

For Immediate Release: 10th May 2018

Adams Holds Off McElwee at St. Angelo!

Round 3- 2018 National Construction Skills Academy Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland

The third round of the 2018 National Construction Skills Academy (NCSA) ANICC Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland took place at St. Angelo airfield just outside Enniskillen for the Enniskillen Motor Club's Erne Skip Hire May Day Stages event. Three Junior 1000 crews lined up for the six- stage event, which took place in excellent weather on Bank Holiday Monday.

Championship leader Marcus McElwee had obtained some sponsorship from J.C Halliday & Sons for the Citroën C1. The 15-year-old with co-driver John Henderson alongside was first on the road, and the young Magherafelt driver has really got onto the Citroën now, a change from his old Micra. Marcus took fastest time on stage two by just 0.1 of a second but dropped a crucial three seconds on stage three to Sam. After four stage he was just under four seconds back. Making a return to the series after being a back-seat passenger in a horrifying road accident, was Sam Adams. The 16 year-old missed round two at Bishopscourt but had competed in Scotland a few weeks previously taking third place. With the familiar Škoda Citigo, he took fastest time on stage one opening up a narrow two second advantage, and on stage three extended this by another three seconds. However Marcus replied on stage four taking one second back, and with final stage not running stage five was the finale to a great days Junior battling.

Recce Pollock had now got his Nissan Micra sorted after its round one mishaps and was setting some excellent stage times. Indeed on stage three he was second fastest just 2.8 seconds of leader Adams. With co-driver Hugh Watson he ended up a fine third, just thirty-four seconds behind the winner. *"I had a great day, really enjoyed it once again and we were very happy with our position today"* said Recce as the finish. His reward for third was enriched by the £75 prize money from championship sponsor Brendan Crealey of the NCSA. The battle for the win went into what was now the fifth and final stage. Marcus McElwee went for it and had a moment at a chicane bale but still recorded fastest time, just over a second ahead of Sam Adams. *"I have started to get the feel of the Citroën C1, it's quite a bit different to the Micra"* said Marcus. *"It was really enjoyable today to be in a battle, and to record a couple of fastest times was good."* Winner of the first two rounds, Marcus still has a healthy championship lead as they head for the final double-header weekend in August taking in the Shackleton and Solway Coast events.

It was last year's champion Sam Adams who took the honours at St. Angelo, pacing the final stage to lift the £150 NCSA first prize. *"It was great to be back in the championship and great to have a battle with Marcus. It's always good to get close competition and it really was all go all day. We had no major moments and the car ran perfectly thanks to the team"* said Sam after stage five.

2018 NCSA Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland- Rnd 3 Positions

1 st Sam Adams/ Andrew Bushe	Škoda Citigo	26.19.8
2 nd Marcus McElwee / John Henderson	Citroën C1	+3.1s
3rd Reece Pollock / Hugh Watson	Nissan Micra	+ 34.8s

Junior 1000 Driver Championship Points after Round 3

1 Marcus McElwee	34
2 Sam Adams	22
3 Peter Beaton	18
4 Recce Pollock	16

Registered co-driver points after Round 2

1 John Henderson	34
2 Andrew Bushe	22

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

Pictures thanks to

Regulations & points available on www.anicc.org.uk