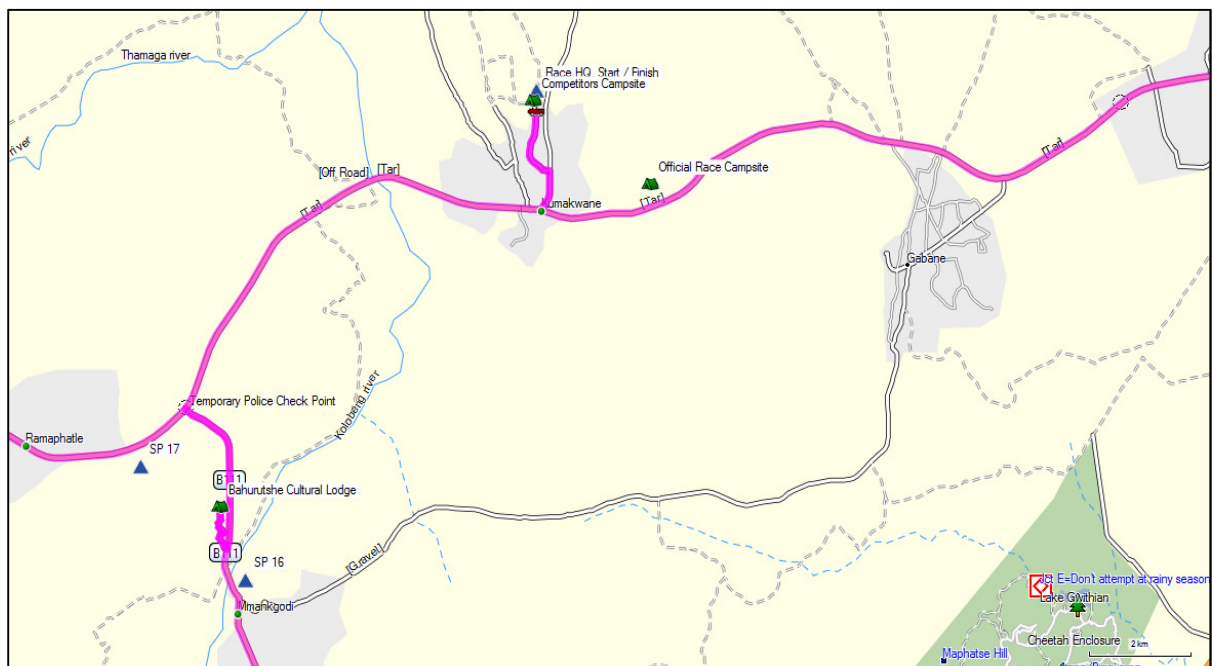
2.3 Lesse geleer :

- (a.) Onthou altyd van 'n Plan B ('n alternatief of twee) as jy na so 'n geleentheid gaan en nie jou akkomodasie vooruit bespreek het nie. Om in die veld te slaap by so 'n geleentheid in Botswana is net veilig as jy 'n daktent het wat jy kan opslaan en saam met jou kampgerei kan oplaai en ry tot weer vanaand waar jy ookal dan weer slaap al is dit dieselfde plek.
- (b.) As jy meer as een SP ("Spectators Point") wil besoek kies 2 of 3 naby mekaar vir die oggend en ry dan in die teenoorgestelde rigting na een of twee SP's vir die middag. Die 20 minute verpligte diensstop help so 'n bietjie om 'n voorsprong te kry op die jaers. Die verkeer op die nasionale paaie is baie stadig vanweë die baie toeskouers en die gewone naweek verkeer. Hou dit dus ook in gedagte.

Dag 1, Vrydag, 21 Junie 2013

Pretoria tot Kumakwane (20 km wes van Gaborone, Botswana) via die N4, verby Rustenburg, Swartruggens, Zeerust, die R49, langs die Madikwe Wild Reservaat verby, deur Kopfontein (RSA) / Klokweng (Botswana) Grenspos en Gabarone (Afstand: 397km).

Vrydagoggend so teen 7h00 vat ons die pad na Kumakwane vanuit Pretoria nadat ons alles wat ons sou nodig kry in my LC gelaai het. Ons het so teen 10H30 deur die grens gegaan. Beide kante van die grenspos saam het ons nie meer as 15 minute geneem nie. Die amptenare aan beide kante van die grenspos was vriendelik en flink. Ons het gou die 18km na Gabarone afgelê, by die eerste Spar gou vleis en koeldrank gekoop en die orige 30 km tot by die wegspring en eindpunt van die tydren net noord van Kumakwane afgelê.



