



***Greer Victorious in Glorious Glens Rally!***

**Round Three of the 2017 MSA ANICC McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship!**

Jonny Greer from Carryduff with his Scottish co-driver Kirsty Riddick guided their Citroen DS3 R5 to a resounding victory on the third round of the 2017 MSA ANICC McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship on Saturday. The Glens of Antrim Rally run by the Mid-Antrim Motor Club was basked in glorious weather for six spectacular stages featuring legendary sections of Glendun and Torr Head, stages which are in the folklore of rallying in Ireland.

On the first Pollan test, and indeed the second Ronan's Way test; named after the late Ronan McAuley who lived on this downhill section of the Glendun test; the top three cars driven by Greer, Derek McGarrity and Alan Carmichael all beat the bogey times. They headed into the third Torr Head test on joint total time. It was here however on the terrifying twists of the Antrim coast test that Jonny Greer took over ten seconds off McGarrity in his Fiesta WRC, and over thirty from Alan Carmichael in his Mini WRC. With the bogeys coming into play again on stages four and five, it was all down to the final run over Torr Head and Greer repeated his ten second advantage over seven times Northern Ireland Rally Champion- Derek McGarrity with co-driver Diarmund Falvey to end the rally with a superb twenty one second victory.

Alan Carmichael and Ivor Lamont were almost a minute back from Greer in third, but nevertheless it was a fine run for the Ballymena pairing. The two wheel drive battle was an intense one, and local ace Declan McNaughton in his MK2 led the early stages before crashing out on stage three. Then Armagh's Damien Toner in his MK2 took over holding fourth overall until the final stage, when he ran into problems, taking a maximum time. That left Draperstown's Camillus Bradley in his similar MK2 to take fourth and two wheel drive win, just under four seconds ahead of another local hero Oran Donnelly also MK2 mounted. Others to drop out of the two wheel drive race included Stephen Whitford in the Toyota GT86 with a broken clutch, and championship sponsor Fintan McGrady whose MK2 suffered gearbox problems.

In sixth Aidan Wray in his Evo 10 was the comfortable Group N winner after an excellent showing from the Irish National Group N front runner in the Antrim hills. Seventh was a good effort by Bushmills farmer Alastair Cochrane in his MK2, just ahead of the second R5 car home, the Peugeot 208 of former racing driver Richard Tannahill. Portglenone's Niall Henry took class eight in his Evo 10, nine seconds ahead of class rival Lee Hastings. The Scottish visitor had a fine showing to complete the top ten in his Subaru Impreza.

Just outside the top ten was Belfast's Kyle White in eleventh, and first in class four with the Peugeot 208 R2. Kyle entered the final test a handful of seconds behind in the class as young Armagh charger Jason Black was flying in his Toyota Starlet until he dropped time after running wide on that final stage, eventually collecting thirteenth place behind Michael Carbin's Mitsubishi Evo 4.

The Historic race was interesting as Philip Wylie beat his brother Drew in their similar class eleven MK2 Escort RS1800'S with Raymond Johnston's similar class twelve FIA specification machine sandwiched between them. In all it was an event very much enjoyed by the competitors with seventy seven crews finishing the six super stages.

Other class winners were: Michael McCarroll- class 1 (Ford Fiesta), Colm Kearns- class 3 (Ford Escort MK2), Paddy McToal- class 5 (MK2 Escort), Philip Wylie- class 11-Historic (MK2 Escort RS1800), Raymond Johnston- class 12- FIA Historic (MK2 Escort RS1800).

Round four of the McGrady Insurance series will be an exciting closed road event held by the Cookstown Motor Club on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, which replaces the cancelled Mourne Rally event which was to have run in June.

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

1st Jonathan Greer /Kirsty Riddick	Citroën DS3 R5	0:35:37.8
2nd Derek McGarrity/Dairmuid Falvey	Ford Fiesta WRC	+0:21.5
3rd Alan Carmichael/Ivor Lamont	Mini WRC	+0:59.3
4th Camillus Bradley/ Crawford Henderson	Ford Escort MK2	+1:33.6
5th Oran Donnelly/Paul Hughes	Ford Escort MK2	+1:37.3
6th Aidan Wray/Brian Hoy	Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X	+2:10.9
7th Alastair Cochrane/Patrick McCrudden	Ford Escort MK2	+2:16.5
8th Richard Tannahill/Aileen Kelly	Peugeot 208 R5	+2:18.6
9th Niall Henry/ Aaron Johnston	Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X	+2:26.2
10 <sup>th</sup> Lee Hastings/Alistair Wyllie	Subaru Impreza	+2:35.3

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

1	<del>Pacenotes Stages Kirkistown</del>	<del>Tarmac</del>	<del>North Armagh Motor Club</del>	
2	<del>Bishopscourt Stages</del>	<del>Tarmac</del>	<del>Ballynahinch Motor Club</del>	
3	<del>Ballypatrick Stages</del>	<del>Tarmac</del>	<del>Mid Antrim MC</del>	
4	Tyrone Stages	Tarmac	Cookstown Motor Club	29 <sup>th</sup> July
5	Lakeland Stages Rally	Gravel	Enniskillen Motor Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> September
6	Bushwhacker Rally	Gravel	Omagh Motor Club	23 <sup>rd</sup> September
7	Down Rally	Gravel	Rathfriland Motor Club	14 <sup>th</sup> October

\*Reserve events- Cookstown MC- 29<sup>th</sup> July, Magherafelt & District MC- 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.anicc.org.uk) for the series regulations and latest points. Rally results available on [www.rallyscore.net](http://www.rallyscore.net)

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