



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

>> **Motorbike ROUND-UP**

● **PRELIMINARY** details have been released for this year's Donegal International Rally, round four of the Irish Tarmac Championship.

The event, which takes place over June 21-23, will adapt its usual three-leg format with the event base in Letterkenny.

Clerk of the Course Eamon McGee said: "We'll be using new territory as well as the older classics. Let's just say spectators and competitors will enjoy the stages, some having not been used in several years."

More details will be released over the coming weeks and rally fans can follow the event's Facebook page at facebook.com/donegalrally.ie.



**LAUNCH CONTROL...** Magherafelt & District Motor Club members pictured outside Walsh's Hotel in Maghera at the launch of the Tour of the Sperrins rally

**inbrief**



**YELLOW THERE..**  
Glenn Campbell



**CONVOY.. Cars**  
Barbados bound

**FERRY FAR AWAY**

A RECORD-breaking Celtic 'invasion force' left Co Antrim last week to tackle the Caribbean's biggest annual motor sport International.

Ten rally cars were loaded on to a transporter at a secret location to start a 5,000-mile journey to compete in Sol Rally Barbados 2013 over June 1-2.

The cars left the country by ferry from Belfast to Birkenhead, part of a 550-mile trip to Portsmouth on the English south coast, where all the remaining cars from Europe were already gathering.

They were then loaded on to a Geest Line freighter which set sail on the ten-day voyage to Barbados on Tuesday, calling at a number of European and Caribbean ports on the way.

Among the cars on the transporter were the stunning Nissan Micra belonging to Ballyclare's Glenn Campbell. He purchased his new mount just a couple of weeks ago so there was a huge rush to get it ready for Barbados.

The transporter also carried the Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 7 of Joe McQuillan, the Toyota Starlets of Maurice Moffett and Danny O'Brien, the Corolla of Raymond Conlon, the Philip Case Rally Sport-prepared Ford Escort MkII and Renault Clio R3 of Enda McCormack and Tommy Doyle, regular visitor Peter Gallagher's Peugeot 206 and the Ford Anglias of Scotland's Allan and Euan Mackay, whose cars are based in Ireland.

In addition to the cars carried on the transporter, the record-breaking Irish contingent includes the father and son team of Eddie and Keith Power, in a Toyota Corolla WRC and Renault Clio respectively, and New York-based Martin Donnelly (Evo IX).

**Tour of duty**

**BRADLEY READY TO MAKE HIS MARK IN ROUND 4 OF N.I. RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP**

**DRAPERSTOWN** driver Camillus Bradley heads the entry for this Saturday's Tour of the Sperrins Rally, round four of the Carryduff Forklift MSA Northern Ireland Stage Rally Championship.

Navigated by Charlie Beattie, the Mark 2 Escort crew head a horsepower-packed field of almost 100 crews for the Maghera-based event.

Number one will adorn the side of Bradley's Escort this weekend as a result of his victory in 2012 – but with a host of World Rally Car pilots biting at his heels, he will really have his work cut out if he is to overcome the might of four-wheel-drive power once again.

Those WRC pilots are akin to a 'who's who' of local rally talent. They include reigning Irish Tarmac Champion Darren Gass (Impreza WRC) as well as reigning N.I. champion Derek McGarerty (Impreza WRC).

Also joining the mix is recent Circuit of Kerry winner, Donagh Kelly (Impreza WRC), as well as Warrenpoint's Peadar Hurson (Escort WRC) and Draperstown's Derek McGeehan (MINI WRC).

While former N.I. champion George Robinson will start at No7 in his Mitsubishi Lancer, an interesting entry has been seeded at No8 as Nissan GT3 driver, Steven Kane, is set to make his rally debut aboard a MINI WRC.

More accustomed to driving a Nissan GT-R NISMO GT3 in the Blancpain Endurance Series, it will be a baptism of fire for 32-year-old Kane as he jumps in at the 'deep end' of rallying.

He will have to contend with the hedge-lined country lanes as well as a navigator shouting

pace notes – neither of which he is used to! In the two-wheel-drive field, Alistair Cochrane, Keith White and David Armstrong will challenge No1 seed Bradley for the 2WD honours in their Escorts.

Crumlin's Rodney White will also be in the mix with his Sunbeam, and insurance expert Fintan McGrady will be back behind the wheel of his stunning new Mark 2 Escort.