Die eerste wedren om te kon kwalifiseer en ook om die wegspring posisies vir die volgende dag se wedren te kan bepaal het om 13h00 begin.

Daar was ook 'n groot prys op die spel, die naweek, vir die wenner van die Dakar kompetisie naamlik, outomatiese kwalifisering vir die 2014 Dakar wedren gedurende Januarie 2014 in Suid-Amerika.



Deel van die motorfiets en vierwielfiets bifak. Die motorfiets en vierwielfietse se wedren het die Vrydagoggend reeds geëindig.







Slegs 4x4 bakkies en 4x2 pyraamkarre neem aan die 1000 Desert Race deel. Die amptlike Toyota span was dus hier met hul Hiluxe. Onder is die wegspring punt te sien.





Van die ander deelnemers. Die manne maak gereed om op die eerste 66 km roete weg te trek.

Die wedrenbeamptes se “eye in the sky”





Die groot kannonne trek weg vir die eerste rondte van die wedren die Vrydagmiddag . Let op al die voertuie was nog netjies en heel.





En pyraamkarre doen dit met 'n bietjie meer stof en 'n bietjie meer dwars as die 4x4 bakkies, maar die passie is dieselfde.







Van die manne oppad terug na die eerste rondte.

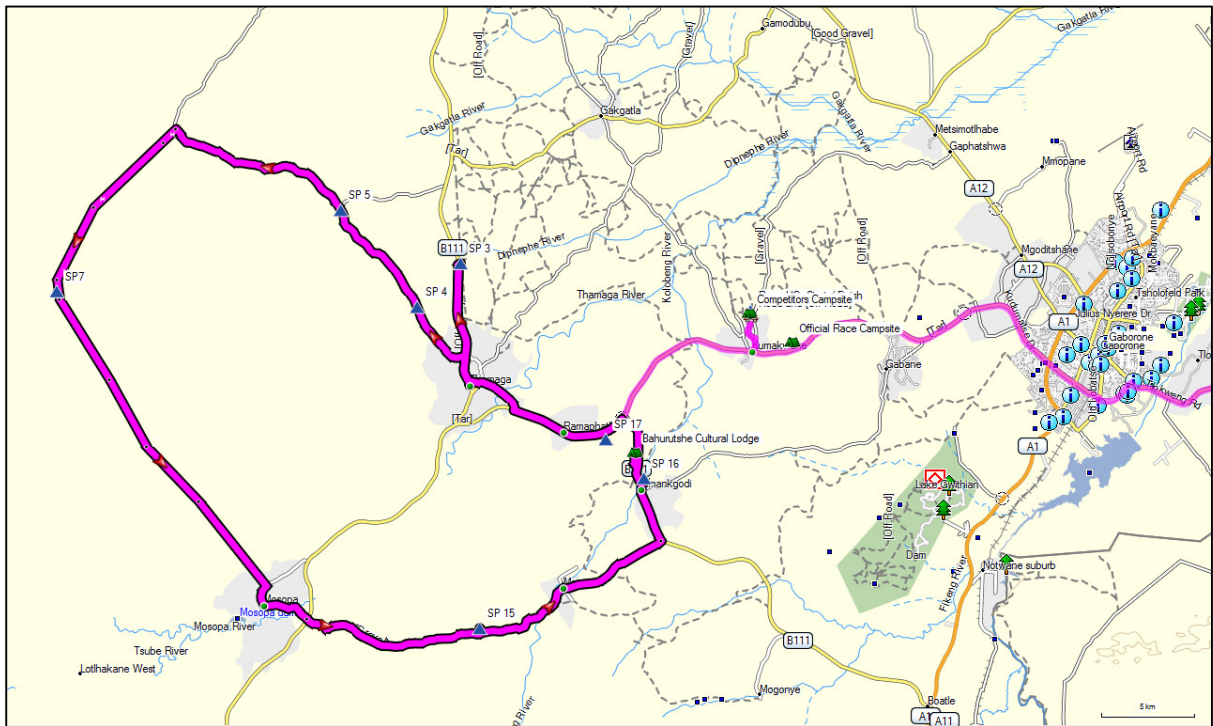


Nadat ons die wegspring bygewoon het het ons die volgende dag se toeskouer posities gaan bekyk en daarna slaapplek begin soek. Ons het op die ou einde baie naby die wegspring by Bahurutshe Cultural Lodge kampplek gekry. (Fotos geneem baie vroeg die volgende oggend.)



