

Breen makes it a fab four in

YOUNG rally driver Craig Breen was crowned king of Kilkarney when he won the international Rally of the Lakes recently.

In one of his toughest events to date the Kilmurray native gave a stunning performance, putting him 15 points clear of his rivals in the race to win the Irish Fiesta Sporting Trophy Championship.

Fresh from his success at the Pirelli International Breen was keen to continue his winning streak, but wanted to do it cautiously.

"The rally started on Saturday morning with a daunting run up Molls Gap," he said. "After my big crash on the Circuit of Ireland I was anxious to bring the car home in one piece, but also keen to get a respectable time on the board. I caught a slower car, which upset my rhythm and cost me vital seconds".

Well down the time-sheets, Breen and his navigator Gareth Roberts knew they needed to mount a charge, but failed to make any inroads as rain and more slow cars took their toll in the second stage. However, a stop at the service area allowed Breen's mechanics to make sufficient changes to the Fiesta ST's suspension - alterations which would prove crucial.

Setting the fastest time in the next stage, Breen and Roberts moved up to second place overall, before another fastest time on stage five brought them to within two seconds of the lead. Giving all they had, a stunning drive in stage six saw Breen open up what proved to be an unassailable advantage, as the other crews struggled to make it to the finish line.

"Gareth and I are over the moon," Breen said after taking the chequered flag. "We had a hell of a lot of luck, especially as our competitors pushed us hard but began to fall by the wayside. Luck can be a factor in rallying and thankfully, it was on our side!"

