



## **Northern Ireland's Motorsport Competitors Celebrate Outstanding Achievement and Success!**

Northern Ireland may be a relatively small country, but it is filled with motorsport talent, and that was very evident at Saturday's annual Association of Northern Ireland Car Clubs' (ANICC) awards evening!

With an impressive array of more than 200 perpetual cups and crystal trophies, the finest competitors in the country were present at the Armagh City Hotel to receive their accolades and awards for the 2017 season.

All motorsport disciplines were represented from junior rallying and autotesting to racing, hill climbing and stage rallying, the star-studded evening was a night to remember. It was fantastic to acknowledge all the UK award winners from Northern Ireland in the JLT/MSA Club and Volunteer of the Year awards with **Barry Arundell** from Omagh lifting the overall UK Volunteer of the Year Award. Barry and two category winners in these awards will each attend the prestigious MSA Night of Champions at the RAC Club, Pall Mall, London on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Members of **Ballynahinch and District Motor Club** received their award and cheque from MSA as runner-up in the JLT/MSA Club of the Year.

On hand to present many of the awards was **Colin Turkington**, double British Touring Car Champion.

Together with presentations honouring all the ANICC Championship winners there were also other surprises in store. The ANICC presented a very well deserved 2017 Clubman of the Year Award to **Jackie Elliott** from Fivemiletown marking her contribution as Chair of the ANICC Stage Rally Committee, Chair of her local Motor Club, outstanding club official at events for over 20 years and a most successful competitor in many Championships and grassroots rallies throughout Ireland.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2017 Northern Ireland Motorsport Award which was presented to triple World Superbike Champion **Jonathan Rea MBE** for his achievements around the world in winning three successive World Championships. The four wheeled motorsport fraternity in Northern Ireland truly acknowledged the dedication and commitment of Jonathan for his support to his homeland of Northern Ireland and this award was a wonderful surprise for everyone. Accepting the award on his behalf Johnny Rea (father) said: "This is a fantastic honour for Jonathan to receive this award from all his motorsport supporters at home and he is very sorry not to be able to be with us tonight as he is in Australia preparing for the 2018 season. Jonathan sincerely appreciates this support from four wheeled motorsport Clubs and members."

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 some exceptional driving talent and in 2017, many achieved their personal goals and have been recognised on the International stage. Henry also expressed his personal support for all the fantastic volunteers who work in the sport from Northern Ireland and particularly again this year with a Northern Ireland volunteer claiming the overall award from MSA."

"Finally, Henry also congratulated Jonathan Rea MBE on receiving the ANICC 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 2018."

With the triumphs of 2017 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](http://www.anicc.org.uk).

Main award winners and nominees for the 2017 Northern Ireland Motorsport Award are named below.

Photograph shows Johnny Rea receiving the ANICC Motorsport Award on behalf of his son, Jonathan Rea MBE from (left) Nicky Moffitt, ANICC Secretary, Colin Turkington and Henry Campbell, ANICC Chairman (Photo credit to John O'Neill, Sperrins Photography).

## **MAIN AWARD WINNERS:**

### **ANICC 2017 MOTORSPORT AWARD**

Recipient

**Jonathan Rea MBE**

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

### **ANICC 2017 CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Recipient

**Jackie Elliott**

### **SAM BOWDEN GARAGE SERVICES AUTOTEST CHAMPIONSHIP**

2017 NI Autotest CHAMPION

**Paul Mooney**

### **McGRADY INSURANCE / MSA NI STAGE RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP**

2017 Northern Ireland Stage Rally Champions

**Jonny Greer and Kirsty Riddick**

### **S.W ADAIR TYRES SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP**

2017 Sprint Champion

**Michael Roche**

### **MILLERS OILS HILLCLIMB CHAMPIONSHIP**

2017 Hill Climb Champion

**Chris Houston**

### **NORTHERN IRELAND FORMULA FORD CHAMPIONSHIP**

2017 NI FF1600 Champion

**Niall Murray**

### **McGRADY INSURANCE JUNIOR 1000 RALLY CHALLENGE IRELAND**

2017 Junior 1000 Rally Challenge Champion

**Sam Adams and Andrew Bushe**

## **SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

JLT/MSA Volunteer of the Year – Overall UK winner

**Barry Arundell**

JLT/MSA Volunteer of the Year – Steward/Clerk Category winner

**Jonathan Millar**

JLT/MSA Volunteer of the Year – Marshals Category winner

**Brian Wilson**

JLT/MSA Club of the Year – 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall UK Club

**Ballynahinch and District Motor Club**

## NOMINEES FOR THE 2017 MOTORSPORT AWARD (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

### **CALLUM DEVINE**

**23 year old Callum Devine from Claudy was in tremendous form during 2017 driving his Opel Adam in the Prestone British Rally Championship and claiming the 2017 British Junior Rally Championship title. Callum started competition at 16 years of age in the F1000 Junior Rally C'ship. Over the next few years Callum drove a Citroen C2R2 then a Fiesta R2 before the new Opel Adam from 2015. As 2017 British Junior Rally Champion Callum was a finalist for the Motorsport Ireland Billy Coleman Young Rally Driver of the Year award and in December he was announced as the winner receiving significant support towards his 2018 season.**

### **JONNY GREER**

**After many years competing on stage rally events in Northern Ireland Jonny has enjoyed the ultimate success in winning the 2017 McGrady Insurance MSA NI Stage Rally Championship driving the David Greer Motorsport Citroen DS3 R5 and partnered by Kirsty Riddick who travelled from Scotland to events. Jonny has many successes to his name and during 2016 finished 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall in the Prestone MSA British Rally Championship which gave him the springboard to Championship spoils in Northern Ireland this year where he beat the reigning champion in a last event / last stage decider during the Magherafelt Event on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – a very worthy nominee for the Motorsport Award.**

### **DANIEL HARPER**

**At just 17 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 now competing in Car Racing during 2016 and 2017 where he has two successful years in the Ginetta Junior Championship supporting the BTCC and finishing 2016 as Rookie Champion and 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall in the 2017 Championship. Just prior to Christmas Daniel was a finalist**

in the Porsche Carrera Cup GB Scholarship and following a difficult selection process he was announced as the winner of this award covering both 2018 and 2019 competing in the Porsche Carrera Cup GB over both seasons.

#### **KRIS MEEKE**

Kris won the 2015 ANICC Motorsport Award for his performance during the 2015 WRC representing the Abu Dhabi Total Citroen World Rally Team. Kris continued to drive for Citroen in both 2016 and 2017 and has continued to deliver two outright wins in during both these years. Kris completed 2017 in 7<sup>th</sup> position overall driving the new Citroen C3 World Rally Car and we wish him well tonight as he competes on Rally Monte Carlo.

#### **JONATHAN REA MBE**

A departure from our usual four wheeled nominees for this award we have a well-known Motorcycle racer who has received nominations from throughout the ANICC Clubs, Officers and Media. Jonathan, from Larne, has gained exceptional success in recent years emulating and exceeding the results many of our best known International Motorcycle Racers have achieved over the last 30 years and it is a real pleasure to say that Jonathan, a Triple World Superbike Champion (in 2015, 2016 and 2017) has received support from the car fraternity. Jonathan was also honoured to be in the final 12 of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2017 and when all the public votes were counted Jonathan was runner up in this very prestigious award, obviously very highly regarded by all in the wider motorsport community and receiving votes from throughout the UK. Jonny is a great ambassador for Northern Ireland.