



Kevin Ross (third from right) is flanked by Colin McRae (centre), Jimmy McRae (third from left), and the other Albar contenders

McRae tips Ross for top

Ex-world champ picks out Scot for driver award

Albar Junior award

By John Fife

Young Scottish rally driver Kevin Ross has been tipped for future stardom by former world rally champion Colin McRae.

McRae was part of the judging panel that selected Ross as the winner of the inaugural Scottish Rally Championship Albar Junior programme at Knockhill on Sunday. The Motherwell driver will undertake a development pro-

gramme, along the same lines as the respected MSA Rally Elite scheme, over the next 12 months.

The programme has been designed to improve his performance both in and out of the car and will include psychology exercises, physical fitness training and sponsorship acquisition pointers.

The 20-year-old beat David Bogie (20), Fraser Gellan (22), Alick Kerr (18) and Robbie Pearson (19) to the prize, which is awarded in memory

of Alan Barr, who died of a heart attack while competing on the Border Counties Rally in 2005.

Ross said: "I'm just delighted to have won this. I know all these guys and I know how good they are. I've got a new Mitsubishi for the coming [Scottish championship] season but I know I'm weak in some areas and better in others, so this will be a great help."

McRae was responsible for running the driving element of the assessment on Knockhill's

purpose-built rally stage. He said: "We deliberately chose the ex-Alan Barr Gp A Subaru Impreza as none of the drivers had driven a left-hand-drive car before, so it was a good exercise to see how quickly they adapted and then drove."

Colin's father Jimmy was also part of the judging team at the event and conducted the track-driving session.

The Scottish Rally Championship gets under way with the Snowman Rally on February 17.

CV

Kevin Ross

Age: 20 **Lives:** Motherwell

2006: Fourth on the Jim Clark Reivers Rally but season plagued by mechanical problems

2005: Scottish Rally Championship

2004: Winner, Scottish Junior and Belmont Peugeot 205 championship

2002-03: 125 National British Championship karting **2000-01:**

Third, British Super 4 Junior Gearbox Championship **1999:** Third, Formula

Yamaha British Championship

1996: Started karting