



Carryduff Forklift MSA ANICC Northern Ireland Stage Rally Championship - Update No 2 – after round 2- McGrady Insurance Stages at Bishopscourt on 17 March 2012

Date: 20th March 2012

Subject: MSA ANICC NIRC Update No 2

No. Pages: 3

From: Championship Coordinator

To: MSA / ANICC / Stage Rally Specialist Committee

Organising Club: Ballynahinch & District Motor Club Ltd
Venue: Bishopscourt Race Circuit, Co Down. Northern Ireland.
Starters: 66 (52 drivers & 42 co drivers registered for MSA NIRC started)
Finishers: 51

The **2012 Carryduff Forklift MSA ANICC Northern Ireland Stage Rally Championship** continued at Bishopscourt on Saturday 17th March with the McGrady Insurance Stages Rally.

The Ballynahinch & District Motor Club organised event attracted an excellent entry of 66 cars, and crews had a good dry sunny day around the former RAF airfield. Six stages made up of two runs over three different stage layouts were planned for the day.

Current Northern Ireland Rally Championship leader Derek McGarrity, in a new Mini WRC, led the field away followed by Ray Brammer in an S8 Subaru at two, Derek McGeehan at three in his Mini WRC, James Gillen at four in a Subaru Impreza WRC, John McGaffin at five in a Subaru Impreza WRC and Trevor Ferguson at six in his Group N Impreza. The top two wheel drive runner was event sponsor Fintan McGrady who started at twelve.

The first stage saw McGarrity setting the fastest time by 7.8 seconds from Derek McGeehan who was 8.3 seconds up on third fastest Kieron Graffin who was in a S9 Subara Impreza. Both Ray Brammer and James Gillen failed to finish the first stage due to visits to the scenery following high speed spins. David Graham in his Mitsubishi Evo was fifth fastest and led the Group N class from Trevor Ferguson by 2.9 seconds. The leading two wheel drive competitor was Rodney White who was in seventh place overall. Mc Garrity was fastest again on stage two by 8.2 seconds from McGeehan who was just 1.5 seconds quicker than Graffin. So after two stages McGarrity had a lead of 16 Seconds over McGeehan who was



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9.8 seconds up on Graffin. Graham was still fifth overall and leading Group N by 6.2 seconds from Ferguson. The two wheel drive lead was held by Rodney White who was in seventh overall and 4.9 seconds up on Gary Price.

On stage three McGarrity was again fastest and gained a further 8.2 seconds on McGeehan who could only manage fourth fastest behind Graffin and McGaffin. On stage four McGarrity was again fastest by 6.7 seconds from McGaffin with Graffin 0.1 second slower and McGeehan a further 0.6 back. At the end of stage four McGarrity had a lead of 31.2 seconds from McGeehan. Graffin was third 7.5 seconds behind with McGaffin in fourth 12.9 back.

David Graham, in sixth overall, still led Group N by 12 seconds from Trevor Ferguson. Gary Price in seventh overall was the leading two wheel drive car with James Kennedy 3.6 seconds behind.

On the fifth stage McGarrity was again fastest and took a further 1.2 seconds from Graffin who had moved into second place. Derek's lead was now over forty seconds with one stage to go. McGeehan lost over 12 seconds to Graffin but still held on to third place with McGaffin in fourth. David Graham was still leading Group N and held fifth overall. Gary Price still held the two wheel drive lead and seventh overall. On the last stage Derek McGarrity was again fastest and his winning margin was 51 seconds. McGarrity won all six stages and put on an impressive show in his new Mini WRC. Kieron Graffin was second 1.7 seconds in front of Derek McGeehan's Mini. John McGaffin finished fourth.

Fifth place went to David Graham who was the leading Group N driver. The top 2wd finisher was James Kennedy who was sixth overall. Seventh overall was Dominic McNeill with David Armstrong eighth, Trevor Ferguson ninth and event sponsor Fintan McGrady tenth.

In the Montgomery Motorsport Historic category, Raymond Johnston and Mark Johnston in their Ford Escort emerged victorious ahead of Andy Johnson and Jim McSherry in their Vauxhall Chevette. Drew Wylie brought his Ford Escort home in third place.

Richard Tannahil/Brian Crawford won the Ford Fiesta Sporting Trophy Ireland section.

Top 6 finishers:

1. Derek McGarrity/James McKee – Mini WRC – 32:49.5
2. Kieron Graffin/Neil Doherty - Subaru Impreza S9 – 33:40.5
3. Derek McGeehan/Alan McGeehan – Mini WRC – 33:42.2
4. John McGaffin/Lesley McGaffin– Subaru Impreza WRC – 33:56.6
5. David Graham/James McDermott– Mitsubishi Lance Evo 9 – 34:36.7
6. James Kennedy/Heather Kennedy – Ford Escort MkII - 34:49.3

Championship Class leaders after Round 2 :-

Class 1 – Michael Nutt - Sean Topping
Class 2 – Trevor Ferguson - David McElroy
Class 3 – Glen Irwin – Rodney Wilson
Class 4 – Simon Hemphill – Ciaran McMenamin
Class 5 – Robert Erwin – Jimmy Graham
Class 6 – Mervyn Williamson – George Hamilton
Class 7 – James Kennedy – Heather Kennedy
Class 8 – Simon Woodside – Steven Dowds
Class 9a – John McGaffin – Lesley McGaffin
Class 9b – Derek McGeehan – Laurie Smyth/James McKee
Class 10 – No competitors registered
Class 11 – Andy Johnson - Jim McSherry

Overall Leaders: – Derek McGarrity – James McKee

Sunoco MSA NI Group N Championship Leaders:- Trevor Ferguson – David McElroy

MSA NI 2wd Championship Leaders:- Simon Woodside – Steven Dowds

MSA NI Junior Championship Leader:- Matthew Mason

M E Crowe MSA NI Ladies Championship Leaders:- Driver – none registered.
Co-driver – Lesley McGaffin



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Montgomery Motorsport Historic Championship Leaders:- Andy Johnson – Jim McSherry

Ford Fiesta Sport Trophy Leaders:- Richard Tannahill – Brian Crawford

The next round of the **MSA ANICC Northern Ireland Stage Rally Championship** will be the Circuit of Ireland Rally on 6/7th April 2012.

Ends

David Gilmore
Championship Coordinator



Photo of Derek McGarrity/James McKe by William Wylie Photography.



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