

Craig Breen kick starts season with Race Night

■ Trevor McGrath

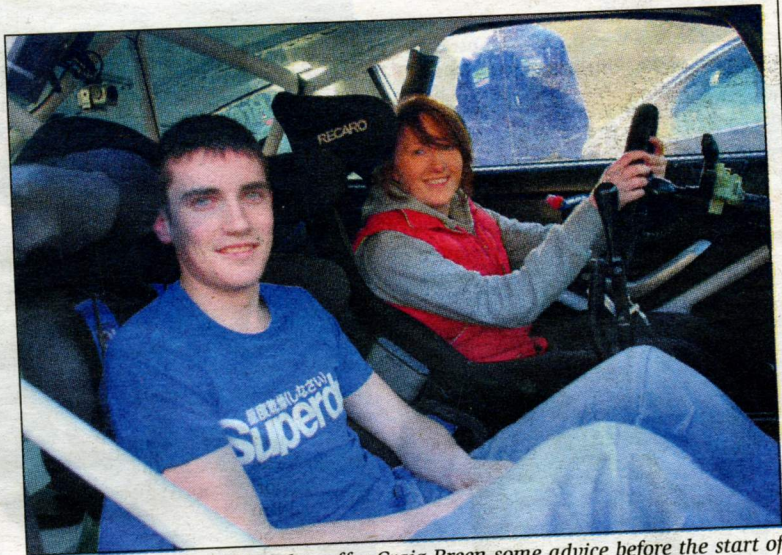
Craig Breen will begin the 2011 rally season with World Rally Sweden on February 10 in his Keltech Ford Fiesta S2000.

Last season Waterford Company Keltech Engineering formed part of Craig's sponsorship but this year the company comes on board as his main backer.

The serious work begins next month but last Friday evening the Waterford driver's Supporters Club held a Social and Race Night in the Ramada Hotel. Rallying was the main topic of conversation as Craig's fans turned out to wish him well ahead of what will be his toughest season to date.

The race night was organised by supporters club committee members Billy Collins, Jamie Kent, Don Butler and Bill Murphy, with in-car DVDs, spot prizes and a wheel changing competition among the prizes. The hottest tickets on the night were for 10 spins with Craig and the lucky winners were treated to their prize on Saturday morning in his Fiesta S2000 on a specially set-up stage.

There was a serious side to the session as Vivienne Hennessy was on hand to evaluate Craig's driving before the start of the WRC Academy in March. She was pleased with his coordination and pace but said: "Craig has had a very successful two years in both Ireland and in the UK



Vivienne Hennessy on hand to offer Craig Breen some advice before the start of the new season

but this season he will be stepping up to the world stage and he will need to keep improving."

The Kilmurry man will begin his 2011 season with World Rally Sweden. The trip to Karlstad (Rally Base) will be to compete in the SWRC. The main focus of Craig's ambitions for 2011 are also on the world stage as he takes part in the six rounds of the JWRC. The young Irish

Driver is set for a global challenge as the FIA, in conjunction with North One Sport (WRC's global promoter) launch the inaugural running of the World Rally Academy. Craig will compete as one of six drivers with fully funded drives after winning the Pirelli Star Driver Global Shootout.

He is also set to launch his revamped website shortly. Watch this space.