



CARLOW STAGES RALLY MAY 17TH 2026

THANK YOU !



As Clerk of the Course, I would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the Seven Oaks Hotel Carlow Stages Rally 2026, in association with Fitzpatrick's Garage and Autoimage, such a tremendous success.

First and foremost, I want to thank our title sponsors The Seven Oaks Hotel, Fitzpatrick's Garage, and Autoimage for their incredible support and commitment to the event. A huge word of thanks to all of the sponsors who came on board to support various aspects of the rally throughout the day. Your backing and generosity helped get the event off to a fantastic start and ensured the rally could run to the high standard expected by competitors and spectators alike.

To all the members of Carlow Car Club, thank you for the enormous amount of work, dedication, and commitment that went in behind the scenes in the lead-up to the rally and throughout the day itself. I also want to acknowledge and thank all those from outside the club who came in to lend a hand and support us wherever needed. While I may have taken on the role of Clerk of the Course, I am only one person and it is the team around me that makes this event, and many others happen. Without that teamwork and willingness from so many people to step up and help, events like this simply would not be possible.

To all of our competitors, thank you for choosing to compete in the 2026 rally and for putting on a fantastic show throughout the day. Special credit must go to all those who battled the difficult weather conditions and rain to make it to the finish. Rallying is never easy, and the determination, sportsmanship, and commitment shown by competitors and crews all day was a credit to the sport.

Congratulations to everyone who won and placed in their respective classes. In particular, congratulations to Michael Boyle and Dermot McCafferty on taking the overall victory in the event. Well done also to Jonathan Pringle and Pierce O'Callaghan on winning the MKII Challenge sponsored by O'Brien Cement, and a massive congratulations to Robert Falvey and John Doody, the first-ever winners of our MKII Historic Challenge sponsored by Walsh School Furniture. A special word of congratulations also goes to our own Carlow Car Club members who proudly brought home awards on the day.

Alongside the congratulations and thanks, I would also like to offer a sincere apology to all competitors regarding the lack of toilet facilities at the start of stages. This had been organised in advance; however, due to a family emergency involving the supplier, the toilets were unfortunately not delivered, and despite our best efforts, we were unable to source replacements in time. We fully understand the inconvenience this caused and are very sorry for it.

Finally, a massive thank you to all officials, marshals, medical crews, rescue personnel, volunteers, sponsors, residents, landowners, and everyone working away in the background throughout the event. These rallies only happen because of the hard work and dedication of so many people, and every single contribution is hugely appreciated.

Thank you all once again for your support, effort, and commitment to the Seven Oaks Hotel Carlow Stages Rally 2026. We look forward to welcoming you all again very soon.

Yours in Motorsport,

Michael Comerford

Clerk of the Course



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