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McElwee Takes the Title in Dramatic Junior 1000 Weekend!

Rounds 4&5- 2018 National Construction Skills Academy Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland

The final two rounds of the 2018 National Construction Skills Academy (NCSA) ANICC Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland took on Saturday at Shackleton, for the Maiden City Motor Club's MJM Group Dogleap Rally and on Sunday on the Solway Coast Junior Rally in Scotland.

Championship leader Marcus McElwee had to focus on finishing the two rallies, as all five rounds counted for this year's series and Marcus held a decisive points advantage starting at Shackleton. The 15-year-old Magherafelt driver along with his co-driver John Henderson had this very much in mind all day and they made a steady start on stage one. Their pace improved during the day, but at times the Citroen was cutting out and they ended the day with fourth position but most importantly with some good points.

Second on the road was last year's winner Sam Adams, the Armoynagh teenager recovering well from the road accident earlier in the season that forced him to miss a round. Like Marcus he hadn't competed since St. Angelo in May, but very much enjoyed the new anti-clock-wise lay-out at Shackleton and put in a solid first stage, to lie third. Stage two went much better and with a stiffer car he moved into a three second lead, which was extended to nine after stage three with another fastest time.

Reece Pollock was on his home event and had recently been contesting non-championship rally-sprint events at Shackleton and showed great pace at St. Angelo. With the encouragement of Junior WRC and co-driver for the day Callum Devine he took an excellent second fastest on stage one. Callum was highly complementary of his driver and was really impressed with the pace of the Junior 1000 battle which was to rage all day. Reece was keeping the Micra hopes alive, third after stage three, and just eleven seconds off the lead. That was a position he kept and once again he showed "you can with a Nissan!"

Donegal driver Kyle McBride was on his first Junior 1000 rally, but he too had been contesting non-championship events at Shackleton and had a superb first stage to claim fastest time by eight seconds from Adams. It was a great start hampered slightly when the orange Toyota Aygo started misfiring in stages two and three. All was good for stage four however and he took another time to close the lead gap to five seconds, and then moved into a two second lead after the penultimate stage. Kyle and co-driver Darren Curran rounded out the day with an impressive seven second advantage, in what was a superb debut for the 15-year-old. Another young rallying hope for the future.

2018 NCSA Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Ireland- Rnd 4- Dogleap Rally Positions

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|---|--------------|---------|
| 1 st Kyle McBride/ Darren Curran | Toyota Aygo | 43m40s |
| 2 nd Sam Adams/ Andrew Bushe | Skoda Citigo | +7s |
| 3 rd Reece Pollock / Callum Devine | Nissan Micra | + 27s |
| 4 th Marcus McElwee / John Henderson | Citroën C1 | +1m 38s |

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