



# Breen dominates the Island!



## Winners – Craig Breen / Gareth Roberts

The fifth round of the Kick Energy Fiesta Sport Trophy took place last weekend at the Manx International Rally. At the end of the event it was the crew of Craig Breen (18) from Waterford and navigator Gareth Roberts that clinched victory also handing them the lead to the series overall.

Before the event even began there was drama on the shakedown stage for some competitors. Mark Donnelly (17) from Omagh had an overshoot and damaged the front of their car but with no problems sustained from this they continued to prepare for the event the following day, however it was not so easy for Kris Hall (19) from Appleby. The pairing clipped a bank sending them into a spin ending with the car rolling. Some superb work through the night from their service crew allowed them to start and before long they were ready to begin the event all be it with some light exterior damage.

Stage one was the 7.22 miles of Staarvey. Breen would set the quickest time stopping the clocks on 7.02.3. Hall was the second FST crew into the stage and when exiting

crews received the nominal time of Breen. The final two competing crews were that of Matt Edwards (24) and Ross Forde (25). With both of these crews competing in the BRC Challenge event it meant the stage had been cleared and they both competitively completed the stage with Forde finishing on 7.24.3 and Edwards finishing on 7.33.2

Stage two was the 11.21 of Keella. Breen again set the quickest time with Davis second fastest and Forde third quickest. Hall was still dropping time as he struggled to see through his broken windshield. With no other dramas reported the crews headed to the final stage of the first loop of stages.

Stage three was the 7.14 miles of Ravensdale. After a promising start to the event this stage would catch out Davis. On a tightening right hander he slid wide and put his wheels onto the grass, the wheels dug in sending the car into a roll forcing his retirement for the day. Breen once again set a quickest time increasing his lead to an impressive 1.35.1 over Forde. This

huge margin meant Breen could afford to rethink his strategy and control his pace just to ensure that he finished the event with maximum FST points. Forde was second quickest on the stage with Edwards third fastest.

At the first service of the day Hall was fitted with a new windshield whilst the other remaining crews reported no problems. SS4, 21.38 miles of Newtown was cancelled for all the competing crews meaning SS5; Cringle at 13.66 miles was the only competitive test of this loop. Breen again set the quickest time a blistering 13.04.2, and with Hall now being able to see clearly again he upped his pace to take second quickest. Edwards took third fastest 25s adrift of Breen.

SS6, Glen Roy at 4.66 miles saw Hall take his first stage win. Breen was second quickest with Forde taking third fastest. Forde was really getting into his pace on asphalt and enjoying every minute of it. The penultimate stage of the FST event was the short 3.30 miles of Maughold. Hall again set quickest time and with it managed to leapfrog Hunt into fifth overall. Breen set second quickest, an impressive time even if he had backed off the pace slightly. Edwards took third quickest. The battle between Edwards and Forde for second would go down to the wire as they were separated by a mere 2.9 seconds as they headed into the final stage of the event.

At 12.47 miles Dog Mills would see Breen and Hall awarded a national time as the stage was cancelled for these two crews due to an earlier accident. This awarded Breen the victory for the event but the main battle was still for second overall. Forde finished the stage in a time of

11.40.6 but Edwards struggled to meet this pace and finished the stage in 12.07.2 meaning he jumped ahead of Edwards and finished second by a margin of 23.7 seconds.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall – Matt Edwards / Rob Fagg

### Championship Standings After Round 5

Pos	Driver	Points
1	Craig Breen / Gareth Roberts	110
1=	Matt Edwards / Rob Fagg	105
3	Kris Hall / Robbie Durant	100
4	Ross Forde / Gary McElhinney	84
4=	Kyle Orr / Rob Fagg	83
6	Mark Donnelly / P Robinson	82
7	Stevie Brown / A Roughhead	49
8	Tom Watson / Ken Bowman	48
9	Barry Greer / John Lemon	46
9=	Harry Hunt / Kris Killip	46

### Overall Positions On Round 5

Pos	Driver	Total
1	Craig Breen / Gareth Roberts	1:16:27.3
2	Ross Forde / Gary McElhinney	1:19:26.0
3	Matt Edwards / Sam Collis	1:19:49.7
4	Kris Hall / Robbie Durant	1:21:22.2
5	Tom Watson / Ken Bowman	1:22:24.9
6	Harry Hunt / Kris Killip	1:22:45.6
	Stefan Davis / Thomas Maguire	DNF
	Mark Donnelly / Tony McDaid	DNF



For further information and copyright free photos for the Kick Energy Fiesta Sport Trophy UK (courtesy of Jakob Ebrey), please contact UK series co-ordinator Richard Millener at [rmillener@m-sport.co.uk](mailto:rmillener@m-sport.co.uk)