Dag 2, Saterdag, 22 Junie 2013

Retoer roete van en na Bahurutshe Cultural Lodge, via Ramaphatle, Thamaga, SP3, SP4, SP5, SP7, Mosopa, SP15, Manyana , Mmankgodi en SP16
(Afstand 117km).



Nou word daar nie meer gespeel nie.



En met tye was daar net stof en was dit moeilik om die deelnemers uit te ken.









Hier tel 'n 4x4 SUV op steriodes ook as 'n bakkie.







Tussen SP4 en SP5 in die veld.











Na 'n dag en 'n half se wedren ook nie meer so heel nie !



Die verpligte stop by SP4 voordat deelnemers vir 'n baie kort afstand op die amptelike gryspad moet ry voordat hul weer afdraai op die twee spoor roete.



Die Toyota LC Meano DC afvaardiging besig om 'n bier die middag langs die roete te geniet.

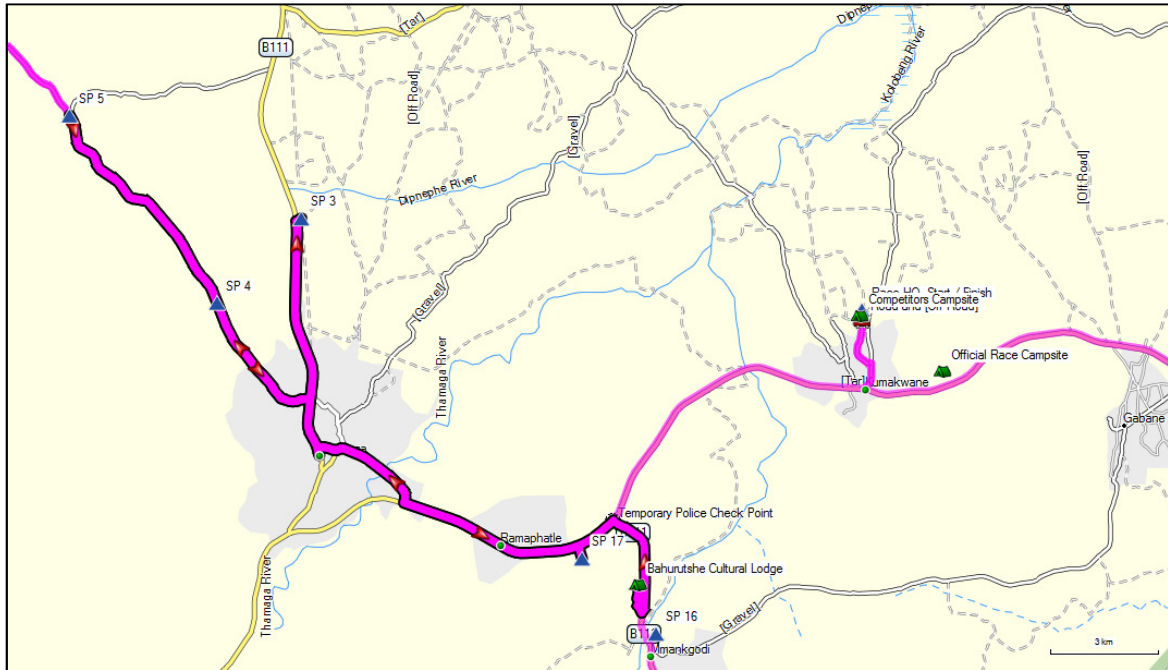


Nie een van die Ford spanne was suksesvol met die lansering van hul voertuie nie. Gravitatie het beide weer terugbring aarde toe met 'n slag.



Dag 3, Sondag, 23 Junie 2013

Retoer roete van en na Bahurutshe Cultural Lodge en daarna terug na Pretoria, via Ramaphatle, Thamaga, SP3, SP4, SP5, Ramaphatle en SP17. En die middag via Kopfontein (RSA) / Klokweg (Botswana) Grenspos en die N4 na Pretoria. (Afstand 61km plus 403km).



Vrydagmiddag het altesame 54 produksievoertuie en buisraammotors weggespring vir die kwalifiserende rondte en Sondag middag na 'n uitmergelende 480km op Saterdag en 420km op Sondag het slegs 18 voertuie die wedren voltooi (13 produksievoertuie en 5 buisraammotors).





Die roete tussen SP16 en SP17 gaan oor 'n stewige heuweltjie met redelik rowwe terrein.





Die toeskouers langs die pad net voor SP17









Die skare by SP 17

Ongeveer 14h00 het ons die pad weer terug geneem Pretoria toe en so teen 18h00 was ons weer veilige by ons eind bestemming.

