

Craig Breen, 'Time' to grasp the 'Future'

■ Trevor McGrath

CRAIG Breen will make an emotional return to rallying next month at World Rally Finland. It will be Craig's first since the tragic accident in Sicily in June that fatally injured his co driver Gareth Roberts.

On that fateful Saturday morning, June 16th, as 'time' ticked by to start the opening stage Rally Targa Florio Sicily, no one could fore-tell what would transpire eight km's up the road.

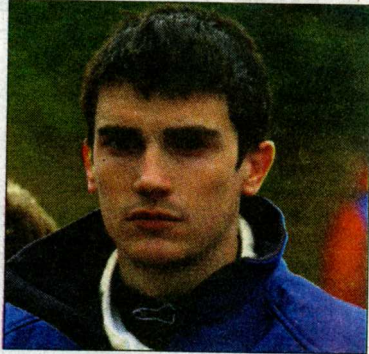
Immediately after the accident and in the following days, 'time' appeared to stand still as Craig, the Roberts family and the Breen family struggled to come to terms with the tragedy.

Eleven days later June 27 we were given the 'time' to grieve Gareth's passing, mourn his death and celebrate his life at his funeral in Llanpumsaint, Carmarthen, West Wales. 'Time' never stops and after returning home Craig was left with a decision to make. What next?

Now after taking 'time' to reflect, Craig has decided to continue on the path that saw him rise up the rallying ranks to win the WRC Academy Championship last year and mount a strong early season challenge in this year's SWRC.

Craig will return to rallying next month on WRC Finland in Jyvaskyla from 2-4 August, round five of the SWRC. Partnering Craig in the co driving seat will be Irishman Paul Nagle.

Speaking about his rallying return Craig said, "This has been the hardest



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decision of my life. I will never fully come to terms with Gareth's death. It's only with the support of my own family and Gareth's family that I'm now ready to take the next step. I will never forget Gareth, we were firstly a driver/co driver partnership but most of all we were best friends. To honour Gareth I will be adding a new section to my website to remember him. In this section there will be the book of condolence that already carries over 2000 messages, The Eulogy from Gareth's funeral by Howard Davies, full details of how you can donate to the Gareth Roberts fund and three years of photographic and video memories.

"Getting back behind the wheel again without the little man will be emotionally very hard but I know that Gareth would want me to continue. From our first event together we were winners and now I want to continue on that road with the same ambition."