



Derek Drives Home the Advantage on Round Two of the 2017 MSA ANICC McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship!

Seven times Northern Ireland Rally Champion- Derek McGarrity with co-driver Nigel Magee in their Ford Fiesta WRC took a superb twenty-four second victory on the McGrady Insurance Stages Rally, held at Bishopscourt race-circuit for round two of the MSA ANICC McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship on Saturday. The Glengormley driver debuting a new striking blue Fiesta WRC led from the first slippery stage, and as conditions dried out for the two final anti-clockwise stage he always looked in control, taking five of the six fastest stage times.

Derek McGeehan's second place with the Mini WRC looked much less certain as he had a titanic tussle with Stuart Biggerstaff in the S9 Impreza WRC. It was McGeehan who took charge over the opening two tests, but the new lay-out on stage three, and Stuart re-acclimatising to his Subaru, the Kinallen driver took over second place briefly with a superb fastest time. However Derek replied on stage four taking back the place and the 1600 Mini held off the older 2 litre Subaru by just 3.8 seconds.

Kenny McKinstry had his nephew Jack on his first rally in the co-driver's seat. This time the Banbridge engineer had a more modern right hand drive S14 Impreza WRC and he made a solid start in fifth before snatching fourth from Peadar Hurson on stage four, a position Kenny was to maintain. Fifth at the finish was Alan Carmichael in the Mini WRC. He was an excellent third on stage one, but stage two provided the dramas, dropping him to ninth before charging back to fifth, just six seconds ahead of Peadar Hurson in sixth.

Taking seventh on the final stage was Saintfield's Mark Massey in a new Group A Subaru, just 2.8 seconds in front of Dromore's Kyle Orr who was also debuting a new machine the unique Fiesta 4X4 Proto. Ninth and first in Group N was Phillip Morrow, the Lancer dropping down from eighth as conditions dried up and favoured the more powerful cars. Group N winner on round one- Philip Allen had his Evo 10 in his dad's old colours, but he was forced out after stage four, but not before setting a fastest Group N time on the third test. Finishing second and third in Group N where the Evo's of Geoff McMahon and Clive Kilpatrick separated by just four seconds.

Two wheel drive winner in a fine tenth overall was James Kennedy with wife Heather alongside in their 2.0 MK2 Escort. The Antrim pair climbed from fifteenth to tenth during the day with Kyle White taking second in the two wheel drive's in his Peugeot 208 R2, with the really novel Toyota MR2 of Robert Erwin a close third. One of the hard luck stories of the rally belonged to James Leckey Jnr who rolled his modified Peugeot 106 out of the event on the final corner whilst challenging Kyle White for second and the 1600 class. Another hard luck story was Colin Price's retirement from the class three lead on the final stage with a broken drive-shaft on the Vauxhall Corsa.

Niall Henry with his Evo 10 made up for his first round retirement with an eleventh place overall finish, whilst championship sponsor Fintan McGrady was delighted with fourteenth and a class seven victory.

Other class winners were: Michael McCarroll- class 1 (Ford Fiesta), Alexander Cochrane- class 3 (Ford Escort MK2), Jamie Grant- class 5 (MK2 Escort), Greg McCormack- class 10 (Skoda S2000), Drew Wylie- class 11-Historic (MK2 Escort RS1800), Raymond Johnston- class 12- FIA Historic (MK2 Escort RS1800). Round three of the McGrady Insurance series will be an exciting new closed road event held by the Mid Antrim Motor Club on the 6th May.

2017 McGrady Insurance MSA ANICC Northern Ireland Rally Championship-Round Two results

1st Derek McGarrity/ Nigel Magee	Ford Fiesta WRC	36:17.0
2nd Derek McGeehan/Laurie Smyth	Mini WRC	+0:24.0
3rd Stuart Biggerstaff/Stephen Jess	Subaru Impreza WRC	+0:27.8
4th Kenny McKinstry/Jack McKinstry	Subaru Impreza WRC	+0:36.8
5th Alan Carmichael/Ivor Lamont	Mini WRC	+0:54.3
6th Peadar Hurson/Damien Connolly	Ford Fiesta WRC	+1:00.2
7th Mark Massey/Niall Burns	Subaru Impreza	+1:07.2
8th Kyle Orr/Glen Cinnamon	Ford Fiesta Proto	+1:10.0
9th Phillip Morrow/Jonny Hart	Mitsubishi Evo IX	+1:12.4
10th James Kennedy/Heather Kennedy	Ford Escort MkII	+1:42.0

2016 McGrady Insurance MSA ANICC Northern Ireland Rally Championship 2017—Rounds

1	Pacenotes Stages-Kirkistown	Tarmac	North Armagh Motor Club	
2	Bishopscourt Stages	Tarmac	Ballynahinch Motor Club	
3	Ballypatrick Stages	Tarmac	Mid Antrim MC	6 th May
4	Mourne Rally	Tarmac	Newry Motor Club	10 th June
5	Lakeland Stages Rally	Gravel	Enniskillen Motor Club	2 nd September
6	Bushwhacker Rally	Gravel	Omagh Motor Club	23 rd September
7	Down Rally	Gravel	Rathfriland Motor Club	14 th October

*Reserve events- Cookstown MC- 29th July, Magherafelt & District MC- 4th November

To keep up to date please check out the NIRC Facebook page-<http://www.facebook.com/nirallying> and check out www.anicc.org.uk for the series regulations and latest points. Rally results available on www.rallyscore.net

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