



For Immediate Release: 10th March 2013

Creighton Makes it Three Winners in Three Junior 1000 Rounds!

The third round of the McGrady Insurance Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland, took place on Saturday on the Bishops court Stages Rally, and it produced the third winner from three rounds as 15 year old William Creighton on only his third event took the honours. Organised by the Ballynahinch and District Motor Club, seven junior drivers, aged 14-16 lined up in their 1000cc machines, to contest ten stages in truly horrendous conditions. However their Yokohama A048R control tyres worked well in the monsoon conditions and the only non-finish was due to a mechanical failure, testament to the driving standards of these teenagers.

Number one seed was series leader Kyle White, and he started off with a third fastest time, but on stage two the Finaghy driver produced a very fast time and moved into the lead ahead of number two seed Adam Bustard, who had been fastest on stage one. Second fastest on stage one was William Creighton but stage two was a slow one for the Moira driver, losing a 13 seconds to leader White. Behind these three came the 107 Peugeot of James Partridge, despite a spin over the finish line of stage one, and clipping some tyres on stage two. He was just ahead of the mighty Micra battle with Eoghan Bogue leading, Philip White and Michael McGarrity.

On stage 3 William Creighton and co-driver Andrew Bushe scored their first fastest time of the series, and moved back into second place, as Adam and Brian Bustard also lost time with two spins. After four stages Kyle White's lead was 12.1 seconds. James Partridge and Billy Regan were having a great run in the wet but they had lost their fourth place to a charging Eoghan Bogue and Liam Regan, despite Eoghan having to catch a few big slides. Philip White was going really well, now swapping times with the other Micras. He had a new co-driver in Glenn Campbell who has plenty of Micra experience. Michael McGarrity too was showing an increased turn of speed, with co-driver Robert Travers alongside, and he was learning fast about how to drive in the wet.

Stage 5 was to present the first big drama, when Kyle White and Alan Purdy's Peugeot 107 broke its front strut on the loose section near the stage finish and sadly their rally was over. Adam Bustard was fastest on stage 5, but had survived an extremely scary moment when he demolished 6 huge fence posts sliding wide on a right hander! The new leader was William Creighton and he replied to Bustard with a fastest time on stage 6 to hold a 9.3 second lead. Once again he had no dramatic moments to report. Eoghan Bogue now third had opened a five second breathing space over James Partridge, despite a spin on the first corner of the fifth test. Partridge however had experienced a frightening moment, when he came round stage 6 on his second lap to find Michael McGarrity reversing back from an over-shoot, the 107 just squeezing through the narrow space. Nobody's fault but it so easily could have been the end of both their rallies. Philip White meanwhile was the fastest Micra on stage 5, which graphically illustrated his increase in speed, and he was in the thick of the third placed battle. A very tight target time for the opening stage of the loops however was affecting the Micra battle, as on four stages they were all awarded the same time of 3 minutes 12 seconds, meaning that advantages gained were wiped out when this time was applied.

By stage 8, William Creighton extended his lead over Adam Bustard to 12.5 seconds with just two stages remaining. Now he had to overcome the pressure of leading. Eoghan Bogue in third had a couple of fluffed gear-changes and was now coming under pressure from a fired up James Partridge. James had a scary slide on stage 7, but stripped 5 seconds off Bogue on stage 8, to lie just 0.2 of a second back going into the final two tests, and with Philip White just 6 seconds further back, anything could happen! Michael McGarrity in 6th was now enjoying the wet conditions, listening better to his co-driver, and that's where he finished after a day which improved the 14 year olds confidence and his pace by about 2 seconds a mile.

It was a fine fifth for Philip White and Glenn Campbell, and they ended the day with a superb third fastest time on the final stage. It may have been even better for them if the organisers target times hadn't counted, but they are very much looking forward to the next round. The battle for third went right to the final stage with James Partridge taking 1.6 seconds from Bogue to claim the final podium position. Eoghan for his part was happy with fourth, especially after his inversion on the last round, and he thoroughly enjoyed the friendly rivalry during the day's battle. For 15 year old James Partridge, from the Maze, near Lisburn it's a well-deserved podium place, after a lot of effort with the new 107 this season. Adam Bustard's second place puts him in the joint lead of the series with William Creighton.

On only his third event, William Creighton claimed his first rally win by 14.7 seconds, with four fastest stage times to boot. It was a trouble free run, with no major moments and this result promotes him into the joint lead of the championship. And what a championship this is shaping up to be!

This series, now in its second year is also supported this season by the dedicated rally classified website www.rallysales.eu and Yokohama tyres. Round four of the McGrady Insurance Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland, takes place at St. Angelo airfield on 6th May, and it promises to be quite a battle.

To keep up to date please type in Junior 1000 Challenge Ireland into Facebook, and the latest points are also on www.anicc.org.uk

McGrady Insurance Junior 1000 Rally Challenge- Rnd 3 Positions

1	William Creighton/Andrew Bushe	Citroen C1	+32m 16.8s
2	Adam Bustard/Brian Bustard	Chevrolet Spark	+14.7s
3	James Partridge/Billy Regan	Peugeot 107	+1m56.7s
4	Eoghan Bogue/ Liam Regan	Nissan Micra	+1m58.1s
5	Philip White/ Glenn Campbell	Nissan Micra	+2m05.1s
6	Michael McGarrity/Robert Travers	Nissan Micra	+2m52.2s
DNF	Kyle White/Alan Purdy	Peugeot 107	

Championship Points after Round 3

1	William Creighton	33pts
=	Adam Bustard	33pts
3	Kyle White	24pts
4	James Partridge	23pts
5	Eoghan Bogue	16pts
6	Michael McGarrity	15pts
7	Philip White	13pts

2013 McGrady Insurance Junior 1000 Rally Challenge

Rnd 1	New Year Stages	Kirkistown	500MRCI	19 th January
Rnd 2	Eurocables Stages	Kirkistown	NAMCC	16 th February
Rnd 3	Bishopscourt Stages	Bishopscourt	BADMC	9 th March
Rnd 4	May Day Stages	St. Angelo	EMC	6 th May
Rnd 5	Summer Stages	Bishopscourt	BADMC	13 th July
Rnd 6	Shackleton Rally	Shackleton	MCMC	3 rd August
Rnd 7	Solway Coast Rally	Scotland	Solway CC	11 th August
Rnd 8	St. Angelo Rally	St. Angelo	EMC	5 th October

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Interested in taking part in the series? E-Mail- jim@superdriveni.com

The Junior 1000 Rally Challenge is affiliated with the Association of Northern Ireland Car Clubs and the MSA.

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