Ek sluit die volgende bylaes in vir meer volledigheid met volle krediet en dank aan die onderskeie publiseerders en borge:

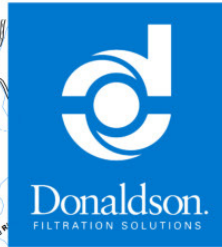
- A. Die amptelike roete kaart vir die “2013 Toyota 1000 Desert Race Botswana”.
- B. Beskrywings hoe om by die onderskeie toeskouerpunte (SP) uit te kom.
- C. Die amptelike wegspringlys
- D. Die amptelike uitslae aan die einde van die wedren.

TOYOTA 1000 DESERT RACE



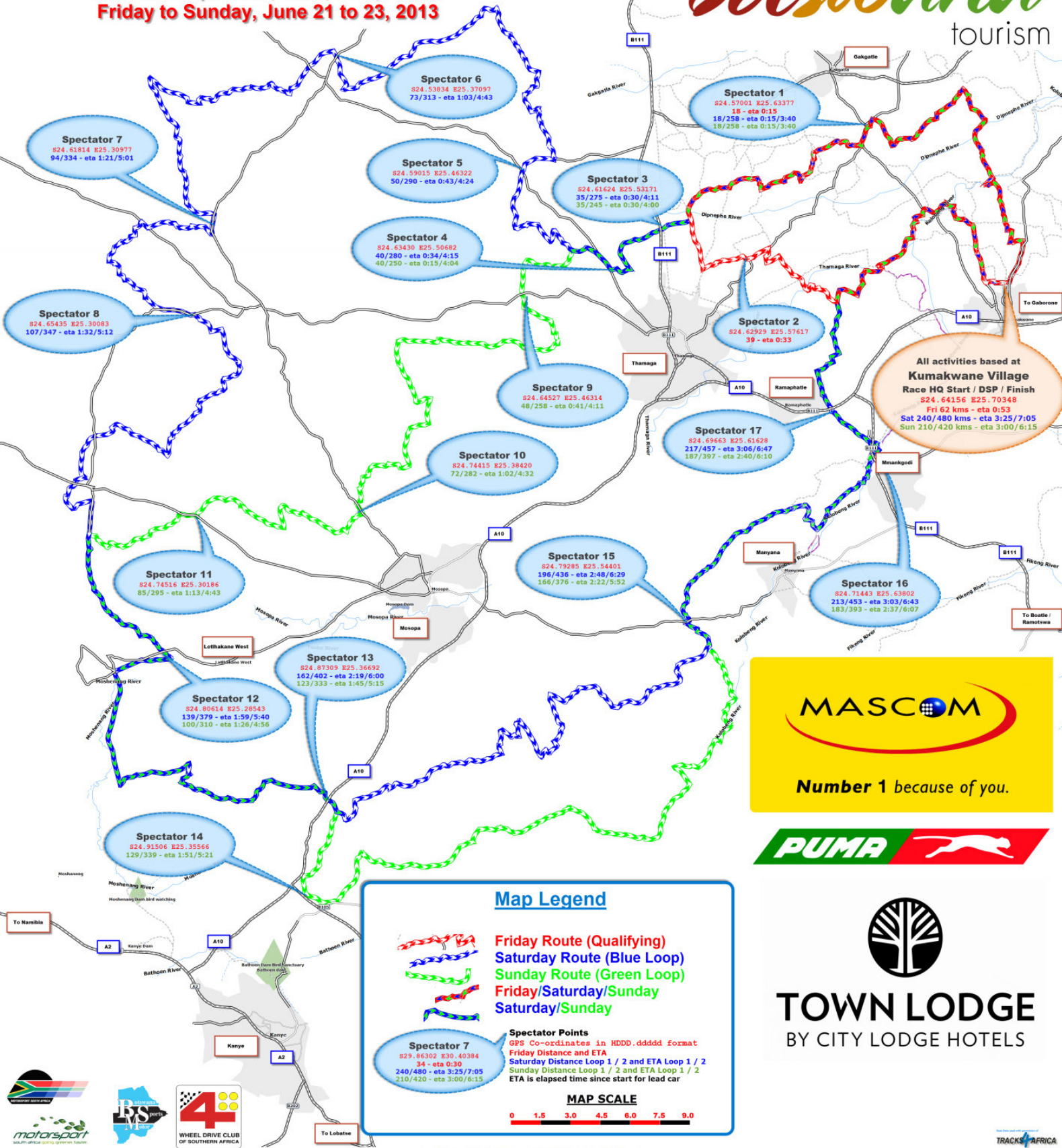
2013

KALAHARI BOTSWANA



BYLAAG A

Kumakwane, (20 kms west of Gaborone on the A10)
Race Headquarters, Start, DSP, Finish
Friday to Sunday, June 21 to 23, 2013



