



# MITSUBISHI RALLIART EVOLUTION CHALLENGE

## IRELAND



# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 - 2009

## Second season gets underway

Welcome to the first of this year's Evolution Challenge newsletters, which we aim to publish in-between events this season. These bulletins are distributed to drivers, co-drivers, teams and all who are involved with the Irish Mitsubishi series, so please take the time to read through them, as they are likely to contain information which is relevant to you!

### Welcome

If this is your first season with the Evolution Challenge, then we bid you a warm welcome.. If you're returning to the fold having competed in either Ireland or the UK before, then we are delighted to see you back. As I'm sure you appreciate, repeat business is always very satisfying, as it means that we must be doing something right!

As those of you who competed in West Cork will have seen, or if you have been involved with our championships before, you will know that we work hard to make sure that the series is as enjoyable as it is competitive and we aim to create a camaraderie between everyone involved. I'm sure it will also not have escaped your notice that we also pride ourselves on our PR and have put many drivers on the map (or should that be co-drivers) since the series began in the UK in 2001.

### Entries on the increase

We are delighted to report that following the first two rounds, when we had four out of the five registered teams entered, we are now looking forward to seeing nine crews take part on the Circuit of Ireland - rounds three and four. To more than double our numbers from one event to the next is great news and we are appreciative of all of you who have agreed to sign-up.

We trust that our 'pay-as-you-go' option of registration has helped encourage a few new faces - plus the innovative plan to allow crews contesting either the National or International events to score championship points. To enable this bit of lateral thinking to take place, we thank all of you who have supported our cause to attract more crews. At the end of the day it helps on a number of levels by making the series more credible, it adds to the competition, gives better PR and media presence - plus pleases the sponsors of course.

### Rounds one and two

So, to re-cap on what happened in West Cork: We saw four crews signed up for the first event in the calendar. Albeit disappointing in terms of numbers, we were delighted with the performances of the teams over the weekend and the exposure we achieved.

As the time sheets will show, the very much on-form Keith Cronin and Greg Shinnors dominated the two days around Clonakilty and, such was their blistering pace, they not only claimed Evo Challenge honours on both days by a considerable margin, but also recorded fastest overall times on six of the event's 16 stages. No wonder they went on to win the first round of the British Championship two weeks later!

Making the trip to his native home-land from New York (a journey he intends to make for each round) Liam Egan, with co-driver Colin Harkness, overcame a series of mechanical issues to claim second spot during the two days of competition.



### Series standings after round 2

Drivers	Points
1 Keith Cronin	24
2 Liam Egan	18
3 Stanley Ballantine	10

  

Co-drivers	Points
1 Greg Shinnors	24
2 Colin Harkness	18
3 Donnacha O'Callaghan	10

  

PIAA Junior Award	Points
1 Keith Cronin	5



Another notable performance was delivered by Stanley Ballantine and Donnacha O'Callaghan, who would have comfortably secured the runners-up spot if it wasn't for an 11th-hour transmission problem which dropped them to third on aggregate. Transmission problems also plagued Tom White and Robert Murphy, who were disappointed to record two DNFs, but vowed to come back for more.

#### Round one results

1 Keith Cronin /Greg Shinnors	1:16:55.2
2 Stanley Ballantine/Donnacha O'Callaghan	1:20:23.8
3 Liam Egan/Colin Harkness	1:37:38.3

#### Retirements

SS8 Thomas White /Robert Murphy Gearbox

#### Round two results

1 Keith Cronin/Greg Shinnors	1:00:29.4
2 Liam Egan/Colin Harkness	1:12:00.5

#### Retirements

SS11 Thomas White/Robert Murphy Gearbox

SS14 Stanley Ballantine/Donnacha O'Callaghan Transmission

#### Other Awards

Sunoco Spirit Award: Tom White  
Best Prepared Car Award: Liam Egan

#### Round three and four

This will be our first visit to the Circuit of Ireland and, with potentially nine crews out there - plus the absence of Keith and Greg - it is destined to be an exciting event. Adding to the interest of the weekend is our system to include crews contesting both the National and International rallies.

To make this work, we will be producing our own set of results. As both categories of event use exactly the same stages, the results will be calculated from the stage times and penalties accrued during each day. Please rest assured that I will be working closely with the organisers to ensure that if the need arises to allocate a notional time for any reason, then a realistic decision will be made.

#### Newcomers

I am delighted to report that we will be seeing the return of our 2008 Champion Brendan Cumiskey for rounds three and four. Brendan obviously can't get enough of a good thing and is joining us again for what really is his home event. He will be partnered by Conor Foley and driving his Evo IX.

Another crew to return from last year's Irish series are Alan Carmichael and Ivor Lamont. They are also the only team to be doing the UK championship as well this season.

After no less than five seasons in the British Evo Challenge, Neil McCance makes the switch to the Irish alternative and will be partnered by Sean Ferris on his debut with the series in Ireland.

Evo Challenge debutants joining us are: William Mavitty/Keefe Kilcoyne, Geoff McMahon/Robert Graham, Alan Burrows/Gavin Burrows and Mary O'Kane, who will be co-driving for Liam Egan. You are all very welcome.

#### Compliance

As those of you who have competed with us in the past will know,

we are proud of our reputation for running a fair and technically correct series. To help achieve this, we enlist the help of two eligibility scrutineers: Nicky Strachan, who looks after the Motorsport Ireland side of things and Geoff Doe, who has worked with the Evolution Challenge since it began and what he doesn't know about Evos is not worth knowing. You have been warned!

Therefore, we ask that you ensure your car is technically compliant to Group N regulations and that you also read the regulations regarding other items such as:

- Displaying the correct decals: No stickers no points or prizes. If you haven't got them, we can supply at the event.
- Service area: Please park in the designated Mitsubishi area near the James Foley race centre. If not, your crew will be asked to move, and they won't be too happy about that of course.

All drivers and co-drivers will be asked to sign on for the Evo Challenge. I will be present at documentation, so please come and see me. This is important, as it provides us with an opportunity to pass on any amendments or bulletins and to issue you with any decals or important information.

#### Sponsors and suppliers

As you know, motorsport cannot exist without sponsorship. We therefore request that you patronise the suppliers who support the Evolution Challenge. Pirelli Tyres and Sunoco fuels are compulsory of course, but we also ask that you support: Carbone Lorraine brake pads, Murray Motorsport, Speedline Corse wheels, PIAA lights and wipers, Sparco and Pacenotes.

- Pirelli tyres should be ordered from Entire Motorsport. Please contact James Foley Rallysport.
- Sunoco fuel should be ordered from Irish Racing fuels. Please contact Jim Crozier.
- Carbone Lorraine products are available via Murray Motorsport.
- Exclusive Ralliart racewear is available from the Evo Challenge coordination office.

For full contact details, please see the website or the back page of the regulations.

#### Overseas Evo Challenges

I'm sure it will not have escaped your notice that there are other Evo Challenges running in the UK and Sweden this year.

The UK is now into its ninth consecutive season and so far, two rounds have taken place: The Rallye Sunseeker and Border Counties. Ironically, Irishman Daniel Barry has cleaned up, with Simon Hughes not far behind in second place and Owen Murphy - another from the Republic - in third.

Sweden has seen one round so far, the LBC Ruschen, which is a very popular - 240 car entry - snow rally. Markus Hållbo took the honours in his Evo Challenge debut, with Hans-Erik Weng in an Evo X second and Jocke Nyman third.

For those of you going to Dundalk this weekend, I look forward to seeing you there!

