

Craig's road to Success

Breen/Kel-Tech Partnership

We round off this month again with the talented Craig Breen, as we take a look at the partnership he has forged with his main sponsor, Kel-Tech Engineering. Forged is an apt description as the Waterford based Kel-Tech is one of the leading engineering companies in Ireland.

It has been an amazing rise to fame from Breen who is only in his third year of full time rallying. After a successful career in Karting, Craig moved to rallying for the 2009 season and in a year where everything he touched turned to gold, the Waterford driver won the Fiesta Sport Trophy Ireland Championship, and Fiesta Sport Trophy UK Championship, the Fiesta Sport Trophy International (World Series), was crowned the Irish National Junior Rally Championship, and the Irish Young Rally Driver of the Year - receiving the Billy Coleman Award as first prize. He then capped the year by winning the Pirelli Star Driver Shootout and claimed first prize of a twelve-month contract with M-Sport the company that run the Ford Works team in the World Rally Championship.

Breen set his sights further a field in 2010 by purchasing the all new Ford Fiesta S2000, the first of its kind in Ireland was launched in January, and only a week later the then twenty year old brought the car home in third place on the Galway international Rally, the opening round of the Irish Tarmac Championship. Craig was also the first to debut the car on the British Rally Championship and took his first victory at the International Rally Northern Ireland. Craig's greatest success during 2010 came on the world stage. He brought his Fiesta S2000 home in 17th place overall on World Rally Finland and then bettered that result by clinching 12th overall on World Rally Great Britain. The Waterford driver's year was defined by his victory in the Pirelli Star Driver Global Shootout. Craig won through to the Global shootout by being victorious in the semi-final in Sweden. Then in the final, held in Spain over two days of competition with 16 other drivers, Craig

was one of six winners - the prize being a fully funded entry to the 2011 FIA WRC Academy.

Craig's priority for 2011 has been the World Rally Championship Academy. The series is based over six rounds and currently the Kilmurphy man is in second place with two rounds remaining. Apart from the academy Craig has also targeted single events using 4WD Ford Fiesta S2000. He began the year with a trip to Sweden for his first ever snow rally and turned some WRC heads with an amazing 15th overall. His second outing in the S2000 came on home ground at the Kilkenny based Ravens Rock Rally and the twenty-one year had a day to remember as he took a start to finish win. His third outing this year was in the Czech Republic for the Barum Rally Zlin. Amid soaring temperatures Breen put in one of the performances of his young career to finish 7th overall.

Craig has had an incredible career to date but like any sports person he would not be able to achieve his potential without the backing of sponsorship. First and foremost on the list sponsors is Kel-Tech Engineering. There's more than just the sponsorship tie between Craig and Keltech however as Ray Breen the Managing Director of the company is Craig's father and as they say 'Rallying is in the blood'. Ray is a former Irish Tarmac and Forestry Rally Champion and the rallying gene hasn't fallen far from the tree.

Ray carries the same work ethic from his business life to Craig's rallying career and the Craig Breen Rallying Team is run to the highest possible standards. The bond between the two is inseparable; rare is the occasion when Ray is not present at an event to advise in the role of team manager or cheer in the role of 'Dad' to Craig. One of the proudest moments for the two came in June this year when Craig won the Ravens Rock Rally. The 'Rock' holds special memories in the Breen household as Ray's name appears on the trophy twice. When Craig took an emphatic start to finish win this year,

it underlined out much the event, rallying, winning and family means to the Breen's. After his outstanding result in the Czech Republic Craig will now be concentrating on the two remaining rounds in the 2011 WRC Academy. The first comes up at the end of September and is based in France and then the final event of the season comes in early November on the Wales Rally Great Britain. Craig has also scheduled two outings in his Fiesta S2000 to round off the season. The first comes on IRC Rally Scotland (7-9 Oct) and the second in the warmer climate of WRC Rally Spain (20-23 Oct). You can keep up to date with Craig's exploits by logging on to his website www.craigbreen.com

Waterford Airport Rallysprint

After a busy Motorsport season, Carrick on Suir Motor Club conclude their year of events with a One Day Winter Rallysprint on Sunday, November 6th at Waterford Airport Business Park. The event includes a 1.6km loop on a tarmac surface. There will be one practice and at least three timed runs, with the total time from the timed runs counting towards the final result. The event will get underway early that Sunday morning for the competitors as mechanical and per scrutiny starting at 8am. Drivers briefing and the practice run beginning at 10.15am and the first timed run getting off the startline at 10.30am.

The Carrick Motor Club are delighted to announce that proceeds from the event will be presented to The Solas Centre. The Solas Centre is a state of the art cancer support centre where over 1,000 cancer patients and their families receive a full range of cancer support services including massage and reflexology, counseling, breast cancer support, bereavement support and art therapies for children.



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