All activities based at Kumakwane Village
Race HQ Start / DSP / Finish
 Fri 62 kms - eta 0:53
 Sat 240/480 kms - eta 3:25/7:05
 Sun 210/420 kms - eta 3:00/6:15

Map Legend

- Friday Route (Qualifying)
- Saturday Route (Blue Loop)
- Sunday Route (Green Loop)
- Friday/Saturday/Sunday
- Saturday/Sunday

Spectator Points
 GPS Co-ordinates in HDDD.dddd format
 Friday Distance and ETA
 Saturday Distance Loop 1 / 2 and ETA Loop 1 / 2
 Sunday Distance Loop 1 / 2 and ETA Loop 1 / 2
 ETA is elapsed time since start for lead car

MAP SCALE
 0 1.5 3.0 4.5 6.0 7.5 9.0



In partnership with



powered by **FORCE FUEL**

Kalahari Botswana Toyota 1000 Desert Race

Friday - Sunday – June 21 - 23, 2013

Spectator Travel Directions

Spectator Point	How to get there
Kumakwane Village Start, Finish, DSP	Approximately 20kms WEST of Gaborone on the A10 Not a dual carriageway road, very busy, trucks and donkeys.
Thamaga Via Point 1 Corner of A10 And B111 north	Some spectator points will be referenced from this location. To get here turn RIGHT out of Kumakwane and proceed WEST on the A10 16.7 kms to intersection of B111 North and A10. GPS HDDD.ddddd format S24.68587 E25.56435
Thamaga Via Point 2 An intersection towards the north of the town	Some spectator points will be referenced from this location. To get here, proceed first to Thamaga Via Point 1 above Turn North towards the town of Thamaga 3.5 kms, turn RIGHT (Heading North) 2.2 kms to intersection noted which is a Tar road GPS HDDD.ddddd format S24.65914 E25.53615
Spectator 1 All Days	From Thamaga via Point 2 – Continue NORTH 11.1 kms turn RIGHT towards Gakgatla 10.0 kms turn RIGHT onto SAND TRACK <i>Caution: Risk of scratches from branches, not suitable for sedans.</i> Follow obvious track for 3.4 kms to intersection with Route. GPS HDDD.ddddd format S24.57001 E25.63377
Spectator 2 Friday only	From Thamaga via Point 1 – Turn north towards town of Thamaga 2.5 kms (close to Puma Garage) turn RIGHT onto small tarred road 800 meters, turn RIGHT onto small road – turns into dirt track <i>Caution: Track not in good condition. Not suitable for sedans.</i> 5.9 kms to intersection with route. GPS HDDD.ddddd format S24.62929 E25.57617
Spectator 3 Saturday & Sunday	From Thamaga via Point 2 – Continue NORTH 4.9 kms to crossing over tar road. Crosses EAST to WEST GPS HDDD.ddddd format S24.61624 E25.53171
Spectator 4 Saturday & Sunday	From Thamaga via Point 2 – turn LEFT onto small TAR Road 4.5 kms to crossing East to West – angles across road. Road turns to sand/gravel as you exit town. <i>Note: Road Northwest to Spectator 5 may be closed at times.</i> GPS HDDD.ddddd format S24.63430 E25.50682
Spectator 5 Saturday only	From Spectator 4 <i>Note: Road may be closed at times northwest of Spectator 4</i> 6.9 kms to crossing, South to North GPS HDDD.ddddd format S24.59015 E25.46322

