

**Media Information:  
For Immediate Release: 9<sup>TH</sup> April 2014**

Brick and Steel Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge

**It Has Been A Long Winter for Budding Junior Rally Stars**



The countdown to the start of the 2014 Brick & Steel Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge season has started. The first event in this popular car rally Championship for 14 to 17 year olds will take place at Kames Motorsport Complex in East Ayrshire on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The excitement is mounting for all the Junior crews because it has been a long 5 months since the last competitive event of 2013. Cars have been changing hands over the winter break and several drivers have upgraded their machinery. Several new and “old” drivers have taken advantage of structured “learning opportunities” at Kames and Knockhill over the past couple of months and drivers are now well prepared for the season ahead.

Championship Co-ordinator David Barlow commented – “This will be the third year of the Championship and we are looking forward to another very competitive and safe season of motorsport. There are a few new things this year and we look forward to working with some new Junior rally drivers and those who are back from 2013” David added “One of the great joys of the job we do is seeing youngsters grow and develop and move on into the “senior” world of rallying. From our first 2 years, 9 Junior drivers have “graduated” because they reached 17 years of age and all but one have carried on their career in rallying. This is quite an incredible success rate!”

The 2014 Championship will consist of 8 events and for the first time, there will be events at Knockhill Race Circuit. One of the highlights of the season will be our trip down to Kircudbright for the Solway Coast Junior Rally in August. This is an extremely popular event and this year, for the very first time, all three UK Junior 1000 Championships will compete on the same event. So Junior drivers and their support crews from Scotland, England, Wales and N Ireland will descend on Dundrennan Base on 10<sup>th</sup> August. Scottish crews will then join English and Welsh crews on Anglesey for the 2 day final round on 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Another very exciting and challenging experience awaits the young drivers to round off what we hope will be a great season of Junior rallying.

Returning 2012 and 2013 Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge Champion and 2012 Kick Energy Junior 1000 Championship Champion Alexander Vassallo commented "Coming into this season with 3 Championships under my belt is obviously good for my confidence. My aim this year is to win the championship again and set a benchmark of 4 Junior Championships for future Junior 1000 participants to match or beat. The Junior 1000 competition is still developing and I am part of that development so I hope that this year proves to be better than any other. That will really put me in good stead for my first senior year in 2015. "Vassallo Motorsport Team" has really enjoyed its time in the Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge and we have decided it will be the sole Junior 1000 championship I compete in this year. Bring on the stages!"