

'Meeke was close to GB podium'

Brit shines in Wales, p

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POINTS
FLAWRC Academy Cup
After six of six rounds

POS	DRIVER	POINTS
1	Craig Breen	111pts*
2	Egon Kaur	111
3	Alastair Fisher	62
4	Yeray Lemes	58
5	Brendan Reeves	37
6	Andrea Crugnola	35

NB: Breen won title as he won more stages over the season - 39 to Kaur's 14



BREEN PLEDGES S2000 CHARGE

WRC Academy champion Craig Breen has promised an all-out attack on the Super 2000 WRC next season after clinching the one-make Academy title in a dramatic finale at Rally GB.

The 21-year-old Irishman won the inaugural Academy crown on a tie-break after finishing level on points with Estonian Egon Kaur. Breen won the rally with Kaur second, but closed his 20-point deficit by winning 14 of the 17 stages of the event compared to a single victory for his rival. Breen won the title by winning 39 stages over the season against Kaur's 14, and the 500,000 euros (£427,000) jackpot will cover most of Breen's costs for a crack at next year's SWRC title in his Ford Fiesta S2000. The money he'd already raised for the campaign will be put aside for 2013.

Breen's fightback came after losing victories in Portugal



Kaur narrowly missed title

Runner-up admits funding is now an issue

Egon Kaur may struggle to continue his rally career after admitting that the WRC Academy title prize that he narrowly missed out on was crucial to his hopes of moving up the ladder.

The Estonian lost the crown to Craig Breen on a tie break at Rally GB at the weekend, losing a 52-point mid-season lead as he struggled with a lack of Tarmac

experience. Kaur was hoping to move into the Super 2000 WRC had he won the 500,000 euro jackpot given to the series champion, and admits it will be tough going to raise funding.

"I really don't know what we will do now," said Kaur. "This [title] was a really important chance for our budget next year, and I'm not sure what we can do."

and France through accidents, and he said that he never lost confidence that he could prevail. "We were 100 per cent committed when we came here, and I never, ever lost the faith. I didn't lose it after Portugal, I didn't lose it after Sardinia and we kept it going throughout the whole year and I think belief

was the main thing. It's given me the most part of next year's budget so we can put our sponsor's money into the following year. It's guaranteed me two more years in the sport I love. We'll be at the start line in Monte Carlo ready to win."

Breen also paid tribute to long-time co-driver Gareth Roberts,

as the young Welshman secured the Academy co-driver's crown: "Gareth has done a fantastic job knowing the pressure that he's been under. We left the last service knowing that we had to go and win all three stages, he really kept me on the straight and narrow and all credit to him, he's a fantastic co-driver."

WRC Academy co-ordinator Phil Short was impressed by the strength of character Breen showed in his recovery, after he sat 52 points behind Kaur at the halfway point of the six-round series. "At the start of the year Craig looked a clear favourite, but he had a few bad results and for a while he was well behind, but he knew he had the chance to come back and he's driven brilliantly to do that," said Short. "He's shown character, tremendous ability and some great speed and he's learnt here what it takes to be a champion."

HOW BREEN FOUGHT BACK

