

ECC Spelga Pass Clubman Hillclimb.

Immediate release.

Rathfriland Motor Club Ltd has released details of the forthcoming East Coast Customs Spelga Pass Championship Hillclimb to be held on Saturday 15th September.

The historic venue will again play host to the sound of racing engines when the regular competitors from the Millers Motor Sport Oils NI Hillclimb Championship join with the local tarmac aces to see who will be crowned 'King of the Hill'

Extensive work by the Road Service over the past few years has transformed the old bumpy surface into a new ultra smooth course, which will provide a stern test for both man and machine.

The venue is nestled in one of the most picturesque places within the proposed Mourne National Park overlooking the village of Hilltown. The 1250 metre course starts its climb from Glenveagh Bridge, through the famous 'S'bends and then opens out towards the right, left kinks before the finish line at the Spelga Reservoir.

Last years inaugural event was won by Millisle's David Francis who sprinted to the summit in a time of 51.21 seconds in his Escort Cosworth, ahead of the immaculate BMW M3 of Belfast's Conor Lavery. Jay Colville took third place in a Westfield Sports car on 54.67, with Scarva's Clive Heak the best of the locals on 55.14.

This years event will include the 'Leader Newspapers Maximum Attack Trophy', which will be awarded for the fastest time of the day by a 2 wheel drive Rally car entered in class 4&5.

Already registering their interest in this highly competitive class are local Escort Mk2 drivers John Waring from Dromore, Gilford's Martin Taggart and Mark Greer, Brian Todd, Winston Johnston and Darren McMurrin. Also joining the throng for the 'attack' trophy are Lisburn's Wesley Patterson and Monaghan's Neil Dugan in a Peugeot 205 RWD. Indeed class 5 provides an exiting mix of rally cars including BMW M3's, Vauxhall Chevettes, Toyota Starlets, Opel Kadetts and of course the faithful Escort Mk2.

Many of the front-runners from the Hillclimb fraternity are expected to compete, bringing a mix of all types of car, from modern super cars to the historic and vintage vehicles from years gone by. Also of interest will be some of the sprint cars that are prepared by the event sponsors, East Coast Customs. Some of these cars are capable of 0 to 60mph in less than 3 seconds and they could spring a surprise for the NI Championship competitors if the weather conditions favour them.

This years entry list has already passed the 42 cars from 2006, and entries will finally close on Wednesday 12th September. It is expected that between 60 and 70 cars will line up on Saturday morning.

Roads close at 10 am and practise is scheduled to start at 10:30 with timed runs to commence around lunchtime.

Please note that roads will be closed 500 metres southwest from its junction with the B180 Bryansford Road, through the B27 Kilkeel Road to its junction with the C312 Slievenaman Road. Diversion signs will be in operation.

Spectator parking will be available on the road at Kinahalla Youth Hostel, just before the Paddock area.

If anyone would like to assist the club to run the event please contact Sam on 07905537528. A free hot meal will be provided for all who marshal on the day.

Ends

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Information for editors:

East Coast Customs are an Aftermarket tuning company based in Ballinderry Industrial Estate in Lisburn. The company have built and run a modified Mitsubishi EVO 6, which currently holds the record as the Fastest Evo 6 in the world, and is officially the fastest car in Ireland with a record breaking ¼ mile sprint in 9.917 seconds, crossing the line at 151mph. It can accelerate from standstill to 60 mph in 2.5 seconds.

More details on the company can be found at www.eastcoastcustomsonline.co.uk

Details from the Miller Motor Sport Oils NI Hillclimb Championship can be found at www.anicc.org.uk