In partnership with

SANORA



TOYOTA

powered by
FORCE FUEL

Kalahari Botswana Toyota 1000 Desert Race

Friday - Sunday – June 21 - 23, 2013

Spectator Travel Directions

Spectator Point	How to get there
Spectator 6 Saturday only	From Spectator 5 continue Northwest <i>Caution: Road is rough and sandy in places. Not suitable for Sedans</i> 13.0 kms to crossing (East to West) Note: You pass through a small village – be courteous and drive slowly GPS HDDD.ddddd format S24.53834 E25.37097
Spectator 7, 8 & 12 Saturday only	These spectator points can only be navigated to using the spectator map and a GPS. Coordinates are on the map. There is no reliable auto-routing on GPS. Roads are sand tracks, poor in places, with risk of scratches from branches.
Spectator 9, 10 & 11 Sunday Only	These spectator points can only be navigated to using the spectator map and a GPS. Coordinates are on the map. There is no reliable auto-routing on GPS Roads are sand tracks, poor in places, with risk of scratches from branches.
Spectator 15 Saturday & Sunday	These spectator points can only be navigated to using the spectator map and a GPS. Coordinates are on the map. There is no reliable auto-routing on GPS Roads are sand tracks, poor in places, with risk of scratches from branches.
Spectator 13 Saturday & Sunday	From Thamaga Via Point 1, continue towards Kanye 32.1 kms to crossing, West to East GPS HDDD.ddddd format S24.87309 E25.36692
Spectator 14 Sunday Only	From Spectator 13, continue towards Kanye 4.8 kms to a traffic circle – take first exit. 900 meters place where you can park From about 400 meters before the corner, and for about 2kms to the next corner, the route comes close to the road. Many good viewing spots. Approximate area : GPS HDDD.ddddd format S24.91506 E25.35566
Spectator 16 Saturday & Sunday	From Kumakwane Village – head WEST towards Thamaga This spectator point is right in the village of Mmankgodi. Good viewing, but will be very busy. Drive with caution. 9.8 kms, turn LEFT onto B111 South towards Mmankgodi and Boatile 3.4 kms to general area. Crosses under road, through river, and over road GPS HDDD.ddddd format S24.71443 E25.63802
Spectator 17 Saturday & Sunday	From Kumakwane Village – head WEST towards Thamaga 11.1 kms to crossing. South to North GPS HDDD.ddddd format S24.69663 E25.61628

[For best results, use these directions together with the spectator map](#)

In partnership with

SANORA



TOYOTA

powered by
FORCE FUEL



21 - 23 JUNE



Round 4 of the 2013 Donaldson Cross Country Championship

Pos	No.	Entrant	Lic	Driver	Lic	Co-Driver	Lic	Vehicle Detail
SPECIAL VEHICLE CATEGORY								
CLASS A								
	A01	Motorite Racing	6269	Evan Hutchison	6265	Danie Stassen	6477	BAT Viper
	A04	M. Fourie	3138	Marius Fourie	3138	Jolinda Fourie	3139	BAT Spec 4
	A05	Motorite Racing	6269	Nick Harper	6456	Ryan Harper	6455	BAT Venom
	A06	Elegant Fuel	4533	Hermann Süllwald	4397	Wichard Süllwald	4399	Styker
	A07	Dirt Sport Components	25767	Clint Gibson	5839	Gary Campbell	5561	Porter
	A08	Elegant Fuel	4533	Quintin Süllwald	4539	Karl-Heinz Süllwald	4396	BAT Venom
	A11	Dirt Sport Components	25767	Glenn Gibson	5841	Clint Brook	10406	BAT Spec 2
	A12	M. Mabile	2885	Mogrey Mabile	2885	Zelda Niemandt	5970	Porter
	A14	Maxxis Liqi-Moly Rockstar	25701	Neil Meyer	5789	Joseph Lewis	19253	Zarco Challenger
	A16	Nardus Alberts	25259	Nardus Alberts	25259	Louis Alberts	9503	BAT Spec2
	A17	Keith du Toit	5588	Keith du Toit	5588	Keith Solomon	10177	BAT
WD	A18	Dion Booysen	9204	Dion Booysen	9204	Kobus Fourie	8458	VBAT Spec0
	A22	P. de Vries	5889	Philip de Vries	5889	Johan Viljoen	24775	Porter
	A25	Ruwacon Racing	6250	Pieter Ruthven	6061	Riaan Guelpa	25120	BAT Spec 4
	A30	Maxxis Liqi-Moly Rockstar	25701	Daniel Zeelie	1951	Louw Zeelie	1826	Porter
	A44	Century Property Racing	6511	Mark Corbett	6640	Julien Hardy	17351	Century CR4
CLASS B								
	B14	Grant Watkins	8709	Grant Watkins	8709	Mark Irvine	784	Zarco
	B20	James Watson	4471	James Watson	4471	N/A	N/A	Mighty Mag
	B25	Iain Maclean	1095	Iain Maclean	1095	Lucas van Dort	6032	Zarco Junior
	B45	Graeme Petersen	2777	Graeme Petersen	2777	N/A		Dragonfly
CLASS P								
	P1	Century Property Racing	6511	Colin Matthews	6458	Alan Smith	6459	Centruy CR3
	P3	Coetzee Labuscagne	1410	Coetzee Labuscagne	1410	Sandra Labuscagne	1412	Zarco Lite
	P5	J. Wood	11100	Rob Wark	2354	Ashley Thorn	6238	Aceco K9
		J. Wood	11100	Jeremy Wood	11100	Ashley Thorn	6238	Aceco K9
WD	P06	K.K. Makenete	3349	Keith Makenete	3349	Peter Hlutwa	1392	Zarco
	P08	N. Goslar	4639	Nicolas Goslar	4639	Andrew Massey	4641	Zarco Magnum
	P11	John Thomson	5768	John Thomson	5768	Maurice Zermatten	25667	Zarco Magnum
	P21	Thulani Dube	27588	Thulani Dube	27588	Don Mahlanza	27586	Sandmaster
WD	P24	Andrew Makenete	5965	Andrew Makenete	5965	Moalosi Borotho	7661	Zarco Magnum
	P66	Century Property Developments	6511	Ernest Corbett	20158	Martin Hermida	TBA	Century CR2



