

World Champion Breen honoured by Park Hotel

BY JOHN A. MURPHY

To be crowned world champion in whatever sport and at whatever age is a quite remarkable achievement in itself.

Easy to understand then how former Ferrybank schoolboy, Craig Breen, is feeling right now having been recently, and spectacularly, crowned world FIA WRC Academy motor rally champion at the tender age of just twenty one.

A former student of St. Mary's primary school in Ferrybank and the local Abbey Community College, Craig's world title win came after winning an incredible fourteen of the seventeen stages on the final day of competition in a world class field. That has now also won him the prestigious Park Hotel award for November which he ever so proudly accepted from the hotel's marketing manageress Imelda Walsh at a function in the hotel last Thursday.

There is an added exciting element to the award in that a similar honour was won by his father Ray Breen when he scooped the award for October 2008.

Presenting the award to Crag, Imelda Walsh on behalf of the Park Hotel, extended a very special welcome to him, and she said that in no time at all Craig had established himself as "an outstanding young sportsman" of which Waterford and Ireland could, and should, be proud.

"All that he has achieved in such a short



On Thursday last Craig was presented with his second Park Hotel monthly award by Imelda Walsh, Park Hotel. Imelda Walsh, Sales & Marketing Manager, Park Hotel presents the award to Craig Breen. Included is Craig's Dad Ray along with Fr. Pat Moran and John A. Murphy, Adjudicators. Photo: Sean Byrne//Deise Media.

time is difficult to fully understand, and what he has done in his chosen sport is literally stunning" she said, adding that he is a very worthy winner of the November award.

The chairman of the adjudicating awards panel, Fr. Pat Moran OSA, said Craig had become the 251st monthly winner of what is the county's most prestigious sports award scheme.

Describing Craig as a great ambassador for Waterford and Waterford sport, Fr. Moran said it was entirely fitting that he should clinch his world title accolade in neighbouring Wales as his navigator was no other than a Welshman from Carmarthen.

John A. Murphy, adjudicator, also spoke, and said that to have achieved the status of "world champion" at such a young age made Craig's feat all the more remarkable.

Replying, the award winner thanked the Park Hotel adjudicators and described his nomination for the award as "incredible". "I am both very proud and overwhelmed by it, and I would like to think that I am now a worthy sports ambassador in my native county of Waterford". Craig added.

Also present at the function was Pierce Flynn, managing director of the Park Hotel, and Craig's father and former monthly award winner, Ray Breen.