The event starts in Maghera at midday on Saturday when competitors leave the start ramp outside Walsh's Hotel. They will go on to tackle two loops of three stages, with service after stage three in Maghera, before returning to the town for the champagne-spraying finish at approximately 6.30pm.

More information, including a full entry list, can be downloaded from nirally.com.

● **FOLLOWING** confirmation from the Easter Stages Rally management team that their event cannot be rescheduled in 2013, the organisers of the Carryduff Forklift NI Championship have confirmed that its place will now be taken by the Down Rally on October 19.

This will therefore bring back another gravel round to the series, and also mean that the series will take place over its scheduled eight rounds.

The chairman of the ANICC Stage Rallies Committee Andy Gilmore said: "The championship will not reduce in terms of numbers of events, as this year's reserve event, October's Down Rally, will now be a full counting round in 2013.

"This bears out the decision made last year to have reserve events in place, and not only ensures that competitors can enjoy a full eight round series, but also gives continued exposure throughout the planned number of events to our valued sponsors Carryduff Forklift."



**LUCKY THIRTEEN FOR LAVERTY**

AFTER successful outings in Qatar and Austin, round three of the MotoGP World Championship at Jerez saw mixed fortunes for the Penrith-based PBM MotoGP team of Yonny Hernandez and Michael Laverty.

With Hernandez qualifying 21st on the grid and Laverty alongside, both riders were hopeful of a good performance in the Claiming Rules Teams (CRT) class.

Laverty, 31, from Toome in Co Antrim, ended up scoring his first World Championship points with a superb 13th place finish after steadily climbing the leaderboard throughout the 27-lap race – and in doing so rewarded the team with their best result of the season to date.

Colombian Hernandez, 24, from Medellin, was hoping to add to his points-scoring finishing at the opening two GPs but struggled throughout the weekend and crashed out of the race on lap three.

The results mean that both Laverty and Hernandez are tied on three points each in joint 17th in the MotoGP World Championship and equal fourth in the CRT standings going into the next round in France.

Laverty said: "I'm really happy to collect my first MotoGP points and also the first for PBM as a constructor.

"It was a difficult weekend up until race day but the team worked hard and came up with some answers for race day.

"We need to improve our pace on new tyres in the early laps as late in the race we are lapping close to the pace of Espargaro.

"We are getting closer every race and we will keep progressing as we learn more about the PBM machine and begin to maximise its potential."

● **ROAD** racing Ireland Magazine are celebrating their 27th anniversary with a massive Bumper May issue now available in the shops.

They have a full preview of the North West 200 with all the action from all the latest racing.

Michael and William Dunlop have their regular columns along with southern riders Jack Kennedy and Brian McCormack

It is available to buy in all newsagents or online at roadracingireland.com.



**SEELEY ON TOP IN OULTON PK WIN**

IT was another packed weekend for the Gearlink Kawasaki team in the Motorpoint British Supersport Championship at the Oulton Park circuit for round three of the series.

Alastair Seeley, from Carrickfergus, had a stunning weekend and secured a great second place in race one – and went one better in race two gaining another great win for the Gearlink team.

Seeley has now left the third round of the Championship leading the Supersport series by two points from Stuart Easton. He was on a mission this weekend and he and Easton were in another league.

He qualified for the opening race on Sunday in second place, fighting with Easton throughout the race until the end, with the latter winning by 0.1 seconds.

Seeley was eager to go one better in the second race and securing the fastest lap in race one sat him in pole position. Once again in the closing laps Easton and Seeley swapped paint on several occasions before Alastair made his move into the last corner and out-dragged the Yamaha rider to the line.



>> **Tandragee 100 ROUND-UP**

**MICHAEL'S A SUPERBIKE SUPERMAN**



**LEGEND...** Jim Redman

MICHAEL Dunlop was again in sensational form at Saturday's Tandragee 100, winning both the Open and Superbike races.

But the Supersport race was the highlight of the day, with Michael Pearson, Derek Magee, Derek Shiels and Wayne Kirwan all battling to take the win – and Kirwan eventually coming out the victor.



**AND THEY'RE OFF...** Action from the 600 race

Jamie Hamilton clocked up his customary form in the Supertwins with William Dunlop winning the 250cc race.

Mark Hanna took top honours in the Junior Support race and special notice must go to legendary six-time world champion Jim Redman MBE, who took part in a parade lap.



**Mark Hanna**



**Sam Wilson**



**SATURDAY SENSATION...** Michael Dunlop  
PICTURES CREDIT: TOMMY VENNARD