The Donaldson
CHAMPIONSHIP
Cross Country Motor Racing



21 - 23 JUNE



Round 4 of the 2013 Donaldson Cross Country Championship

Pos	No.	Entrant	Lic	Driver	Lic	Co-Driver	Lic	Vehicle Detail
PRODUCTION VEHICLE CATEGORY								
		SP CLASS						
1	SP01	Team Castrol Toyota	6296	Duncan Vos	6094	Robert Howie	6174	Toyota Hilux
2	SP02	Ford Racing	6565	Chris Visser	6339	Japie Badenhorst	6337	Ford Ranger
3	SP03	Team Castrol Toyota	6296	Anthony Taylor	4304	Dennis Murphy	11194	Toyota Hilux
4	SP04	RFS Motorsport PTY (Ltd)	3617	Christiaan Du Plooy	1174	Hennie ter Stege	5518	BMW X3
5	SP07	Regent Racing	4213	Terence Marsh	4210	Gerhard Schutte	2902	Nissan Navara
6	SP08	Regent Racing	4213	Michael Whitehouse	4212	Mathew Carlson	5642	Nissan Navara
7	SP09	Atlas Copco	6712	Gary Bertholdt	6687	Siegfried Rousseau	6686	Nissan Navara
8	SP11	Regent Racing	4213	Thomas Rundle	5275	Juan Möhr	4340	Nissan Navara
9	SP12	Regent Racing	4213	Archie Rutherford	6506	Robert Simpson	100489	Nissan Navara
10	SP13	Regent Racing	4213	Jurgen Schröder	IC 1010756	Mike Abramson	100356	Nissan Navara
11	SP15	K. van Tonder	4792	Freddie Kriel	4795	Sune Kriel	27214	Ford Ranger
12	SP16	J. Visser	6202	Jannie Visser	6202	Joks Le Roux	5743	Toyota Hilux
13	SP18	Hennie de Klerk	6710	Hennie de Klerk	6710	Johann Smalberger	9089	BMX X3
14	SP20	Johan Burger	4659	Malcolm Kock	5044	Johan Burger	4659	Toyota Hilux
15	SP21	K. van Tonder	4792	Jacques Van Tonder	15851	Lizelle Van Tonder	24246	Ford Ranger
16	SP22	Force Fuel	36136	Rowan Lamb	10859	Lyle Parker	10857	Ford Ranger
17	SP23	Ruwacon Racing	6250	Louw De Bruin	5730	Riaan Greyling	6415	Ford Ranger
18	SP24	Ruwacon Racing	6250	Gerald Le Roux	6591	Hendrik Badenhorst	20329	Ford Ranger
19	SP25	Atlas Copco	6712	Johan Van Staden	412	Mike Lawrenson	6508	Toyota Hilux
20	SP26	Henri Hugo	17356	Hugo de Bruyn	6959	Henri Hugo	17356	Toyota Hilux
21	SP27	Team Castrol Toyota	6296	Leeroy Poulter	6296	Elvene Coetzee	6092	Toyota Hilux
22	SP28	Atlas Copco	6712	Sarel van Biljon	644	Phillip Herselman	8009	Toyota Hilux
23	SP34	Ford Racing	6565	Lance Woolridge	2389	Ward Huxtable	6047	Ford Ranger
24	SP35	Trysome Racing	25745	Deon Venter	6161	Ian Palmer	6159	Toyota Hilux
25	SP46	Graham Leith	3874	Graham Leith	3874	Trevor Leith	10792	Ford Ranger
		CLASS D						
1	D02	S. Oosthuizen	5562	Jack Oosthuizen	5563	Sarel Oosthuizen	5562	Land Rover Defender
2	D03	Malalane Toyota	7231	Johan Horn	6819	Werner Horn	7005	Toyota Land Cruiser
3	D05	Trysome Racing	25745	Jason Venter	8186	Vincent van Alleman	9102	Toyota Hilux
		CLASS E						
1	E01	D. Putter	5821	Dirk Putter	TBC	Jacobus Claassens	5823	Ford Ranger
2	E11	Brytons Removals	25630	Douglas Fear	23646	Kurt De Villiers	23647	Toyota Hilux
3	E77	Force Fuel	36136	Luke Botha	21021	Kevin Durston	18783	Toyota Hilux

