



MITSUBISHI RALLIART EVOLUTION CHALLENGE

IRELAND



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 - 2009

Entries on the increase

I am pleased to report that, as each round comes along, we welcome new teams to our series. We started the season with four registered crews for rounds one and two, then ten for rounds three and four - and now twelve! Our latest recruits are John McGlaughlin and Crawford Henderson who I am delighted to welcome on board, after I have badgered them to join us since the series began!

I am also pleased to see the return of Michael Murray for the next round, who was one of the first to register with us when we kicked off last year. The 'pay as you go' system first trialled in Ireland appears to be popular and therefore, next year we're looking to introduce it in the UK and Sweden - and anywhere else we go with the Challenge. Watch this space!

Larsen Circuit of Ireland - Rounds three and four

The Circuit of Ireland was certainly an interesting event for us. It was great to welcome a number of new crews to the series: Alan Carmichael/Ivor Lamont, Neil McCance/Sean Ferris, Geoff McMahon/Robert Graham, William Mavitty/Keefe Kilcoyne, Alan & Gavin Burrows and the return of 2008 Champ Brendan Cumiskey, who enlisted the help of another '08 competitor Richard Hyland on the notes.

To accommodate everyone we amalgamated the times for the National and International events, but with the route changed in the week before the rally and with some of the stages cancelled in the National event, I have to admit it became a nightmare to calculate the times! I'm not sure if we'll be using that system again.

Either way, Neil and Sean commanded the proceedings and won both rounds. It was great to see Neil back in the driver's seat. He may have lost a kidney, but he has certainly lost none of his speed!

Brendan's return didn't quite go according to plan, as a landing after one of the event's many jumps early on Saturday forced him and Richard into retirement. For the rest of the weekend there was an excellent battle for second between Alan/Ivor, Geoff/Robert, Stanley/Donnacha and William/Keefe, all of them having a foot on the podium at some point during the weekend.

As it turned out, the weather played its part on Saturday afternoon and wet roads slowed some of you. However, at close of play on Sunday, Alan/Ivor had held on to claim second on aggregate (collecting the Group N award in the International event in the process), with William/Keefe third after an impressive drive in their Evo VI. Our commiserations went to Tom /Robert, Alan/Gavin and Stanley/Donnacha, who all retired on Sunday afternoon.

After a near faultless performance over the two days, Liam and Mary overcame a few last minute issues to post another two finishes and, in doing so, now top the series standings by three points.

Round three results

1	Neil McCance/Sean Ferris	1:05:29.5
2	Alan Carmichael/Ivor Lamont	1:06:14.9
3	Stanley Ballantine/Donnacha O'Callaghan	1:07:17.3
4	William Mavitty/Keefe Kilcoyne	1:07:42.1
5	Geoff McMahon /Robert Graham	1:07:55.0
6	Thomas White/Robert Murphy	1:09:03.1
7	Alan Burrows/Gavin Burrows	1:09:40.2
8	Liam Egan/Mary O'Kane	1:11:14.5

Retirements

SS2 Brendan Cumiskey/Richard Hyland Engine



Series standings after round 2

Drivers		Points
1	Liam Egan	27
2=	Neil McCance	24
2=	Keith Cronin	24
4	Alan Carmichael	20
5	Stanley Ballantine	18
6	William Mavitty	15
7	Geoff McMahon	13
8	Tom White	5
9	Alan Burrows	4
-	Brendan Cumiskey	-

Co-drivers

1=	Sean Ferris	24
1=	Greg Shinnors	24
3	Ivor Lamont	20
4=	Colin Harkness	18
4=	Donnacha O'Callaghan	18
6	Keefe Kilcoyne	15
7	Robert Graham	13
8	Mary O'Kane	9
9	Robert Murphy	5
10	Gavin Burrows	4
11	Richard Hyland	0

PIAA Junior Award

1=	Keith Cronin	10
1=	William Mavitty	10



Round four results

1 Neil McCance/Sean Ferris	37:15.2
2 Alan Carmichael/Ivor Lamont	38:11.7
3 William Mavitty/Keefe Kilcoyne	39:09.7
4 Geoff McMahon/Robert Graham	39:10.4
5 Liam Egan/Mary O'Kane	44:27.2

Retirements

SS12 Thomas White/Robert Murphy	Accident
SS13 Alan Burrows/Gavin Burrows	Accident
SS13 Stanley Ballantine/Donnacha O'Callagha	Engine

Other Awards

Sunoco Spirit Award:	William Mavitty/Keefe Kilcoyne
Best Prepared Car Award:	Alan Carmichael/Ivor Lamont

Round five - Kilmore Hotel Cavan Stages

This is our first one-day, one-round event of the year - so it should be a bit easier than last time to work out the results! It's also the first time we've been to this event and, with 135 km in store, it is building up to be an excellent weekend.

Geoff Doe (our eligibility scrutineer) and I will be over on Saturday afternoon for scrutineering and signing on. Once again, we ask that cars are 100% compliant to Group N regulations. This includes the fitting of catalytic converters. You have been warned!

It also includes running the right stickers. If you haven't got them, don't worry, as I'll have them with me at the event. Also, please don't forget to sign on with me for the Evo Challenge - as well as for the rally. Documentation takes place at the Kilmore Hotel.

In addition, it is a regulation of the championship to set up in the designated Mitsubishi area in the service park. Please look for the James Foley Rallysport truck and set up as close as you can to this. If not, you will be asked to move, and your crew won't be very happy about doing this I'm sure.

As you will see from the rally time schedule, we can all have a lie-in on Sunday. However, this does mean that the event finishes a little later than normal that evening. With this in mind - and as most of us have to go to work the next morning - it is our intention to present the Evo Challenge awards on the finish ramp, so you can be on your way home as soon as possible.

Round five entries

- 5 John McGlaughlin/Crawford Henderson
 - 6 Neil McCance/Sean Ferris
 - 10 Liam Egan/Mary O'Kane
 - 11 Brendan Cumiskey/TBC
 - 12 Stanley Ballantine/Donnacha O'Callaghan
 - 29 William Mavitty/Keefe Kilcoyne
 - 59 Thomas White/Robert Murphy
 - 60 Michael Murray/Brian Daniels
- * seeding subject to change.

Other Evo Challenges

The UK Evo Challenge has seen four rounds take place already. So far Daniel Barry has won three and Simon Hughes one. They now lie first and second in the championship, separated by six points. Our longest standing driver Nik Elsmore (this is his seventh season with us) is in third a further nine points back. Round five, the first to be held in Wales, takes place at the end of this month.

In Sweden - like Ireland - it is also our second season and there have been three rallies held up to now, each seeing a different winner. They are: Markus Hällbo, Jimmy Joge and Jocke Nyman. Jocke recorded his first Evo Challenge victory last weekend on the South Swedish Rally and now leads the Swedish series by five points from Markus and then Joachim Carlström, who is one point behind in third. The next round takes place at the end of June.

For those of you who are going, I look forward to seeing you in Cavan

