

Breen learns from the experts in Austria

BY TREVOR MCGRATH

Craig Breen got his first taste of Corsica last weekend. After finishing 6th overall was no time to rest however as Craig had to attend FIA Institute workshop number four in Austria.

The latest workshop of the FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy focused on one of the most important aspects of the programme: Road Safety.

For the last five days the drivers have been learning about all aspects of road safety, with each of them expected to become safety ambassadors for this cause during their careers.

To help with this, the Academy has been making use of the resources and coaching available at Test & Training International's Road Safety Training Centre in Teesdorf, Austria. Here the drivers have been educated in all areas of safety from learning the right mental approach to understanding the engineering advances such as anti-lock braking and stability control.

They then took to the track to further increase their knowledge with tests on variable road surfaces to demonstrate how to deal with driving hazards. The emphasis throughout has been on behaviour-orientated training for the drivers so they can convey passive and active road safety information in both a practical and theoretical form.

FIA Institute experts were also on hand to provide further education. FIA Institute Medical Advisor Dr Paul Trafford gave a presentation on all areas of motor sport

medicine, including driver preparation, accident response and vehicle extraction. FIA Institute Sustainability Advisor Even Wiger gave a presentation on environmental developments in motor sport, a subject that will become increasingly relevant for the young drivers.

Equipping them with this knowledge will not just help them on a personal level but also give them the ability to deal with sensitive questions about safety and sustainability in motor sport.

The drivers themselves have embraced this education, with some of them already actively participating in road safety campaigns in their own countries. Rally driver Craig Breen, for instance, is an ambassador for Motor Sport Ireland's Road Safety Initiative.

Commenting on the five days spent at the workshop, Craig said, "Attending the FIA Institute Young Driver workshops gives me a great opportunity to keep building my knowledge on physical fitness, driving techniques and most importantly the safety features that apply to our sport. Being an ambassador for Motor Sport Ireland's Road Safety Initiative then gives me the opportunity to bring the best from what I've learned back home."

CRAIG ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE CHANGES

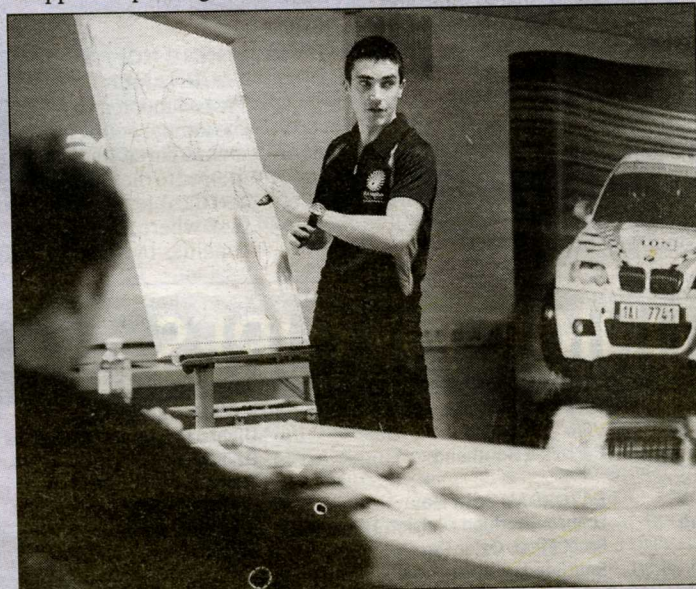
During the last week Craig also announced some changes to his event schedule. The revised schedule impacts on up and coming IRC events. The Canon Mecsek Rallye in Hungary (2-3 June) was to be Craig's next outing with Sainteloc

Racing but the event has now been dropped due to economic constraints from the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC). Craig's next event now will be the Belgium event, IRC Geko Ypres Rally (21-23 June) and the Waterford driver will then take part in IRC Sibiu Rally Romania. The Romanian event will be Craig's first time to drive the Sainteloc Peugeot 207 S2000 on gravel.

Looking just further ahead into the summer and into the month of July, Breen was to take on gravel event, Rally Bohemia in preparation for the resumption of the SWRC but as of now this event has also been dropped. Speaking about the

adjustments Craig said, "I was looking forward to the Mecsek Rallye as it was next on the schedule and being another tarmac event I felt very confident that we could achieve a good result but it was out of our hands as the event has been dropped by from the IRC.

"We now look ahead to Ypres at the end of June and I'm really excited because of the advancements we made in Corsica a week ago. With Mecsek out of the schedule it has opened the door for Sibiu Rally Romania. Like Ypres, I'm very excited about this event as well because it gives me the first opportunity to drive the Peugeot 207 S2000 on gravel."



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