

## Breen gets a grip on the Pirelli



Craig Breen, said: "I am, over the moon. To win in Portugal, Ireland and now here on the Pirelli, what more could I ask for."



3<sup>rd</sup> Overall – Tom Waister / Tim Sturla

second test of the morning would see the demise of Hall, who slid wide on a corner and off the road. Orr improved his pace further and scored his first fastest time of the day to move into the lead of the event. Waister took second fastest with Breen third. Edwards was comfortably leading the Challenge rally and the main competitor pushing the BRC runners, but he would pick up a puncture during the stage and lost 30s.

The penultimate stage of the rally was the longest in length, 11.57 miles of Roughside. The stage saw the lead once again change with Orr setting joint third quickest time with Waister. Edwards would be second quickest – back up to speed after his time loss on the previous stage but Breen would take the stage win and move back into the lead to enter the final stage with a 3.8 second cushion over Orr.

All that now remained for the FST crews was the final 7.26 miles of Chirdonhead. Edwards knew he was not in contention for the win going into the final stage of the event but was desperate to try and get on the podium, however, whilst pushing hard he was caught out and sent off the road, losing around 22 minutes and all hopes of a good haul of championship points. Back with the international runners Breen knew that Orr was very close behind so he gave it his all and was rewarded, coming out of the stage with the fastest time and the event win as well as the Castrol Hard Charger Award. Waister would be second quickest on the stage and finish third FST crew overall and Orr would be third quickest on the stage but finish second overall in the final classification, his best finish so far this year.

The next round is the RSAC Scottish Rally on the 26th June.

him to stay in contention with the leaders. Stevie Brown (21) from Peterhead and navigator Andrew Roughhead had only third gear from the stage start after the gear cables came loose, the crew would complete the opening leg but drop time in the process.

Stage 2, 8.70 miles of the Valley. Breen found his form on this stage and took the fastest time, Kyle Orr (19) from Dromore and co-driver Rob Fagg showed their speed by taking second quickest with Donnelly taking third quickest only 1.5 seconds slower than Orr. Heading into the overnight halt the top three would be Breen, Donnelly and Orr.

The second day of the event saw the crews take in four stages in quick succession with no service between any of the tests. Stage 3, the 6.98 miles of Pundershaw saw Waister take fastest time, two seconds quicker than Hall who was now under no pressure after losing time on the opening leg. Orr would be third quickest and in doing so close the gap to rally leader Breen. Donnelly slid wide hitting a rock bending the rear beam.

The 8.30 miles of Trinet, the



Winners – Craig Breen / Gareth Roberts

sustain a puncture, dropping him over two minutes. Mark Donnelly (18) from Omagh and co-driver Paddy Robinson were fastest and set a time of 9.40.7. Tom Waister (23) from Nottingham and regular navigator Tim Sturla had decided to enter the event in their Fiesta and showed they were still on the pace taking second quickest, with Breen 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest. Round 2 winner Matt Edwards (24) from Cockermouth started later during the evening and with fading light and the lack of a rescue he still set a time of 9.49.1, an impressive achievement allowing

However, the FST victory was not an easy straight forward win for Breen. The FST crews were split between the BRC event and the BRC Challenge event, with the BRC crews running first on the road it was still light as Kris Hall (19) from Appleby, navigator Barry McNulty started the test, but cutting only the second corner of the stage he would



2<sup>nd</sup> Overall – Kyle Orr / Rob Fagg

### Championship Standings After Round 3

Pos	Driver	Points
1	Kyle Orr / Rob Fagg	65
2	Mark Donnelly / P Robinson	62
3	Matt Edwards / Andy Murphy	61
4	Craig Breen / Gareth Roberts	55
5	Kris Hall / Barry McNulty	50
6	Barry Greer / Susanne Wright	46
7	Ross Forde / Gary McElhinney	44
8	Martyn Jones / Kris Killip	36
9	John Boyd / Fred Bell	33
10	Stevie Brown / A Roughhead	33

### Overall Positions On Round 3

Pos	Driver	Total
1	Craig Breen / Gareth Roberts	52:12.4
2	Kyle Orr / Rob Fagg	52:24.1
3	Tom Waister / Tim Sturla	52:41.8
4	Mark Donnelly / Paddy Robinson	53:30.8
5	Ross Forde / Gary McElhinney	53:57.8
6	Barry Greer / Susanne Wright	53:58.8
7	Martyn Jones / Kris Killip	54:07.3
8	Stevie Brown / Andrew Roughhead	54:40.5
9	Patrick Malley / Malcolm Read	55:08.8
10	John Boyd / Fred Bell	55:44.5

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