

### Are you ready for a World Rally Car drive?

"I think I am. No, I *know* I am. I've won the highest support championship, okay it's been a lucky year, but we've shown some good speed at times and I'm in a good position to move on now. I don't need to be absolutely on the pace from the start if I can get two or three years to learn. It's looking quite promising on everything else apart from the financial front."

### How much of a help are your titles going to be to your sponsorship search?

"Back at home people don't relate to event finishes but they do understand a world

championship win. In theory it should help attract more sponsors but I've learned too that theory and practice are two very different things. We will just try our best and see what happens."

### It's a fantastic achievement to win two FIA titles in a row...

"Okay they're support championships but at the same time a world title. Loeb counts his JWRC title as a world title so I'd like to count my small two as two to me. It's an incredible feeling and one I will cherish for a long time."

### This one comes after a season in a new class and new events.

"Monte was the only new event, we've done everything else but not in a four-wheel-drive car. I've had to learn the events at a whole different level. The speed is so much different now. I've got good experience behind me now. I just need to show more speed in next year's event, that's if we can get the budget together."

### You've had to get used to longer rallies this year as well.

"The Academy events weren't exactly too much of an endurance. The events are a long three days, especially this event, having to plan and strategise your event, which is something I didn't do last year but something I've coped with very well with

this year. I've learned a hell of a lot and it's something I can carry forward!"

### How much was what happened in June on your mind today?

"It's on my mind every day, every minute. I'm just so glad that I've done it. It confirms he's with me and pushing me on every step of the way. For sure me on my own I wouldn't be strong enough to come back and do something like this. It's only with him and family and friends and everyone who has rolled in behind me that I've got myself back to here again. I'd swap it all in an instant to have him back again – I'd swap everything I've ever done to have him back again – but this is the best thing I can do."

## CV

### CRAIG BREEN

Age: 22 Lives: Waterford, Ireland

**2012:** SWRC champion in Ford Fiesta S2000, four wins; selected IRC events in Peugeot 207 S2000; development work on Peugeot 208 R2

**2011:** FIA WRC Academy champion in Fiesta R2; selected IRC and SWRC events in Fiesta S2000

**2010:** British Rally Championship in Fiesta S2000, one win; second overall in Irish Tarmac Championship; selected WRC events; Pirelli Star Driver Global Shootout winner

**2009:** UK and Ireland Fiesta Sport Trophy champion

**2008:** Selected rally events; European and British KF2 karting

**2007:** Formula A and KF3 All-Ireland karting champion

**2006:** Formula A Irish national champion

**1999:** begins karting