

Extra ERC event for Breen

■ **Trevor McGrath**

AFTER an impressive second place on his ERC debut in Latvia in early February Peugeot Sport finally announced two weeks ago that Craig Breen would enter Rally Islas Canarias El Corte Inglés which takes place next weekend.

Although the event didn't originally figure on the Peugeot Rally Academy's calendar, the third round of the European Rally Championship was included in an updated schedule and will be contested by two of the Peugeot Sport Academy drivers.

Breen the factory driver for the Peugeot Sport team will lead a two car assault and will be joined by Jérémie Ancian in the second 207 S2000. After Peugeot released details of the inclusion of the additional event Craig said, "It's a great opportunity to do an extra rally. In January when my team published details of my 2013 event schedule, eight events were listed but I'm delighted now to take in this event.

Craig began his new job as works Peugeot Sport driver in February with a fantastic result in the Baltic on ERC Rally Liepaja-Ventspils in Latvia and will be hoping to continue in the same vein next weekend. Looking ahead to



Craig Breen

the rally Craig said, "After the snow, cold and rain that Latvia threw at us, the Canary Islands will make a pleasant change and, hopefully, we will get some sunshine! My objective will be the same as it was in Latvia.

"If we feel competitive, we will push and try to win, but the priority will be

to learn as much as we can. It's my first year as a works driver and there is so much that is new to me. It will therefore be important to reach the finish of events in order to score points and gain experience.

"Taking part in nine rounds instead of eight gives me a better chance in

the championship. On paper, I am normally quicker on asphalt than on gravel or snow, and I do enjoy the sort of bumpy, dirty stages you get in Ireland! On top of that, the 207 S2000 is fantastic on asphalt. Everyone in the team is fired up and I think we can look forward to another close fight

with some very quick rivals."

In a change from Craig's maiden event of this year Paul Nagle returns to the co driving seat next weekend. Paul joined Craig last season when the Waterford driver returned to the sport, the two immediately gelled and the Kerry man played a big role in Craig's hat trick of SWRC win on route to championship glory last November.

Work commitment's however halted the partnership continuing initially at the start of this season but now Paul is free to return and is back in the hot seat for next weekend. "This will be my first to compete on the event but Paul has been there before and he has a great deal of good to say about it, it's great to have his experience by my side."

Rally Islas Canarias replaces the Circuit of Ireland Rally on the ERC schedule for 2013. The asphalt stages use a mixture of narrow and fast undulating sections. The surface is abrasive meaning grip levels are high but tyre wear can be at a premium. The Rally Islas Canarias in brief, Date: March 21-23, 2013, Number of legs: 2, Number of stages: 14

Total length: 743.52 kilometres, including 246.34 competitive kilometres.