

# Breen ends his season in style in France

BY TREVOR MCGRATH

Rallye du Var, based in the Côte d'Azur region of France formed a fitting finale for Craig Breen as he rounded off another sensational season. Breen fulfilling his commitments with French team Sainteloc Racing brought the curtain down on his 2012 schedule with 3rd overall after a dramatic three days in the French Riviera.

Driving a Peugeot 207 S2000 the newly crowned SWRC Champion showcased all his capabilities and with two fastest stages times

over the closing tests the Irish driver climbed from 6th to seize the third podium position.

At the finish ramp in Saint Maxime, a pleased Breen said, "I'm really delighted, this has been a hectic rally and I'm thrilled to finish 3rd and get on the podium. We knew this morning that fourth was possible, so we decided to for it. I'm sorry for Robert (Kubica, long time event leader, crashed out); he had a great drive all weekend."

Talking about the rally, Breen went on to say, "It's been an up and down event

for us, overall I've really happy with my speed. The stage here are fantastic, they allow you to get into a good rhythm. But for two punctures, one on Friday and one again yesterday it could have been the perfect result. Even suffering time wise from them I managed to keep my concentration and I think that was important. Setting fastest time on stage 11 this morning was great and then on the final stage the opportunity was there to go for 3rd and it worked, it's been a fantastic rally. I want to thank all the Sainteloc team. I've really enjoyed my time

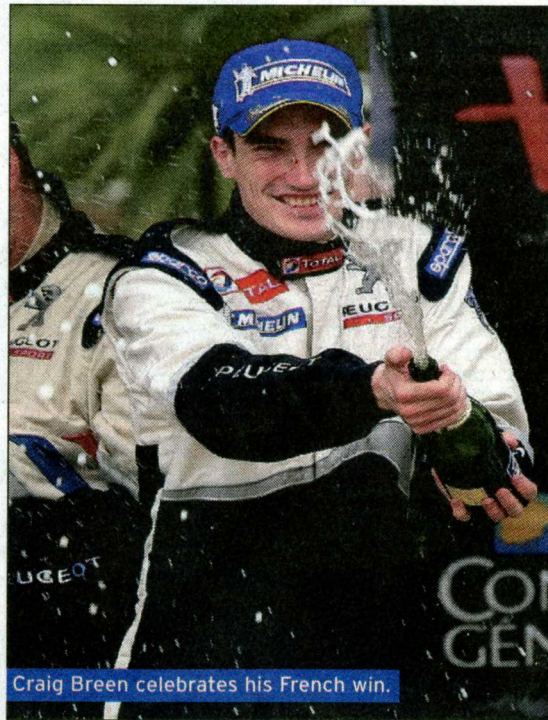
all year with the team and have learned a huge amount. It's perfect to finish the year here in France. I began the season just up the road on the Monte (Rallye Monte Carlo) in January

and Rallye du Var bookends another big season for me."

"Très belle performance de Breen" was one French Journalist's description of Craig's drive over the three frenetic days



Breen on his way to victory.



Craig Breen celebrates his French win.