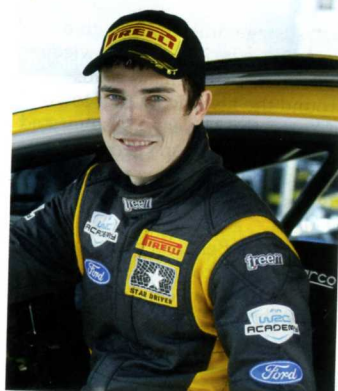




Breen Makes His Rallying Return

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Where to start? If it's OK, I'll just start this column from today, 17 July 2012. It's difficult to look back and talk about what happened. After taking some time to reflect, I've decided to continue rallying, so it's better to look forward.



Craig and Dai tackle the Nicky Grist Stages

This has been the hardest decision of my life. I will never fully come to terms with Gareth's death. Rallying is my life and only with the support and 100 per cent backing of both mine and Gareth's family, I would not have been able to make this decision. I now want to complete all the hard work that Gareth and I started over the last three and a half years. To stop now just won't do.

SWRC Finland will be my comeback event but to aid the healing process before I return to the SWRC, Gareth's brother Dai and I took on the Nicky Grist Stages last weekend. There were some emotional moments during the day, stage times were forgotten about as it was a day to connect with each other and Gareth.

WRC Finland will be another emotional rally. Gareth and I have been there over the past three years and 12 months ago, clenching second place was the start of our push to win the WRC Academy.

After thinking long and hard about finding a co-driver, I'm pleased to say Paul Nagle will be joining me. Paul has a huge amount of experience and from

the first time I contacted him, he has been very humble about coming on board. Our plan is to begin with Finland and bed in together over that event. Then we have the Ulster...

As I write, I've had a big week and another piece of great news is that I will be driving the new Peugeot 208 R2 at the Ulster Rally. The news of my first works drive is bittersweet as we were told by Peugeot Sport just the week before Targa Florio.



At the time, Gareth and I were over the moon about getting the call from Peugeot, both of us put in a great deal of hard work this year to build up a relationship with Peugeot Sport and we played a part in the development of the 208 R2. At this time I would like to thank Peugeot Sport for their help in the aftermath of Gareth's funeral.

To bring this column to a close I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone for their well wishes during this difficult time. The amount of support I've received has been overwhelming. From the time we setup the condolence book on my site, I would check it every few hours and the speed at which the messages were mounting was unbelievable.

The site has now been reopened but we are working on a new section in memory of Gareth. The book of condolence that already carries over 2000 messages, the Eulogy from Gareth's funeral by Howard Davies, full details of how you can donate to the Gareth Roberts fund and three years of photographic and video memories will all be included in this new section.

I miss my little man more than I can describe. He was part of the foundations of me. He will be a massive part of everything I do from now on. Our journey to the top must continue, and I promise to give it everything I've got to make it happen.

Craig Breen

