

Circuit of Ireland

Breen is best of the Irish

■ Trevor McGrath

It was a change of weapon for world Rally Academy Champion, Craig Breen last weekend as he took on the famous Circuit of Ireland Rally.

On his maiden excursion at the wheel of the Sainteloc Racing, Peugeot 207, Breen brought the much sought thoroughbred home in fifth place after two tough days in the narrow lanes of Northern Ireland. Beset by mechanical problems during Friday evening's opening stages and still in the learning phase in the handling of his new mount the Slieverue native was obliged to come home top Irish driver.

"There's always a learning curve when you step into a new car and we were hit by a mechanical problem on Friday evening but after finishing the finish I'm happy and feel confident looking ahead to future events in the Peugeot. I want to thank all the Sainteloc staff and Peugeot Sport and I can't wait for our next outing in Corsica in a month's time."

After two tough consecutive weeks of SWRC and IRC rallying there's no rest from Craig next

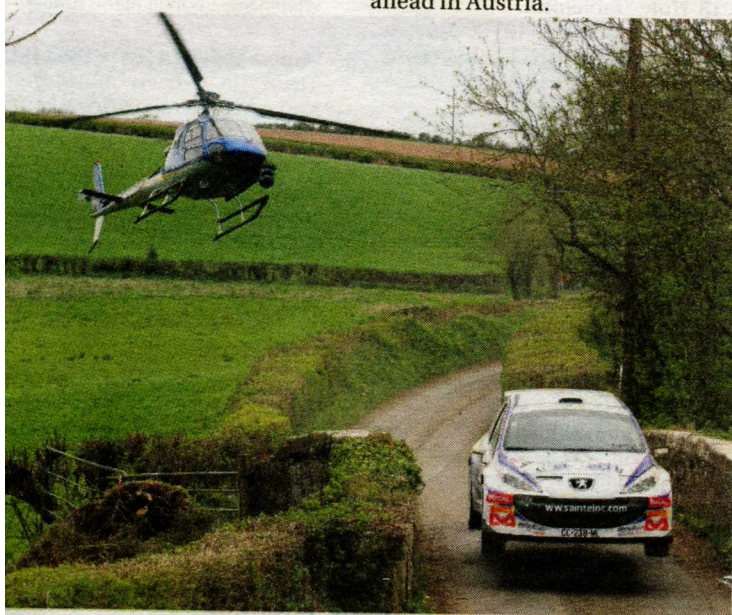
week as he travels to Austria for the third workshop in the FIA Institute. The FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy offers young drivers training that helps develop their motor sport careers on and off the track/specialstage.

Craig won his place in the academy last November and attended the first workshop in Edinburgh where the academy class concentrated on physical fitness.

The second workshop took place in the shadow of Europe's highest mountain in Chamonix in the heart of the French Alps.

Craig however was unable to attend as he was preparing to take on Rallye Monte Carlo, the opening round of the SWRC.

Looking ahead to the workshop Craig said, "As a young driver still learning, attending these workshops is an immense privilege. Working with professionals in aspects like theoretical and practical driving skills but also aspects like sports psychology, nutrition, career management and marketing will make me a complete driver and I'm looking forward to the week ahead in Austria."



Craig Breen in his new Peugeot in action at the Circuit of Ireland Rally.