

Kris Meeke & Nicki Grist lead the charge in Midlands Moto Stages Rally.

While there is an apparent absence of WRC cars in the top 10 there is a fantastic number one to lead the field in this years Midland Moto Stages rally in Longford next Sunday the 5th April. Midland Motor Club extends a very warm welcome to Kris Meeke and Nicki Grist to the Leitrim/Longford region which should be a huge attraction to all motorsport fans. Kris has just won the last round of the new World Rally series, the IRC in Brazil and he has Nicki Grist sitting with him. Nicki navigated with Colin McCrae for many years in the World rally championship. Kris Meeke who hails from Tyrone was 3rd in the Junior WRC in 2005 and is a former British Super 1600 and Junior Champion will be hard to catch on the day. He competes in a Super 1600 Renault Clio a car in which he finished 5th in last years Lakes of Killarney Rally ahead of many WRC cars. Kris kicks off the new EXCEL Rally championship of which there are 8 rounds and provides excellent prize money to the top finishers at the end of the year. Midland is also the 2nd round of the successful Midland Motors Athlone Midlands East Rally championship. This is a clubman championship based over 6 rounds and is being contested by many local crews from around the Shannonside region. The rally is also a round of the Peugeot 205 and the Honda Cup championships. While the entries are not as plentiful as last year none the less the club has seen a full entry to date with still places available in the Junior event and they compete over the last 5 of the 9 stages. As usual many of the top local drivers will compete and there will be tough competition for the first locals home and these include John Kelly and Robbie Shaw from Longford in their Evo 7. Also from Longford is Tommy Doyle with Fergus Smith navigating and they will be keen to take a top 5 finish in their Clio. Meanwhile Colin Flanagan from Boyle will be out in his Escort Cosworth and he hopes to finish better than last years 12th overall. So the top twelve looks like this.

Driver/Navigator	County	Car
1. Kris Meek/Nicki Grist	Tyrone	Renault Clio 1600
2. Gary Jannings/David Moynihan	Fermanagh	Mitsubishi Evo
3. James Foley/Andrew Cullen	Meath	Mitsubishi Evo 10
4. Trevor Mulligan/Lisa Roe	Meath	Ford Escort
5. Maurice Moffett/Jason McKenna	Monaghan	Toyota Starlet
6. Fergal Costello/Shane Gilhooly	Westmeath	Mitsubishi Evo 9
7. John Kelly/Robbie Shaw	Longford	Mitsubishi Evo 7
8. Tommy Doyle/Fergus Smith	Longford	Renault Clio
9. Adrian Quinn/Alister Wyllie	Westmeath	Mitsubishi Evo 9
10. Paul McEnroe/Sorcha Kelly	Meath	Subaru Impreza
11. Colin Flanagan	Roscommon	Ford Escort Cos
12. Thomas O'Rourke	Wexford	Honda Civic

Finally Midland Motor Club wish to ask all who intend going to the rally to think road safety over the week-end and “Keep the Race in its place” by leaving the speed to the drivers competing in the event.