

## MOTORSPORT

# BSB ticket for birthday boy Owens

BY BAYLON  
McCAUGHEY

R&R Racing have announced that English rider Michael Owens will complete the team's 2021 Pirelli National Superstock 600 Championship line-up, joining Dan Brooks ahead of the start of the season.

A former karting champion, Owens will make his debut in the series this year onboard the team's Yamaha R6.

The name Owens is synonymous with motorcycle racing here in Ireland. His grandfather Kevin, along with his brothers, Anthony and John, competed in road races in the 60s, taking many wins and championships.

Michael's dad, Phelim, needs no introduction to race fans - probably, without doubt, one of the best ever 125 riders in Ireland. Phelim scored five championships in one season, one of which was in sidecars. A multi-winner at both the North West 200 and Ulster Grand Prix, Phelim is also the only person to score a win on both two and three wheels at a national Irish championship road race (Fore Road Races).

It came as no surprise that one day Michael, the third generation of Owens, would take to the tarmac.

Following a few seasons in karting, where he won the Cadet championship, Michael went on to play football for AFC Dungannon alongside playing Gaelic for his local team, Eglishe GAA, before turning to mini bike racing where he clinched yet another championship, winning the IMC Open class.

Onboard a 300 Kawasaki, Michael took to the larger tracks



Michael Owens in action on his 600 Yamaha, en route to clinching the USBK 600 Cup Championship. SC210444

and before long was mixing with the front runners. However, at five foot eight, Michael decided that he was getting too tall for the 300, so a 600 Yamaha was sourced and in 2019 Michael clinched the USBK 600 Cup championship.

At the Mondello Masters, Michael showed great promise, taking wins in the cup championship only too lose out at the end due to a tyre infringement! However, his progress hadn't gone unnoticed as he was awarded the Junior Rider of the Day award, and this led to him getting into the final five for the Junior Rider of the Year - unfortunately, this went pear-shaped when he slid off during the finals.

Michael was also the third

recipient of the Aidan Lynam Trophy, awarded for the best up and coming 600 rider, following in the footsteps of previous winners Eunan McGlinchy and Aaron Clifford.

With so little racing last year, and working as a real estate placement student, Michael decided to skip the few events and save for 2021, when out of the blue R&R made contact with the English rider regarding his plans for 2021.

Having always harboured the idea of riding in the BSB series, this was too good a chance to turn down!

Owens said: "I couldn't imagine a better start to the 2021 season and a better 21st birthday present



Michael Owens on his way to clinching IMC Pit Bike Championship. SC210443

than receiving the opportunity to be able to work with a successful team such as R&R Racing.

"I can't thank everyone at R&R Environmental Services and

Treatment Plant Parts R Us enough for this once in a lifetime opportunity and learning experience.

"This has always been the dream



Michael Owens. SC210442

from day one of my racing career and to be able to take an opportunity like this and to join the grid is so surreal.

"I know there may be challenges ahead such as learning the new circuits, but I am willing to rise to the challenges.

"With the expertise that my dad, Phelim Owens, can share with me from his success at short circuit racing and road racing, I have no doubt it will help to push me to be the rider I want to be.

"I can't thank everyone enough who has supported me throughout my career until this day. I definitely wouldn't be here without them and am so thrilled to be joining Team R&R Racing.

"I would also like to pay thanks to my bosses, Ciaran McCurgan and Jeremy Baird, of Maison Real Estate, who have been a huge support to me and my racing career."

Joint team owner Caroline Reeves said: "We are incredibly happy to announce that Michael will be joining our team for his debut season in the BSB paddock.

"We are really looking forward to getting the season under way now, and we are excited about our first season of running a two-strong rider line-up on Yamahas."

## GAA

## Club notes

### Derrylaughan

The club are currently reviewing the practicability of the planned Club Black Tie 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner on October 23rd 2021 - further information in due course.

As per GAA advice for clubs and counties for activities, club games and training are still not permitted and Derrylaughan Kevin Barry's GAC grounds are closed.

Membership - £20 Individual, £30 Couple, £10 Senior Citizen. Cairde Caoimhin de Barra is also still open for Club Membership - you may pay at [www.klubfunder.com](http://www.klubfunder.com). Please note that in order to be covered by club Insurance all players must have paid their membership before training/playing.

Lotto numbers drawn 10th January 2021 - 4, 15, 25 and 28. No one matched 3 or 4 numbers so a draw was made. 120 entries were in this week. Number 110 was drawn and that was Martin McCabe who wins £50.

Queries in relation to Club Merchandise can be made to Sinead Donaghy on 07708 772982. Anyone interested in borrowing any equipment/resources from the Club or purchasing the Club Umbrella please contact Petsie Kennedy 07801933381.

The Shamrocks are still on a pause on trainings, contact Bruce Hunt 07788973669 for further information. Please contact Sean Robinson PT's Core Performance Gym in relation to Classes

and Gym use on 07851158364.