Toyota Kalahari Botswana 1000 Desert Race Final Results



Anthony Taylor and Dennis Murphy, in a works Toyota Hilux, won the 2013 Kalahari 1000 Desert Race by eight and a half minutes

Anthony Taylor and Dennis Murphy (Castrol Toyota) scored their second win in a row when they won the Production Vehicle category on the Toyota Kalahari Botswana 1000 Desert Race which ended at Kumakwane on Sunday.

Final results not only gave Toyota their second successive Desert Race victory, but lifted Taylor and Murphy into a tie at the top of the Donaldson Cross-Country Championship with former champions Chris Visser and Japie Badenhorst (Ford Ranger), who finished in third place. Sandwiched between the two works crews after an impressive weekend were North West pair Hugo de Bruyn and Henri Hugo who were never out of the top three.

Taylor/Murphy and Visser/Badenhorst are locked together at the top of the Production Vehicle and premier SP Class championships. Both crews have 85,5 points and the battle lines are drawn for the four remaining events this season.

“I came close to winning last year so this is a bonus,” said Taylor. “We obviously had a good weekend but the rest of the season is going to be interesting.”



Herma and Wichard Sullwald were the first home of only five special vehicles to finish

Taylor/Murphy and de Bruyn/Hugo fought a running battle throughout what is the only marathon event on the South African national off-road car racing calendar. The factory team took the lead late on Saturday when de Bruyn/Hugo picked up a puncture and then dictated matters from the front.

Taylor eventually ended up eight-and-a-half minutes clear of de Bruyn. The North West crew were under a little pressure in the closing stages with Visser/Badenhorst closing to within 64 seconds. The Ford crew, in turn, only had a minute and 25 seconds to spare over fourth-placed Duncan Vos and Rob Howie in the second Castrol Toyota Hilux. Vos and Howie are the reigning SA champions and won last year's race ahead of Taylor and Chris Birkin.

The top five were rounded out by the RFS BMW X3 pair of Christiaan du Plooy and veteran former SA champion Hennie ter Stege who came out of retirement for this event. Ter Stege replaced du Plooy's regular co-driver, Henk Janse van Vuuren, whose wife is expecting a baby.

After starting the day in third place, **Thomas Rundle and Juan Mohr** (Regent Nissan Navara), ran into gearbox problems to gradually slip down the field to finish sixth. There was plenty of compensation for the pair, however, **who won the Dakar Challenge and a free entry into next year's Dakar Rally in South America.**

Fast facts about Botswana Desert Race:	
2013 Winner	Anthony Taylor and Dennis Murphy (Castrol Toyota)
Length of course	1000 kilometres
Race Headquarters	Kumakwane
Number of years running	38

Steady performances took Johan van Staden/Mike Lawrenson (Atlas Copco Toyota Hilux) and Hennie de Klerk/Keith Solomon (LA Sport BMW X3), into seventh and eighth. The consistent Terence Marsh/Gerhard Schutte (Regent Nissan Navara) ground out a ninth-place finish, and a terrific performance saw the brother-and-sister combination of Jacques and Lizelle van Tonder round out the top 10 in the Uni Freight Ford Ranger for their best result to date.

Young North West crew Jason Venter and Vincent van Allemann (Trysome Toyota Hilux) went back to the top of the Class D championship with their third win of the season. Closest challengers Jack and Sarel Oosthuizen (LMC Land Rover) and Mpumalanga brothers Johan and Werner Horn (Malelane Toyota Land Cruiser) were among the crews to fall by the wayside.

Reigning champions Dirk Putter and Koos Claasens were the lone finishers in Class E. They were the last of the classified finishers but 12th overall in the Production Vehicle category was another impressive performance from the pair who consolidated their championship lead.