

# Breen's brilliant year continues

2009 has been an amazing one for 19 year old Waterford rally driver, Craig Breen, but it got even better on the weekend before last when he and his Welsh co-driver, Gareth Roberts, claimed their fourth title of the season.

The pair went to the WRC Rally GB bidding to add the prestigious Fiesta Sport Trophy International series, with their 1600cc Ford Fiesta R2. After clinching the UK and Irish Fiesta series on the Ulster International Rally, and then wrapping up the National Junior Championship on the Birr Forestry Stages, two weekend's before Rally GB, the PST International was Craig's fourth major title in 2009. Added to this a win in class N3 on the Irish Tarmac Championship, finishing third two wheel drive in the Irish Forestry series, and it's been an amazing season for Craig, hard to believe his first full season in rallying.

Craig and Gareth dominated the early stages of Rally GB, fastest on the first four stages and taking a commanding lead in the PSTI runners, until stage 6 when the R2 Fiesta stopped, co-driver Gareth Roberts eventually finding a loose wire on the ECU. A win on



a few weeks. "It will be the first rally where I have had no real pressure, and we intend to go and give it a good go. It depends how many R3 cars enter, but I would like to have a go at claiming a top 2 wheel drive position. I am very excited about it, and I am really enjoying driving this new R2 Fiesta."

The IRC will provide another valuable experience for the Waterford youngster, who graduated from kart racing, and so far he has put his experiences to superb use, as Craig has proven to be one of Ireland's most promising rallying talents in quite some years.

the final stage sealed the title, on this difficult event, but clinching the National Junior Championship with a fantastic third overall finish on the Birr Stages had provided an ideal test for Rally GB.

"To win the series was fantastic, and to be put forward for the Billy Coleman Award interviews is exciting." 2009 is not quite finished for the Tom Gahan Motorsport team yet, as they will wheel out the R2 Fiesta for the IRC Rally Scotland in



**ABOVE:** Craig Breen and Gareth Roberts celebrate their win and left, in action in Wales.