



McGarrity The National Hero on Round Two of the 2016 MSA ANICC McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship!

Derek McGarrity and Barry McNulty in their Fiesta WRC took a convincing victory on the Circuit of Ireland National Rally, round two of the MSA ANICC McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship at the weekend.

The two day closed road event traversed over some revered stages such as Glendun, Torr Head and Hamiltons Folly and was running behind the European Championship. It provided a stern test for the N.I. Championship runners, including the winner. "It was a difficult rally" commented the Glengormley driver. "To be honest when I saw the entry with the lack of other WRC cars in the mix I tried to change my entry into the International event, but it was just not possible to do that despite everyone's efforts. We headed for the National but it was tough from the word go, as we still had problems with the car, and the condition of the road after the International section with mud being pulled out was worse than we expected. We had an engine problem on the last stage at Kirkistown and it affected us also at the weekend, despite the engine having been sent away. On the stage three lag the car started to melt plugs, and misfire again badly, dropping off cylinders, which really affected us on the long Glens stage. It was a matter at the weekend of keeping the lag down to position one, and short shifting the car over the rally. We got to the end and completed the rally using only six second hand tyres. It was good to finish but I enjoyed it more last year when we had the likes of Kenny McKinstry and Declan Boyle in similar cars."

Slotting into second overall where non-championship runners, Ollie Mellors and Ian Windress in their Proton Super 2000, with two-wheel drive winner Wesley Patterson in his 2.5 MK2 Escort, a fine third. His only real drama was bouncing off a hedge on the Bucks Head stage. "I was lucky enough on that one" said the Lisburn driver. "It was a four left over crest. It was loaded with mud and we climbed the bank. Other than that however we had a great weekend, and I really enjoyed the Saturday stages and the race with Ollie Mellors."

Other two wheel driver runners weren't so lucky. Frank Kelly's engine failed soon after stage one, both Keith White in his MK1 Escort and brother Rodney in his Sunbeam retired with differential failures whilst running strongly, and Paul Killen was another to succumb to the mechanical mayhem after setting great times on his home stages. Camillus Bradley and Crawford Henderson's controlled drive netted them fourth, ahead of Scots visitor Donnie McDonald in his Group A Evo 9, who recorded a fastest National time. Alastair Cochrane and Ian Kidd brought their 2 litre MK2 into sixth and first in class six, with Waterfoot's Declan McNaughton seventh in his slightly battered 2.4 Escort, revelling in his home stages on day one. A collision with the bales on the treacherous Newtownards town stage, and then a broken exhaust manifold on day two dropped him down from fourth to seventh. Eighth was Welshman Jamie Jukes in his unusual Mitsubishi Mirage R5, with championship sponsor Fintan McGrady, having a great run in his 2.5 MK2 Escort to take ninth. Tenth was Banbridge's John Devlin in his modified Talbot Sunbeam, with Ballycastle's Colm McFall taking Group N in fourteenth overall. Clive Kilpatrick had led Group N until a mechanical failure on stage thirteen, and Simon Woodside who was second after day one, retired on the Saturday's opening Bucks Head stage, as this tough rally was designed to test man and machine.

Other class winners were: Nick Barnett - class 1 (Honda Civic), Leroy Mills- class 3 (Vauxhall Corsa), Kyle White- class 4- (Citroen C2), John Gordon- class 5 (MK2 Escort), Niall Creighton- class 11-Historic (Lotus Cortina MK1), Ian Millar- class 12- FIA Historic (MK2 Escort). Round three of the McGrady series is on gravel on 7th May for the Magherafelt Motor Club's Tour of the Sperrins Rally.

2016 McGrady Insurance MSA ANICC Northern Ireland Rally Championship 2016-Round Two results

1 st	Derek McGarrity / Barry McNulty	Ford Fiesta WRC	1hr 56m 49.0s
2nd	Ollie Mellors/ Ian Windress	Proton Satria S2000	+1m 08.9s
3rd	Wesley Patterson / Johnny Baird	Ford Escort MK2	+1m 42.1s
4th	Camillus Bradley/ Crawford Henderson	Ford Escort MK2	+3m 28.3s
5th	Donnie McDonald/ Andrew Falconer	Mitsubishi Evo 9	+3m 54.1s
6th	Alastair Cochrane / Ian Kidd	Ford Escort Mk2	+4m 04.6s
7th	Declan McNaughton/ Sean Hayde	Ford Escort MK2	+4m 12.1s
8th	Jamie Jukes/ Dave Williams	Mitsubishi Mirage R5	+4m 55.8s
9th	Fintan McGrady/ Ray Fitzpatrick	Ford Escort MK2	+5m 29.2s
10th	John Devlin/ John McCarthy	Talbot Sunbeam	+6m 13.2s

2016 McGrady Insurance MSA ANICC Northern Ireland Rally Championship 2016—Rounds

1	Pacenotes Stages Kirkistown	Tarmac	North Armagh Motor Club	13th February
2	Circuit of Ireland National	Tarmac	Ulster Automobile Club	7th-9th April
3	Tour of the Sperrins	Gravel	Magherafelt & District MC	7 th May
4	Mourne Rally	Tarmac	Newry Motor Club	11 th June
5	Tyrone Stages Rally	Tarmac	Cookstown Motor Club	30 th July
6	Ulster National Rally	Tarmac	Northern Ireland MC	19 th -20 th August
7	Bushwhacker Rally	Gravel	Omagh Motor Club	24 th September
8	Down Rally	Tarmac	Rathfriland Motor Club	15 th October

*Reserve events- Enniskillen MC- 3th September, Ballynahinch & District MC 12th November

To keep up to date please check out the NIRC Facebook page-<http://www.facebook.com/nirallying> and check out www.anicc.org.uk for the series regulations and latest points. Rally results available on www.rallyscore.net

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