

Triple Championship Win For McCarthy and O'Brien

*Happy new year to you and yours from all at
McCarthy Motorsport*



Joe McCarthy and Jason O'Brien have won class 3 in three championships despite first time pairing up in Abbeyleix at the start of 2013. Here we have a look at the crew's year from the first round to the last.

Abbeyleix was the first round the Limerick crew instantly got comfortable with each other and set some fantastic times on the early stages. But despite the crew working well no one could predict the drive shaft snapping on stage 8 and retiring the crew from the 1st round of the Dunlop National Rally Championship.

A fantastic run in Kerry would see the pair set 5 fastest stage times out of 6 in their class and take a comfortable class win! A well deserved result and finally a great start to the year.

On to Portlaoise for the crew's next rally and they had a clean run but settled for 2nd overall in class 3.

A bit of a break from the special stage rallying Joe entered the Kerry Rally Sprint and brought his service man Dave Weir out for the spin. As a thank you to the man that keeps them running after all!!!

Back to the stages, it was onto Tipperary for the Stonethrowers Rally. Joe had some stiff local competition to compete with but after swapping a few times the pair emerged at the end as class leaders.

On to Galway the crew had a brilliant drive and led the class all day and ended with a lead of over 1m 30 sec.

Next was the Clare Stages Rally and after a mighty first stage the crew started stage 2 in great shape but soon brake problems and 2 walls would end the mighty streak! After a brake bias valve gave trouble the crew spun at high speed and got stuck between two walls causing a considerable amount of damage to the car and causing the crew to lose valuable time. Limping back to service Joe need not have worried! His main man Dave Weir was ready and waiting and after lots of repairs the crew finished only 25 seconds off the class lead!

With only 3 weeks to repair the car fully it was a push to make the start line of the Baltinglass Rally but it needed to be done as it would decide the Midlands Championship for the crew. All the hard work paid off! The crew won class 3 and won class 3 in the Midlands Championship.

The next event was the wet and cold Fastnet Rally. Three tough stages in store but the crew got off to a safe and cautious start right up until stage 3. After a very hard landing over a crest Joe put his back out and was in a lot of pain. It was a struggle to make it back to service but with the help of Alan Leonard they were able to put his back in place and make the second loop .It was back to the stages and it certainly was not a lucky rally for them. The fan belt snapped and retired the crew from the event but all was not lost. They were going home with class honours from the Dunlop National Rally Championship.

On to Banna it was a winner take all rally for the Top Part West Coast Rally Championship class honours. Three miles into the first stage the crew came onto an accident and that would see no time recorded for stage 1. Stage 2 was also not to be as the pair came on to the scene of another accident (Thankfully all were ok) so it was back to service to refresh and rethink any plans they might have had! They were starting the second loop 3 seconds down on the class leader. Stage 3 was a good run for the first half but a bit of an overshoot cost the crew some valuable time and it meant stage 4 was all or nothing. Stage 4 Jason pushed Joe to the end and the pair had no idea they exited that stage 12 seconds faster than John Collins and gave them their third championship win – Top Part West Coast Rally Champions- Class 3.

Joe and Jason would like to thank anyone who helped them in anyway throughout 2013 without everyone it just is not possible to achieve something like this. Thanks to all the sponsors for sticking by me all year and further afield!

An exciting year for the crew indeed and the Limerick Motor Club would like to congratulate the pair on a fantastic achievement.

We hope 2014 is as successful as 2013 and we will certainly be supporting ye from the ditches!

Limerick Motor Club

pro@limerickmc.ie

