

***FIA Middle Eastern Rally Championship 2008
Round 6 – Troodos Rally – 7-9 November 2008***

Gearing Up For 2008 Troodos Rally

Organisers making final preparations; Geroskipou readies itself to welcome event

Temperatures may be dropping, but the heat will soon be on because we're just weeks away from the penultimate round of the 2008 FIA Middle East Rally Championship – the Troodos Rally.

The Cyprus Automobile Association (CAA), the organizers of the event, are entering the final stages of preparation for this exciting world-class sporting event which is round 6 of this year's Middle East Rally Championship (MERC). Held over the weekend of the 7th -9th November, this annual rally will enjoy a change of venue for 2008 as its base moves to the town of Geroskipou on the west coast.

Deadline for entries is October 24th and a strong line-up of international contenders is expected. As ever, the event will be an unforgettable battle in the Troodos mountains with the rallying elite from Cyprus and beyond taking part. Middle East interest in the event is especially high this year after personal invitations were sent out to foreign crews by Geroskipou Mayor Mr. Tasos Kouzoupos.

The organizers have promised an all-new course featuring previously unused special stages – effectively eliminating any advantage veteran drivers of the event might have over the new blood.

The Rally Headquarters will be situated at Geroskipou's prestigious Aliathon Hotel, where the Ceremonial Start of the event will take place on Friday November 7th. The rally proper will get underway on Saturday morning and finish late Sunday. The rally Service Park will be set up close-by, giving the public the opportunity to see the competing crews and cars first hand. The rally's Press Office will also be situated at the hotel, offering its services to both local and foreign reporters.

The move to Geroskipou and the concentration of rally infrastructure around the Aliathon is in line with FIA guidelines which ask for all rally facilities to be situated within the same vicinity. This would have been extremely difficult to achieve if not for the decisive efforts and hard work of the Geroskipou Municipality. The change in venue to Geroskipou promises to further boost the already high profile of this event, with rally fans and competitors sure to appreciate the efforts of the Municipality and the many local facilities already in place.

The Middle East Rally Championship moved to Jordan over the weekend, where Qatar's Nasser Al-Attiyah and Ulster co-driver Chris Patterson scored an emphatic victory in their Subaru Impreza. Al-Attiyah benefited from the retirement of Lebanon's Roger Feghali's Mitsubishi in the 11th stage, and went on to chalk up his fourth Jordan Rally win in the last six years. London-based Lebanese driver Nick Georgiou finished in 2nd-place, furthering his advantage over Cypriot Nicos Thomas in the battle for the Pirelli Star Driver award. Al-Attiyah heads to Cyprus as

Championship leader, secure in the knowledge that he has won the last five consecutive Troodos Rally events.

The main sponsor of the 2008 Troodos Rally is the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, with Cyta, the Geroskipou Municipality, Travelscope and Compusource as supporters.

For further information about this year's Troodos Rally, visit www.caa.com.cy or telephone the CAA on 22313233.

For further information about Geroskipou, visit www.geroskipou-municipality.com

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