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McElwee Takes the Title in Dramatic Junior 1000 Weekend!

Rounds 4&5- 2018 National Construction Skills Academy Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland

The final two rounds of the 2018 National Construction Skills Academy (NCSA) ANICC Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland took on Saturday at Shackleton, for the Maiden City Motor Club's MJM Group Dogleap Rally and on Sunday on the Solway Coast Junior Rally in Scotland.

The final round was the annual epic encounter to the Solway Coast Rally where almost thirty Junior 1000 crews lined up in this Scottish, N.I and UK championship encounter. Seeded first on the road following a good result on last year's Solway Coast was Sam Adams, and he set off into the first long stage. With no recce allowed its real rallying, on mixed surfaced roads with pace-notes and all was going well until he misjudged a sturdy chicane which put the Skoda onto two wheels, over a fence into a field and into instant retirement! The car was repaired thanks to the efforts of the recovery and service crews and Sam re-joined to enjoy the rest of the event, but any title challenge was over as he was not classified as a finisher.

That took the pressure off Marcus McElwee who knew he just had to finish to secure the series and made an unsurprisingly cautious start on stage one. Gradually he quickened the pace to close to within a second of N.I series leader Peter Beaton, before disaster struck and the Citroen C1 ground to halt on stage seven with electrical gremlins. So, on the big finale just one NCSA registered crew finished the event, and that was Scottish driver Peter Beaton with co-driver Gavin Kelt. It also secured Peter third place in the final championship points, a good end to a season where he has been focusing mainly on his forestry rallying experience of late.

Having took first round honours in his Nissan Micra, then progressing to a Citroen C1, Marcus McElwee has had a great season. *"It's brilliant to win and a big thanks to the team, my co-driver John Henderson, my sponsors for their support and to everyone who organised the series and events. There has been some great battling all season and plenty of ups and downs. There has been tough competition, a good atmosphere and hopefully it will build on for next year"* said Marcus.

2018 NCSA Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland- Rnd 5- Solway Coast Junior Rally- NCSA Positions

1 st Peter Beaton/ Gavin Kelt	Citroen C1	46m17s
Rtd Sam Adams/ Andrew Bushe	Skoda Citigo	
Rtd Marcus McElwee / John Henderson	Citroën C1	

2018 NCSA Junior 1000 Final Driver Championship Points

1 Marcus McElwee	41
2 Sam Adams	32
3 Peter Beaton	30
4 Recce Pollock	24
5 Kyle McBride	12

Registered co-driver points

1 John Henderson	41
2 Andrew Bushe	32