



ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND CAR CLUBS
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Northern Ireland's Motorsport Competitors Celebrate Outstanding Success!

Northern Ireland is a relatively small country, but it is packed with motorsport talent which was highlighted at Saturday night's annual Association of Northern Ireland Car Clubs' (ANICC) awards evening!

There was an impressive array of more than 220 perpetual cups and crystal trophies which were presented to the finest competitors in the country who were present at the Armagh City Hotel on Saturday 18th January 2020 to receive their accolades and awards for the 2019 season.

All motorsport disciplines were represented from autotesting to racing, sprinting, hill climbing and stage rallying, the star-studded evening was a night to remember. The ANICC also acknowledged two Northern Ireland Volunteers who were successful in the prestigious 2019 JLT/Motorsport UK Volunteer of the Year awards, Niall McGonigle winning the 'Marshal' Category and Kevin Lynam runner up in the 'Other' category.

Together with presentations honouring all the ANICC Championship winners there were also other surprises in store. The ANICC presented a very well deserved 2019 Clubman of the Year Award to **Eric Patterson** from Dungannon marking his contribution to the sport as an outstanding club official at events and competitor for over 40 years.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the **2019 ANICC Northern Ireland Motorsport Award** which was presented 2019 Porsche Carrera Cup GB Champion and now BMW Junior Team member, **Daniel Harper**. This award is voted for by members of the media, local motor clubs and ANICC council members and is regarded as the number one prize in Northern Ireland motorsport. Daniel is the youngest winner of this award since inception in 1970. Daniel is currently in Italy and was unable to receive the award personally however Ronnie Trouton MBE accepted the award on his behalf saying that Daniel was overjoyed that he had won this award amongst a group of exceptional nominees this year.

Speaking on behalf of the ANICC, Chairman Henry Campbell, said: "This has been a tremendous evening for Northern Ireland Motorsport. This small country has the ability to produce exceptional driving talent and many achieved their personal goals in 2019 and have been recognised across the world and UK. Henry expressed his personal support for all volunteers who work in the sport from Northern Ireland and particularly again this year with Northern Ireland Clubs and Volunteers claiming all the major awards from Motorsport UK."

"Finally, Henry also congratulated Daniel Harper on receiving the Northern Ireland Motorsport Award and said: "It is important to offer support and congratulations to all of our award winners. I wish everyone a safe and successful year's motorsport during 2020."

With the triumphs of 2019 behind them, competitors are gearing up towards another successful season. Many championships are already underway, and there are sure to be some tight battles in all disciplines. More details about all forms of four-wheeled motorsport in Northern Ireland can be found online at www.anicc.org.uk.

Main award winners and nominees for the 2019 Northern Ireland Motorsport Award are named below.

ENDS

(Grace King, ANICC Honorary Secretary – gorestown33@live.com)

MAIN AWARD WINNERS:

ANICC 2019 NORTHERN IRELAND MOTORSPORT AWARD

Recipient

Daniel Harper

(All four nominees for this award are detailed below for information)

ANICC 2019 CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Recipient

Eric Patterson

McMILLAN SPECIALIST CARS AUTOTEST CHAMPIONSHIP

2019 NI Autotest CHAMPION

Steven Ferguson

McGRADY INSURANCE / MSA NI STAGE RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

2019 Northern Ireland Stage Rally Champions

Stephen Wright and Mark McGeehan

S.W ADAIR TYRES SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP

2019 Sprint Champion

Adrian Pollock

MILLERS OILS HILLCLIMB CHAMPIONSHIP

2019 Hill Climb Champion

Graham Thompson

NORTHERN IRELAND DAWSON WAM FORMULA FORD CHAMPIONSHIP

2019 NI FF1600 Champion

David McCullough

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JLT/Motorsport UK Volunteer of the Year – Marshals Category winner

Niall McGonigle

JLT/Motorsport UK Volunteer of the Year – Other category runner-up

Kevin Lynam

FOUR NOMINEES FOR THE 2019 MOTORSPORT AWARD (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

CALLUM DEVINE

25 year old Callum Devine from Claudy was in tremendous form during 2019. Callum started his rallying career at 16 years of age in the F1000 Junior Rally Championship. Over the next few years Callum drove a variety of R2 cars and he won the 2017 British Junior Rally Championship title driving an Opel Adam. These performances were recognised when Callum won the Motorsport Ireland Billy Coleman Young Rally Driver of the Year award providing him with significant support towards his 2018 season. Callum competed in the Junior World Rally Championship

where he finished 4th overall. During 2019 Callum excelled in R5 machinery showing blistering pace in the Irish Tarmac Championship and winning the FIA Celtic Trophy. Callum then rounded out the 2019 season with a fantastic performance in the final round of the European Rally Championship in Hungary finishing on the podium.

DANIEL HARPER

At just 19 years of age Daniel has a wealth of motorsport experience with numerous event and championship wins during each year since starting competition on Quad bikes during 2006. Daniel also competed very successfully on Karts since 2012, entered F1000 Junior Stage Rallying during 2015 and then moving to Car Racing during 2016 when he contested the Ginetta Junior Championship supporting the BTCC and finishing 2016 as Rookie Champion and 3rd Overall in the 2017 Championship. At Christmas 2017 Daniel won a two-year Porsche Carrera Cup GB Scholarship finishing 5th overall in Year One (2018) and Winning the Porsche Carrera Cup GB in 2019. The youngest ever winner of the Carrera Cup GB after a dominant season in 2019, Daniel is one of three drivers selected by BMW to join their 'Junior Team' which in the past has helped to develop world champions Nico Rosberg and Sebastian Vettel.

JOSH McERLEAN

20 Year Old Josh McErlean from Kilrea is about to step up to the 2020 British Rally Championship in a Hyundai i20 R5 car. Josh won the F1000 Junior title in both 2015 and 2016. Josh had a great year during 2019 dominating the British Junior Rally Championship to take the title and then taking the opportunity to step up to R5 machinery with Hyundai to compete on Wales Rally GB where he set some very impressive stage times. In December Josh was also offered the opportunity to contest the iconic Monza Rally Show in Italy, and in a star-studded entry list, Josh finished an impressive 18th overall and finished third in the Hyundai i20 R5 Trophy. His final accolade of 2019 was to win the Billy Coleman Young Rally Driver of the Year Award.

COLIN TURKINGTON

What an achievement for Colin Turkington from Portadown – 2018 and 2019 British Touring Car Champion and now a four-time BTCC Champion following an astounding year in 2019 and the highly charged final race of the season. Colin is the most successful British Touring Car Driver alongside Any Rouse. BTCC is probably the most competitive Touring Car Championship in the world. Colin has 51 BTCC International race wins, he has been on the BTCC podium on 141 occasions and he has been awarded 2 Silver Stars from the British Racing Drivers Club. It is widely acknowledged that Colin is one of the fastest and most consistent Touring Car Drivers in the world and his nomination tonight is well deserved following his fourth BTCC title win in 2019.