

Photos: Jakob Ebrey Photography and Writtle Photographic



Craig Breen led from the front in the SportTrophy

Breen switches machines but continues his run of Fiesta victories

Six days before the SportTrophy UK resumed in Carlisle, Craig Breen had been left to survey the wreckage of his Fiesta following a violent crash on the Circuit of Ireland.

After sourcing a replacement car, Breen admitted he wasn't sure if he could be fully committed in his quest for his third win in the one-make class in as many weekends, following his success on the International round in Portugal and the Irish event, which had been settled before his accident.

But it didn't take long for the 19-year-old to recapture his form to the extent he was leading the class after the opening two stages on Friday.

Although Kyle Orr briefly got ahead on Saturday, Breen was in

front after six stages when the Fiesta results were declared. Such was his dominance he finished the main rally in tenth overall, which also earned him a Pirelli Star Driver nomination, which carries a free drive in next year's BRC as its top prize.

Mark Donnelly was second at the overnight halt, despite a fuel pump fault, but slipped back when he bent a left-rear axle on stage three. He finished fourth behind Tom Walster, who was making a one-off return to the category.

Matt Edwards also had a shot at a podium finish until he hit trouble on the final stage (see Pirelli Challenge Rally report, page 30).

Kris Hall never recovered from the 2m20s he lost with a front-left

puncture on the opening stage. His rally ended in a ditch three stages later.

Ross Forde, who finished fifth, was slowed by a damaged sumpguard on Saturday morning. He headed Barry Greer, who recovered from a right-rear puncture on stage two. Martyn Jones did well to complete Friday's leg with a bent rear beam, the legacy of a brush against a bridge.

Results

1 Craig Breen/Gareth Roberts (52m 12.4s); 2 Kyle Orr/Rob Fagg (52m 24.1s); 3 Tom Walster/Tim Sturla (52m 41.8s); 4 Mark Donnelly/Paddy Robinson (53m 30.8s); 5 Ross Forde/Gary McElhinney (53m 57.8s); 6 Barry Greer/Susanne Wright (53m 58.8s); 7 Martyn Jones/Kris Killip (54m 07.3s); 8 Stevie Brown/Andrew Roughead (54m 40.5s); 9 Patrick Malley/Malcolm Read (55m 08.8s); 10 John Boyd/Fred Bell (55m 44.5s). **Championship positions:** 1 Orr 65pts; 2 Donnelly 62; 3 Matt Edwards 61; 4 Breen 55; 5 Kris Hall 50; 6 Greer 46 etc.