

**1st December 2011**

## CONGRATULATIONS



*WRC Academy champion Craig Breen*

Waterford driver Craig Breen scored a dramatic victory in the FIA World Rally Championship Academy by taking a dominant win in the category on the final round, Wales Rally GB, despite immense pressure all through the three days. The 21 year old former Billy Coleman Award winner started the event 20 points

behind leader Egon Kaur of Estonia and needed a string of fastest stage times, which each carry one bonus point, to wipe out that lead. The seven point difference between first and second place finishes meant that Breen needed to win thirteen more stages than his rival in an event with just seventeen stages in total !

During the first two days, Breen collected nine bonus points from eleven stages, with Kaur not scoring a single best time, but the Estonian sprang a surprise on Saturday's opener by setting the pace, which dealt a heavy blow to the Irish driver's hopes, as he then needed to be best of the Academy contenders on every one of the remaining five stages to pull off the title – a tall order indeed.

However, Craig showed his speed and determination by doing just that, taking all five stages to leave the duelling pair tied on points at the end of the season, with the tie decider of the greater number of best stage times all year giving him the verdict by the closest possible margin, and with it the FIA WRC Academy title and its €500,000 top prize.

2012 now means an assault on the S2000 World Rally series, starting with the world famous Monte Carlo Rally, which starts on January 17.

To crown a hectic ten days, on the Friday after Rally GB finished, having spent four days in intensive training and testing in Austria, Craig was announced as one of 18 young drivers chosen for the 2012 FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy. They will now be coached 'in the car' by former Formula One driver Alex Wurz and his team from Test and Training International, and 'out of the car' by former WRC co-driver Robert Reid and his team from Elite Sports Performance.

## DECEMBER FIXTURES

3	Killarney	Historic Car Stages Rally
4	MEC	Rallysprint – Mondello
10	MEC	Kilkenny Cup Sporting Trial
10/11	Skibbereen	Carbery Navigation Trial
26	TDC	Christmas Autotest
26	Munster CC	Autocross (LS)
27	Carlow	Rallysprint – Mondello
27	Co Cavan	Autocross (LS)
27	Cork	Autocross (LS)
28	Leinster	Le Fanu/Brabazon Cup Sporting Trial

## JANUARY FIXTURES

1	ALMC	Autotest
2	IMRC	Autotest
7	MEC	Freeman Cup Sporting Trial
8	Midland	Autotest (H)
14	Co Monaghan	Navigation Trial
21	GSMC	Kehoe Cup Sporting Trial
21/22	Carrick-on-Suir	Autotest (H)
21/22	Cork	1000 Shakes Navigation Trial (NT)
28	Donegal	Forestry Rally (FR)
29	Co Cavan	Autocross (LS)
29	TDC	Multi – Venue Autotest

## CHANGES TO CLUB INFORMATION

Birr & District MC: change of address: Robert Nolan, Ballinroe, Castleiney, Templemore, Co Tipperary.



A member of:



## 2012 LICENCE APPLICATIONS

Applications for competition licences for 2012 are now being processed, and these licences are valid for events during December. Please note that the MI office will be closed from Friday 23 December to Monday 2 January inclusive.

Anyone intending to compete in events in early January should ensure that their applications are submitted in good time to allow for Christmas postal delays. As in previous years, licence cover notes will not be issued during

January, and a facility will be provided at all events during the month for competitors **who have already submitted their application to sign a declaration to that effect.**

## INTERNATIONAL SUSPENSION

MI has been advised by the FIA of the following:

Mr Earl Anderson Bamber (MNSZ New Zealand licence holder) has been suspended (article 51 of the International Sporting Code) in a decision handed down by the National Court of MNSZ (New Zealand).

This suspension, which is without remission, applies from 20 October 2011 for 6 months, and, shall be recognised by all ASNs in conformity with article 161 of the International Sporting Code.

## DUNLOP NATIONAL RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP



*(L to R): Richard Warbrick, (MD Dunlop), Tim McNulty (Dunlop National Rally champion driver), Leslie Vard, Paul Kiely (Dunlop National Rally champion co-driver), Richard Talbot (Chairman, Dunlop National Rally Championship Sub-Committee). The prizegiving ceremony took place at the Clayton Hotel, Galway on Saturday November 19.*

### Licence Statistics

The following figures relate to the number of competition licences issued for the year 2011:

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Renewals	2703	2866	2710	3259	3302	3451	3659	3833	4010	4026	3794	3508	3299
First Time	833	993	733	927	872	869	755	750	832	803	593	522	469
<b>Total</b>	<b>3536</b>	<b>3859</b>	<b>3443</b>	<b>4186</b>	<b>4174</b>	<b>4320</b>	<b>4414</b>	<b>4583</b>	<b>4842</b>	<b>4829</b>	<b>4387</b>	<b>4030</b>	<b>3768</b>

The following figures relate to the FIRST interest as expressed on competitors' licence application forms, to the end of 2011:

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Special Stage Rallying	2501	2380	2338	2515	2720	2828	2819	2651	2451	2214
Circuit Racing	332	338	316	317	323	351	354	328	316	288
Navigation Trials	187	172	219	219	233	227	247	207	194	195
Kart Racing	328	266	219	221	225	223	218	195	183	167
Autocross	109	127	171	165	174	176	156	130	122	123
Rallycross	103	140	172	143	136	162	168	141	135	113
Hillclimb	90	131	153	129	117	120	117	104	99	93
Autotests	66	69	73	76	71	72	72	78	88	92
Historic Stage Rallying	70	110	143	115	107	101	93	82	82	75
Sporting Trials	64	60	64	66	57	57	59	61	64	65
Retrospective Trials	39	41	29	38	41	41	41	31	36	41
Rallysprint	26	58	107	75	58	47	51	45	42	34
Midget Car Racing	31	25	22	18	18	18	18	13	14	13
4x4 Trials	34	29	35	26	22	10	14	15	10	13
Sprint	4	23	41	37	42	25	27	23	12	12
Production Car Trials	1	5	3	2	0	0	1	1	2	3
No Interest Indicated	201	200	215	252	239	384	374	282	180	227
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4186</b>	<b>4174</b>	<b>4320</b>	<b>4414</b>	<b>4583</b>	<b>4842</b>	<b>4829</b>	<b>4387</b>	<b>4030</b>	<b>3768</b>

## 2012 COMPETITION LICENCE FEES

Fees for Competition Licence renewals were reduced by approximately 10% for 2011, and these will continue unchanged for 2012. Renewal forms are now available on the MI website

and will be posted to each 2011 licence holder in the very near future. Competitors are requested to ensure that they make the correct payment with their applications, to avoid unnecessary

administration in processing refunds. Please check the current licence fees on the MI website under Useful Information/Standard Forms/2012 Competition Licence Renewal.

**Contact Motorsport Ireland, at 34, Dawson Street, Dublin 2. Ireland.  
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