

Interview with Vincent Ducher

– Rally Manager Sainteloc Racing

During the month of March, Craig Breen released news that he would be joining French Team, Sainteloc Racing for four outings in the IRC at the wheel of a Peugeot 207 S2000. Before the news was announced I had some time to sit down with Sainteloc Racing, Rally Manager, Vincent Ducher and find out more about the team, Vincent's role within the outfit and why they had decided to approach Craig...

1. How important was the announcement of the new Sainteloc Junior IRC Team?

It's great news for the team as well as for the drivers... it's mean that we are not just here to take part in three or four rallies but we will do everything to improve the numbers of rallies in the program with our partners and Peugeot sport.

2. When did you first start to take notice of Craig Breen?

We always look at all young drivers, and I followed his results last year in the wrc academy. I was impress by his results in Catalunya with the S2000..

3. For those in Ireland, Can you give some information about Sainteloc Racing ?

(when was Sainteloc formed, where are you based, what disciplines of Motorsport are you involved in?)

Sainteloc was created in 2004 by Sébastien Chetail. Sébastien was a good driver in Karting. He has amazing passion for motorsport and his main target is victory! Nothing less.

Sainteloc as several activities in motorsport: Circuit FIA GT3, Blancpain Endurance Series, GT France with AUDI R8 , Andros Trophy during winter period , it's races are on ice circuits. The team won in 2011 and finish third in 2012.

And of course Rallying, with Citroen DS3 and Peugeot 207 S2000. We won the citroen trophy last year, the French rally championship for the team and the 2nd category in BRC with Martin McCormack.

4. When did you join Sainteloc Racing?

I joined Sainteloc racing in November

2011, but I've known Sébastien Chetail, since 2004 , He drove two event for Bozian Racing in a 206 WRC

5. What is your role within the team?

I'm in charge of the Rally Department FRC, IRC, SWRC, Citroen Trophy and I'm also in charge of management, logistics,

6. How did first get involved in rallying?

I started my career in motorsport as co-driver to Fabien Vericel, winning the Peugeot Cup. After that we were integrated into the French Junior Team in 1999 beside teammate Sébastien Loeb. I stop co-driving in 2005.



Vincent Ducher, Rally Manager, Sainteloc Racing with Craig Breen

7. After your career as a co-driver what came next?

In 2001 I started a new career as team coordinator with Bozian Racing in WRC up to 2008. In 2006, I was the origin of the world championship for team. It was hard work to convince all the manufacturers to agree with my idea of a championship for Private Team! But we succeeded by building a partnership with OMP-Peugeot Norway and drivers, Manfred Stohl and Henning Solberg.

8. What are your thoughts on the IRC as a Championship?

The IRC is a really good championship with high a sportive level and really good media exposure. As we have seen in the past, it could reveal and help young drivers like Thierry Neuville who's now in the WRC.

9. How important is it to have the backing of Peugeot Sport in the formation of the Sainteloc Junior IRC Team?

It's always vital to have the backing of the manufacture. It insures the team in having the best cars and the most up to date specification, plus the a manufacture like Peugeot have a vast amount of knowledge on all types of surfaces.

10. Craig Breen is also to be joined by French driver Mathieu Arzeno on the IRC events, can you give some details/ information about him?

Mathieu is a talented young French driver. He finish 2nd of Citroen Trophy last year and at the end of the season, he was faster than Cedric Robert who is the reference in France! The rallies he is scheduled to take part in on the IRC will be new to him be he will learn a lot.

11. Over the last three year Craig has built up a good partnership with his co-driver Gareth Roberts, as a former co-driver how big a role does the co-driver play in getting good results?

The co-driver plays a huge part on every result, good and bad! Being a co-driver, is not just about delivering the pacenotes at the correct timing. Both the co-driver and the driver must have a good partnership and have the same goal if they want to win. The co-driver must also be meticulous and be a hard worker. The partnership is the most important as both must be able to share their opinions on setup and how the car preforms and translate this to the engineers

12. What aspects of Craig's driving can be improved to make him one of the top rally drivers in the world?

Over the coming event we will be looking to build Craig's experience, But for sure, we will help him to get the confidence and the speed with a professional approach

13. What are you hopes for both Craig and Mathieu on the upcoming events?

I will not bet on anything, but Mathieu for sure will go to Ireland to learn and reach the finish. For Craig we will see after the first test session in France and 2nd one in Ireland.