



N.I Rally Title Battle Hots Up After Lakeland Stages Rally!
Round Five of the 2017 MSA ANICC McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship!

Victory on the Lakeland Stages Rally for Monaghan driver Josh Moffett in his R5 Fiesta was a significant success, but more significant for the 2017 MSA ANICC McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship battle was Jonny Greer's second place finish in his Citroen DS3 R5, just over half a minute behind. The Enniskillen Motor Club event ran over classic forestry stages including Lough Navar, Big Dog and Ballintempo and in near perfect conditions a record entry of over one hundred cars tackled the six special stages, with sixty-eight crews making the finish.

From the start it was Josh Moffett in front of his brother Sam in a sister R5 Fiesta, with Jonny Greer close behind, but significantly moving ahead of Sam on the long third test. Championship leader Derek McGarrity was having his first run in an R5 Skoda Fabia and impressively slotted into fourth place, a position he would finish in, as once again the Mossley driver illustrated his uncanny ability of stepping into a strange rally car and going very quickly. Destined to finish seventeen seconds behind him was Banbridge ace Kenny McKinstry in his Impreza WRC, the rally veteran having been tied on time with Derek after three stages, but dropped back off the pace in the afternoon loop.

Strabane's Martin Cairns brought his WRC Fiesta into sixth, just one second ahead of Derek McGeehan in the Mini WRC, who in turn was just one second in front of David Condell in ninth in his first drive in a Ford Focus WRC. Another driver in a new vehicle was Omagh's Alan Smyth in a Mitsubishi Evo X, and he completed the top ten.

The Group N battle was won by Claudy's Jordan Hone in his Evo 9, finishing eleventh overall. Niall McCullagh was second with Belfast's Liam Regan in a new Evo 9 taking third in Group N on a tie-break on time from Dromore's Cathan McCourt.

In the two wheel drive battle Comber's David Crossen in his MK2 Escort was first home in a fabulous ninth overall, with Donal Sweeney's MK2 next up in eighteenth place, and third was Historic winner, local driver Raymond Johnston whose RS1800 BDA Escort provided a glorious sound-track through the Fermanagh forests.

Other class winners were: Ian Dickson- class 1 (Ford Fiesta), Ruari Maguire- class 3 (Vauxhall Corsa), Gary Kiernan- class 4 (MK2 Escort), Chris Simms-class 5 (MK2 Escort), Niall Henry- class 8 (Evo 10).

In just three weeks the Omagh Motor Club hosts the famous Bushwhacker Rally, and this event could decide the destiny of the 2017 title. For seven times champion Derek McGarrity it could unlock title number eight. However Jonny Greer is hungry for his first title, and with the original final round in the Down Forests cancelled and a decision awaited to see whether Magherafelt Motor Club run their reserve rally on 4th November. It's a decision that's important for the Carryduff driver as points scoring opportunities are rapidly running out.

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

1st	Josh Moffett / Stephen Thornton	Ford Fiesta R5	31:17.0
2 nd	Jonathan Greer / Kirsty Riddick	Citroën DS3 R5	+0:31.0
3 rd	Sam Moffett / James Fulton	Ford Fiesta R5	+0:56.0
4 th	Derek McGarrity / Noel O'Sullivan	Škoda Fabia R5	+1:28.0
5 th	Kenny McKinstry / Kenny Hull	Subaru Impreza WRC	+1:45.0
6 th	Martin Cairns / Rory Kennedy	Ford Fiesta WRC	+1:51.0
7 th	Derek McGeehan / Ciaran Geaney	Mini WRC	+1:52.0
8 th	David Condell / Michael Coady	Ford Focus WRC	+1:53.0
9 th	David Crossen / Damien Fleming	Ford Escort MK2	+2:16.0
10 th	Alan Smyth / Mac Kierans	Mitsubishi Evo X	+2:20.0

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	
4	Tyrone Stages	Tarmac	Cookstown Motor Club	29th July
5	Lakeland Stages Rally	Gravel	Enniskillen Motor Club	2nd September
6	Bushwhacker Rally	Gravel	Omagh Motor Club	23rd September
7	Down Rally (cancelled)	Gravel	Rathfriland Motor Club	14th October

* Reserve event-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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