



For Immediate Release: 4th May 2016

Easy Enniskillen Junior 1000 Victory for Josh!

The third round of the 2016 McGrady Insurance ANICC Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland, in association with Rallysales.eu took place at St. Angelo airfield near Enniskillen, for the Enniskillen Motor Club's May Day Stages event. Just four Junior 1000 crews lined up for the six stage event, in changeable conditions, as the 14-17 year rally stars of the future took to the tarmac and concrete surfaced special stages.

Winner of the first two rounds was 2015 champion- Josh McErlean, and the 16 year old with co-driver Tommy McErlean in his familiar Peugeot 107 was to assume the lead position again. Indeed the Kilrea teenager would set fastest time on each of the six stages, and was delighted as he crossed the finish line. His pace was eye-opening at times, with stage times in the little 1000cc 107 that would have shamed many in the main field. Indeed on stage one the crew would have been 42nd in the main field out of 97 stage finishers. It is no surprise that they are leading the English Junior 1000 series at their first attempt also. "It was a good day" said Josh. "The stages were enjoyable, and we just kept pushing ourselves for practice. It was just a shame Peter retired so early."

Expected to be second were 15 year old Peter Bennett with co-driver Mac Kierans. Peter, the reigning Scottish Junior 1000 Champion was in the mean looking Boost and Boom Skoda Citigo. They had teething problems on the N.I debut of the car in Kirkistown, and St. Angelo was to prove incredibly unlucky. The car went into safe mode before the start, but the fault was traced to a broken wire and cured by the mechanics before the start. However just a half a mile into stage one the car cut out completely. This time it was a broken battery terminal, as the car was pushed into service. Cruelly despite the problem being cured rapidly the 15 year old was unable to re-start in the Trophy Rally, as there was no provision for the Juniors to enter this, so it was an early trip home for the crew.

Scottish visitor 14 year old Peter Beaton and co-driver Andrew Bushe in their Citroen C1 got off to a steady start, but nevertheless slotted into second place, a position they went to lose all day. It was a long trip for the Aberdeenshire lad, but he is enjoying immensely the McGrady Junior series. "This is a great venue. So far the venues have been excellent, really good driving in them. I think more Scottish crews should be doing these events also." said Peter. There were no major dramas, the only minor one, an altercation with a chicane on the penultimate test, which luckily resulted in no real time loss and a damaged front wing. Whilst Josh McErlean was in a different league, Peter improved his pace all day and was delighted to claim his best Junior result.

It was the first rally for 16 year old Ryan McIvor in his Toyota Aygo, with co-driver Conor Murphy on board to help guide the newcomer. On stage one they had a spin, dropping twenty seconds. However the newcomer showed great promise with second fastest times on stages two, four and five, just a fraction ahead of Peter Beaton on those tests stages. A spin at the top corner on stage three also cost time, but worse was to follow on the final test as the car stopped in the farm-yard section. When the car eventually re-started they just made it round to the finish, claiming third place.

2016 McGrady Insurance Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland- Rnd 3 Positions

1st	Josh McErlean / Thomas McErlean	Peugeot 107	3m53.2s
2nd	Peter Beaton/ Andrew Bushe	Citroen C1	+ 4m28.1s
3rd	Ryan Mclvor/ Conor Murphy	Toyota Aygo	+ 7m 27.7s

Junior 1000 Driver Championship Points after Round 3

1	Josh McErlean	36
2	Peter Beaton	25
3	Ruairi Bell	18
4	Peter Bennett	17
5	Ryan Mclvor	8

McGrady Insurance Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland Calendar 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Organising Club</u>
23rd January	Kirkistown	500 MRCI
13th February	Kirkistown	North Armagh MC
12th March	Bishopscourt	Ballynahinch MC
2nd May	St. Angelo	Enniskillen MC
9 th July	Bishopscourt	Ballynahinch MC
6th August	Shackleton	Maiden City MC
13 th August	Solway (Scotland)	Solway Car Club
24 th September	Kirkistown	500 MRCI (Reserve)
12 th November	Bishopscourt	BADMC (Reserve)
30 th December	Shackleton	Maiden City MC (Reserve)

Issued by Andrew Bushe Promotions- F-Andrew Bushe Promotions t-@andrew_bushe

Pictures thanks to Kevin Glendinning- www.kgrallypics.com

Regulations and points for the series are available on www.anicc.org.uk