

# **Mobitel 4x4 Adventure Trophy 2009**

## **Indika and Navin undoubted champions**

The first ever "Mobitel 4 x 4 Adventure Trophy" came to an end on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2009 after five days of exciting competition. This event was designed to be held in various locations in the north western region of our country, with a view of covering all types of terrains that Mother Nature had to offer. These tracks varied from mud, sand, water, rock and quarry terrains. This from the competitor's perspective was undoubtedly the best 4 x 4 event ever held in this country. The impartiality in organizing the competition and the competition tracks or as called in 4 x 4 lingo the "Special Stages" were the areas which the competitors and the observers rated this event to its high standing.

The undoubted Champions once again proved their superiority, Indika Sanjaya and Navin Marapana (LR Special), driver - co driver combination ( 1893 points) hailed the Champions trophy high at the Grand finale of the event at the Negombo beach. The 1<sup>st</sup> runner up driver - co driver combination was secured by Suresh Chathuranga and Ravindra Sanjeeva (Range Rover) (1805 points) who are also known to be a very experienced 4 x 4 driver - co driver combination in the country. Breaking the tall order of past ratings, comparatively less experienced Ravindra Ratnasiri and Harsha Kumara (Jeep CJ) (1753 points) surfaced to be the 2nd runners' up by showing their sheer determination and consistency in their performance.

All the other competitors did their best to last the 5 days without many breakdowns, and were competing till the last to secure a place on the podium. Given below are the results of the top performers.

Sam Chadrasoma and Amal Wickramarachi (Jeep Wrangler) 1710 points,  
Shenal Fernando and Samantha Fernando (Toyota Special) 1470 points,  
Chaminda Dariju and Dimuthu Fernando (Mitsubishi 4DR5) 1450 points,  
Deepthi Perera and Nishantha Ranasingha (Jeep Wrangler) 1388 points  
Ranjan Fernando and Anton Fernando (Toyota Land Cruiser) 1329 points  
Roshan Amarasinghe and R Dhammika (Toyota Land Cruiser) 1291 points  
Malintha Kannangara and Shamie Buwaneka (Land Rover Hybrid) 473 points  
Damith Nishatha and Charith Madushanka (Land Rover Series 2) 217 points

The Touring Adventurer category was won by the visiting Polish Sarius Team comprising of Mariusz Oliwa and Martin Pytel. These first time visitors to this event proved their driving skills to clinch the title in there Land Rover Discovery. An all woman team comprising of Sachithri Kapilaratne and Dinukshi Tennekoon (Toyota BJ73) followed closely to end up 1<sup>st</sup> runner up,

with Sanjaya Karunaratne and Chaminda Gunatilleke (Nissan Patrol) coming in as 2<sup>nd</sup> runners' up.

A special environment award was given to Marshal Pasanji DeSilva for striving to make sure everyone kept the place clean as we had a joint project with the CHA Environment Programme together with the CEA to be 100% environment friendly during this long event. This was a great success as we handed over almost a 100 bags of recyclable and other waste material to their collection centre in Puttalam.

"Mobitel the national mobile services provider" sponsored this event giving great encouragement to the sport. Co sponsor ARB 4x4 accessories Australia and Radio sponsors E fm with the Daily Mirror and the Wijeya Group being of great support and encouragement towards 4x4 sports and the 4x4 Adventure Club. We hope they would continue to assist us greatly in promoting this sport and our future events.

Sincere thanks goes to Mr.Namal Rajapaksa, Chairman of Tharunyata Hetak Foundation, Hon. Neomal Perera and Hon.Nimal Lanza, in whose districts we held this event, as we could not have had such a successful event without there support and backing.

The 4 x 4 Adventure club is determined to take this sport forward along with their sponsors to an international level making Sri Lanka a venue in the International 4 x 4 calendar.