

The world's best back Classic Rally South Africa

Historic rally specialists Viking Motorsport and Tuthill Porsche have both backed Classic Rally South Africa's date change.

The Mpumalanga-based event will run from January 26-30 next year.

Viking Motorsport builds some of the best historic Ford Escorts in the world and Phil Mills is confident cars coming out of his workshop will be in action in South Africa in January.

Mills, who was crowned 2003 World Rally Champion co-driver, said: "The date change is a very, very good thing for Classic Rally South Africa. It gives everybody a little bit more time to get everything prepared and it gives Europeans the chance to get away and get a little bit of sun on their back. The entries we had for the September date, we fully expect they will stick with the January date."

Mills admitted he was also looking forward to seeing the stages and the surroundings on Surinder Thatthi's new event.

"South Africa is one of the nicest-looking countries that I've never been to," Mills added. "And, as for the roads, from the onboards we have seen from Surinder's recce, it looks like the event spends five days in Dyfi forest – which looks awesome!"

Tuthill's Porsche preparation firm is similarly world renowned for its ability to transform 911s from dream road cars into rally-winning reality.

Richard Tuthill said: "From what we have seen, Classic Rally South Africa is going to be a great event. We have competed down there before when we did the Shield of Africa Rally, so we have a good idea of just what a great place this is to hold a rally. Surinder has come up with a really nice format that we're sure our customers are going to like. September was a little bit close, to be honest, so running in January is perfect."

The first ever Classic Rally South Africa runs for five days and includes 720 competitive kilometres in forests close to the Kruger National Park.

Full details of the date change can be found here  
(LINK: <http://www.classicrallysa.co.za/bulletin-2/>).