Caoimhin de Barra CLCG are saddened to learn of the death of Rosaleen Campbell (nee Hanna). We extend our deepest sympathy to her and the entire Campbell family circle. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

### Clonoe

Last week's lotto numbers were 11, 13, 16 and 27. There were no jackpot winners and no consolation winners. Next week's jackpot is £1500 with a consolation prize of £100. Anyone wishing to enter can do so by 7pm each Monday on [www.klubfunder.com](http://www.klubfunder.com).

Everyone in the club would like to send congratulations to our Senior Player Dwayne Quinn and Ciara on the birth of their baby boy.

Sympathy is extended to the McNally Family, Dungannon, on the death of Rose, mother of Mary Duffin. To Mary, her husband Sean, Ciarán, Catherine, Niamh, Emma and the wider family circle, we send our sympathies.

Sympathy is also extended to the Fee Family, Coalisland, on the death of John, father of Frances O'Hagan. To Frances and her husband Marc (Cultural officer) and grandchildren Aoife, Niamh, Medbh, Aine, Féidhlim, Fintan, Khloe, Kaitlin and the wider family circle, we send our sympathies.

Sympathy is also extended to the O'Neill Family, Coalisland, on the death of Frank, to the Seery Family on the death of Fr Michael Seery PE, AP, to the Campbell Family, Derytresk on the death of Rosealeen, to the O'Hagan Family Coole, on the death of Malachy, to the Gribben Family Corr, on the death of

Kieran, and to the O'Neill Family, Aughmullan, on the death of Mary McAleer (Dungannon). May they rest in peace.

Seanfocal na Seachtaine/Saying of the Week

Ní náire an tseanaois  
There is no shame in old age

### Stewartstown

As we continue to journey through these pandemic times keep an eye out for the wellbeing of one another in the community, remembering the key words - face, hands, space and place. Wear a face covering in public, wash hands often, keep a good space between each other and ventilate the place you're in.

The club was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of the Very Rev. Fr Michael Seery, curate in the town and Stewartstown Harps Honorary Club President.

Fr Michael contributed greatly to the community in his five years in Stewartstown. Indeed he marked the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood in Stewartstown with great joy. He was a regular visitor to St Mary's Primary School and by his modest and gentle nature he showed great example to all. Fr Michael was unwavering in his pastoral care of both the young and old in and around the village and could always be relied upon when called upon.

Fr Michael also took a keen interest in the football clubs activity - notably representing the club in the Tyrone Scór competition to his great enjoyment. He then became an Honorary Club President in early 2020.

Fr Michael was laid to rest in

Stewartstown - a fitting tribute to us all. Condolences to his family and friends.

Furthermore the club sends deepest sympathies to the Coyle family, North St, on the death of Maureen, sister of club sponsor Sean.

Mary Queen of the Gael pray for them. Go bhfanfaidh siad i suaimhneas.

### Dungannon

Happy New Year to all Clarkes supporters, hopefully 2021 is as successful on the football field as 2020.

Please see below some information on Clann Ui Chléirigh membership that many of you are already subscribed to. Clann Ui Chléirigh is the most important source of income we have to help us meet the day-to-day costs of running our club and without these monthly contributions we would simply not survive.

By becoming a Clann Ui Chléirigh member you will be helping us to:

- \* provide football to the youth of Dungannon in a safe and friendly environment;

- \* ensure the upkeep of our pitches & facilities;

- \* prepare our 9 teams & hopefully win more O'Neill cups.

As an individual Clann Ui Chléirigh member (£10 per month) you will also be automatically registered as a GAA & Clarkes member each year. You will also get added to a priority list for any tickets draws. For those on Family Clann Ui Chléirigh membership (£15 per month), your spouse/partner and all children U-18 will also be registered for free. It would be great to get more people signed up to this as it really makes a big difference in helping to run the club. If

this not for you, you can still register as a regular member of the Club. Details of this registration process will be communicated in the coming weeks. If you would like to join Clann Ui Chléirigh, upgrade to a family membership or have a general question, please get in touch by sending a private message to the page or by contacting Mark Rodgers - 00353 8640 33901 or Joe Foley - 07900 555525.

Voting has now opened for our 2020 Ulster Club #GLALLSTARS. Mark McKearney and Paul Donnelly have both been nominated from Tyrone. Show your support & VOTE NOW via this link: <https://bit.ly/3bec50P>.

We wish to offer prayers and best wishes for our former player Paddy McStravog on his road to recovery following a crash on 30/12/20. We also wish to offer our condolences to the friends and family of Paul Young who unfortunately did not survive the crash. Paul was a friend to many of our past players who moved to Philadelphia over the past number of years. Paddy now faces hefty medical bills and if you can help in any way please donate using the link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/zzchrs-medical-bills-for-paddy>.

The Officers, Committee and members of Dungannon Thomas Clarke GFC send condolences to the Tierney family on the death of Christina, the O'Hagan family on the death of Malachy, the McNally family on the death of Rose and to the McAleer family on the death of Mary. To them and the family circles we offer our deepest sympathy. A Mhuire naGeal gu ar a anam.