



>> **Jonathan MacDonald's RALLY ROUND-UP**

It's Sol to play for



CROWD PLEASER...
 Ireland's Martin Taylor pictured during the 2012 event in his Proton Satria



FUN IN THE SUN... Last year's winning marshal Philip Bryans (centre) with Victoria Joseph & Sophie Black



GREER WE GO

SNAPSHOT PROFILE: BARRY GREER
DRIVER: Barry Greer
HEIGHT: 5ft 7in
HOME TOWN: Carryduff
BIRTH DATE: June 4, 1987
OCCUPATION: Carryduff Forklift Sales Administrator
RALLY CAR: Ford Fiesta/Mitsubishi Lancer
HOBBIES: Gym, music
 Carryduff's Barry Greer grew up with a family immersed in the world of motorsport. His father, Davy Greer, is still a regular face on the rally scene and runs DGM Sport, a successful rally hire and preparation business.

Being surrounded by rallying from such a young age, it was no surprise that both Barry and his brother Jonny also picked up their father's passion for motorsport. This week, we grabbed 30 seconds with Barry to find out a little bit more about his passion...

- Q. When did you first get behind a wheel?**
A. I got a Subaru Justy or Vivo, I think it was called, from the local auctions when I was about 12 or 13. It was great fun!
- Q. Who were your motorsport heroes as a child?**
A. Has to be Michael Schumacher — I was more into F1 than rallying when I was younger, but as the rallying bug grew, it had to be (Colin) McRae.
- Q. What is your favourite rally car?**
A. Ford Sierra Cosworth.
- Q. What was your first competitive event?**
A. I started karting when I was about ten years old. My first rally was at Bishopscourt in 2005 with a 1400 Group N Polo.
- Q. What is your worst memory in rallying?**
A. Borrowing Shaun Gallagher's Evo in Norway and rolling it on the ice. The gearbox then disintegrated on the way back to the hotel. There's nothing worse than damaging something that doesn't belong to you.

MARSHALS CAN WIN TRIP TO RALLY BARBADOS

VOLUNTEER marshals and officials at next month's Cartellie Killarney Rally of the Lakes will have the chance to win a fantastic trip to the Sol Rally Barbados 2013 on June 1-2.

The winner will enjoy an all expenses paid return trip across the Atlantic in the latest of a series of promotions organised in association with the Caribbean island's private sector Tourism Development Corporation and Pacenotes Rally Magazine.

It comes courtesy of the Barbados Rally Club, organisers of the Caribbean's biggest annual motor sport International.

Neil Barnard, the BRC's PRO, explains: "Over the past three years, with the valuable support of the TDC, the Club has offered prize trips to competitors, specta-

tors and marshals... and it is those volunteers, without whom motor sport simply could not survive, that we are concentrating on again this year.

"These competitions have been at the core of our European promotion of Sol Rally Barbados, which has resulted in a significant growth in first-time competitor numbers, particularly from Ireland.

"Of the 20 new crews entered last year and already confirmed for Sol RB13, 14 have come from Ireland."

Run over the May Day weekend (May 3-5), the Rally of the Lakes is a round of the Irish Tarmac Rally Championship, the Southern 4 Rally Championship and for the first time in Ireland, the FIA European Historic Rally Championship.

After a Friday evening Ceremonial Start

in Killarney Town Centre, there will be two days of rallying, with approximately 150 stage miles.

Clerk of the Course Dermot Healy said: "We hear more and more about Sol Rally Barbados, as the Irish contingent seems to grow every year.

"On behalf of all our volunteers, I'd like to thank the Barbados Rally Club for this terrific opportunity. I know that whoever wins it will fully deserve the prize."

All signed-on volunteers and marshals over the age of 17 will be eligible for the draw, to be made after the event.

The prize includes return flights on Virgin Atlantic from London Gatwick, accommodation for 12 nights and rental car for the duration.

If you would like to marshal at this year's event, register your interest with Chief Marshal Darren McCormack, who can be contacted on +353 (0)85 1455 856.



STRAKKA Racing completed 207 trouble-free laps with its new Honda Performance Development ARX-03c during a weather-interrupted two-day test at the Circuit Paul Ricard last week.

It was the first time the Silverstone-based team had run their upgraded 2013 spec. LMP1 car at a race track, and they were encouraged with the progress they made in understanding the car's new wider front Michelin tyres, front suspension geometry, steering configuration and front aero package.

Despite wet weather limiting running on both mornings, and dense fog curtailing the team's planned night-time session, drivers Jonny Kane, Nick Leventis and Danny Watts together completed a total test distance of 747.27miles.

The team will now analyse the technical data and driver feedback to be the best prepared they can be for the opening round of the series, the 6 Hours of Silverstone on Sunday, April 14.

N.Irish driver Jonny Kane, originally from Comber, Co Down, said: "We were a bit unlucky with the weather, yet it's still been a very productive two days test for us.

"The upgraded HPD ARX-03c's set-up has slightly changed but towards the end of the test we had a very good run and I'm really looking forward to Silverstone."



IVOR THE ENGINE... The reigning Northern Ireland Formula Ford Champion Ivor McCullough is one of the leading entries at Kirkistown

YOU CAN'T AF-FORD TO MISS KIRKISTOWN

THE 2013 motor racing circuit at Kirkistown gets off on a high note tomorrow with the opening rounds of three major Formula Ford Championships.

This includes the SuperSeries, which will be featured at circuits around the UK — with one round in France at Le Mans.

The Northern Ireland Formula Ford Championship, which proved so competitive last season, and the new All Ireland Formula Ford Championship will make for a vintage day of racing.

Already the 500 Motor Racing Club of Ireland has received a capacity entry with many returning to this class of racing along with many of the established stars.

The Northern Ireland Formula Ford Champion



Ivor McCullough is entered, as is his brother David, Jonny McMullan, Adrian Pollock and — just returning from racing over in the USA — Patrick McKenna.

The entry list is the best seen in Ireland in this class for many years and should produce some close and very exciting racing.

There will be further single-seater racing from the Formula Vees and the Rover-powered Formula Sheanes — with the latter being a class which is

unique to Ireland. And sportscar fans will not be disappointed as there will be two races and saloons which are growing in popularity at the Co Down venue and will add spice to the menu.

The Kirkistown Saloons, which comprises Hondas, Mitsubishis, Seats and Vauxhalls, are always high in entertainment value and the recently introduced class for Ford Fiestas has attracted a number of new drivers to the grid.

The new class to attract the young set into motor racing, Irish Ginetta Juniors, will be in action and this will be their first outing of the new season.

Qualifying gets underway bright and early at 9.30am.

For more information on the events log on to kirkistown.com.