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Bustard's Last Gasp Junior 1000 Round Four Victory!

The fourth round of the McGrady Insurance Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland, took place on May Day Monday at St. Angelo airfield. Organised by the Enniskillen Motor Club, six stages lay ahead for the seven Junior 1000 crews that started on what was a dry day. It was to prove to be a superb day's rallying, with three different event leaders.

Number one seed was Adam Bustard in the Chevrolet Spark. Adam was joint leader of the series, going into this round, and was one of the favourites, after winning this event last year. However things didn't get off to a brilliant start for the young Castlederg driver, dropping 3.2 seconds to the leader after running wide on a fast left. Stage two was much better, taking a fastest time and moving up into second place. Running at number two was joint series leader William Creighton, on his first season in Junior 1000 rallying, and his first visit to St. Angelo. Things started off well however for the 15 year old Moira driver, a second fastest time on stage one, and again on stage two saw him move into a 1.5 second lead. 17 year old Kyle White was also one of the hot favourites, having won the final round at St. Angelo last season, but Kyle was understandably upset, following the death of his granddad on the eve of the event, and was running on standard front struts following another strut failure in testing. That made his fastest time on stage one even more commendable, but on stage two he dropped a few seconds and to third place, feeling that the car's handling wasn't at its best. Slotting into a fine fourth at this stage was a fired up Philip White. The Crumlin driver was leading the Micra challenge, stretching out a six second gap over the Peugeot 107 of Moira's James Partridge, who had a short excursion on the grass on the second test. Next up was Eoghan Bogue in his Micra, who was warming up after a lack of practice, and then Michael McGarrity who had the experienced Francis Regan in the co-driver's seat.

Stages 3 and 4 were included a new middle section and leader William Creighton took fastest time by 1.7 seconds extending his lead to 3.2 seconds. A second fastest time on stage four further extended the gap to 3.4 seconds, despite losing time like his rival Bustard by running off the track on the third corner. Kyle White was disappointed with his third stage time, but took fastest on stage four, making no mistakes, and was now closing back up on second place. Behind the top three there was a small gap to fourth placed Philip White and Glen Campbell, whose stage times were becoming ever closer to the leaders on Philip's first Junior 1000 season. James Partridge further consolidated his lead over Eoghan Bogue on these two tests, but only by 1.7 seconds, partly due to a slipping clutch. Eoghan too for his part had woken up and really starting to drive his Micra. 14 year old Michael McGarrity too was going well, with his times a lot closer to his rivals. Indeed over the final two stages Michael held onto his position.

The final two tests featured a new section at the top of the airfield running over some loose gravel and they were to provide some serious drama. James Partridge looked all set to claim fifth, but a spin on the final stage cost nine seconds and that fifth place. Eoghan Bogue had really woken up on the final loop and was fourth fastest on both stages to climb into fifth place at Partridge's expense. Philip White had a misfire develop in his Micra, the car not revving right out on the final stages but he had built up enough of a gap to claim a fabulous fourth place. The three way battle at the front however was to be resolved in dramatic fashion.

With a 3.4 second lead going into the penultimate test, everything looked good for William Creighton, and the stage had started very well, but suddenly there was disaster. A front strut failed whilst negotiating the top hairpin, and the C1 limped off the stage, dropping just 8 seconds despite the handicap, but back to third place overall. Thanks to the loan of a standard strut from Kyle White, William was able to finish the event and claim third, just 4.2 seconds behind the eventual winners. Stage 5 was very dramatic, as Kyle White posted a fast time, to move into a 0.9 second lead in front of Adam Bustard with just one stage to go. It was winner take all on the final test, and Adam Bustard first on the road threw everything at the final stage, and the Chevrolet sideways into the final chicanes, to set a scorching time. Kyle White too had a fast, clean run, but it wasn't to be enough, as he dropped 2.1 seconds to Bustard and was relegated to second place. Nevertheless it was a fine run for Kyle, using interim suspension and he dedicated his performance to his late granddad.

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 five of the McGrady Insurance Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland, takes place at Bishops court Racing Circuit on 13th July, 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 4 Positions

1	Adam Bustard/Brian Bustard	Chevrolet Spark	16m 29.3
2	Kyle White/ Alan Purdy	Peugeot 107	+1.0
3	William Creighton/Andrew Bushe	Citroen C1	+4.2
4	Philip White/ Glen Campbell	Nissan Micra	+56.0s
5	Eoghan Bogue/ Liam Regan	Nissan Micra	+1m 09.6s
6	James Partridge/Billy Regan	Peugeot 107	+1m 12.7s
7	Michael McGarrity/Francis Regan	Nissan Micra	+1m 54.7s

Championship Points after Round 4

1	Adam Bustard	46pts
2	William Creighton	42pts
3	Kyle White	35pts
4	James Partridge	29pts
5	Eoghan Bogue	23pts
6	Philip White	21pts
7	Michael McGarrity	20pts

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	Bishops court Stages	Bishops court	BADMC	9 th March
Rnd 4	May Day Stages	St. Angelo	EMC	6 th May
Rnd 5	Summer Stages	Bishops court	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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