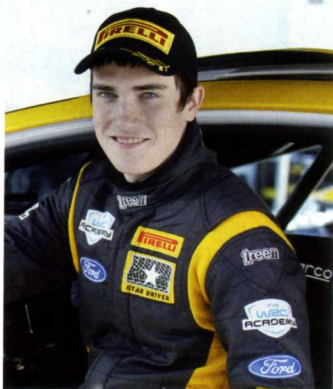




Emotions | www.craigbreen.com Run High In Wales...

I thought Finland was tough in regards to making a comeback, but it paled compared to Rally GB. Wales was the place I have the greatest memories, where I won the Academy and most of all, my best friend lived in Wales.



Breen tackles the stages at Rally GB



Bringing off the SWRC win on (Rally) GB has given me huge amount confidence and a little consolation, I know for sure, Gareth was with us on every stage.

I could wait until the end of the Rally GB section to say this but it's more important to begin with it. I want to sincerely thank Tom Gahan and the team, for their great work prior to and on the event. Tom had some work to do on the car beforehand as she looked a bit bruised after Finland and then the lads did a great job getting me back out after our problems during Saturday's action on GB, thanks lads.

It keeps cropping up in rallying but you never know what will happen on any given day. The first day of GB illustrates that perfectly, within the opening three stages Hayden (Paddon) had recorded a fastest stage time and then dropped 12 minutes with a mechanical problem. PG had ripped a wheel off and had to be content with the option of Rally 2.

We, on the other hand, had set two fastest times, were leading the class and our championship aspirations were given a glimmer of hope. By midday service we had

a cushion of 40 seconds, so the rerun in the afternoon was more relaxed and we could gauge our pace. By evening we had over a minute's lead on Yazeed (Al Rajhi).

Day two was going reasonably well until a gearbox casing cracked on the last stage before service. Only for a split in a power steering hose, we would have had a perfect gearbox change in service, however picking up a 1:20 penalty didn't deter Paul or me.



We ended day two, two and a half minutes in the lead. A gentle cruise around Port Talbot, Rheola, and Walter's Arena on Sunday was repeated, and with it came our Rally GB SWRC win. It was an immensely emotional moment for all, as last years memories were still very vivid in our minds.

I was so proud to have got my first win in Wales since losing Gareth, it was the perfect

backdrop. It goes to prove Gareth was with me, we always shone there year in year out, and this year was no different.

October is going to be a busy month. We first have the trip to SWRC France and then we re-join Sainteloc Racing for IRC Sanremo.

World Rally France is going to be huge. The championship returns to tarmac, PG, Hayden and I will be going flat out. The 'Monte' was the last tarmac event, Ted and I got our maiden SWRC win there but PG was very unlucky. It will be our first proper tarmac event in the Fiesta this year, a surface I always prefer, I just can't wait to get there!

Then just a week later, we're off to Sanremo and I connect up again with the Sainteloc Team. Sanremo is yet another iconic event and I'm looking forward to taking part. It will also be good to get out again in the IRC. The championship and the crews involved were very supportive after the accident. We test for this rally next week (late September), and I look forward to get behind the wheel of the Peugeot 207 S2000 once more.

Craig

