



CARLOW CAR CLUB, CARLOW STAGES RALLY SET FOR MAY 17TH 2026 AS CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION COMES TO THE SOUTH EAST

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Carlow Car Club is proud to announce that its much-anticipated Carlow Car Club, Carlow Stages Rally will take place on Sunday, May 17th. The event will bring top-class national rally competition to the roads of Carlow and Kilkenny. Mick Comerford takes on the role of Clerk of the Course with the much appreciated support of main sponsors; Seven Oaks Hotel, MKII Challenge Sponsors O'Brien Cement and Associate Sponsors; Fitzpatrick's Garages, Autoimage, and Hilltop Quarries.

This year's event sees a new Trophy up for grabs with the introduction of MKII Historic Challenge Award brought to you by WALSH School Furniture. Leaning in to Carlow Car Clubs long history of appreciation of the Ford Escort MKII with the MKII Challenge, this new trophy sets out to honour the MKII Escorts who have stayed true to their classic spec and run in class 17 to 19.

Rally Headquarters will once again be based at the Seven Oaks Hotel, providing a central hub for competitors, officials, sponsors and supporters throughout the weekend.

The event will feature three challenging closed road tarmac stages across Carlow and Kilkenny, each run three times, delivering a total of nine stages in a compact and spectator friendly format. A centrally located service area between the three stages will ensure minimal road mileage across the day.

Clerk of the Course Mick Comerford will oversee the running of the event, supported by an experienced and dedicated organising team from Carlow Car Club. Speaking ahead of the rally, Mick Comerford said:

"We are delighted to bring the Carlow Car Club, Carlow Stages Rally back on May 17th as a counting round of several major championships. As the home of the MKII Challenge, we are particularly looking forward to seeing a strong and exciting field compete for MKII honours. With our compact layout, central service area and fantastic stages across Carlow and Kilkenny, we are confident this will be a superb day of rallying. The Club and I would like to sincerely thank local residents, landowners, An Garda Síochána, emergency services and the many volunteers whose cooperation and support are essential to delivering a safe and successful event. Thank you to our main and associate sponsors for their support for this years event "

The 2026 event carries major championship status and will count as a round of the Triton Showers Motorsport Ireland National Rally Championship, The Dacia Sandero Challenge Cup, The Motorsport Ireland Junior Rally Series (MIJRS), and the Stellantis Motorsport Rally Cup Ireland. With valuable championship points on offer across multiple classes, a strong and competitive entry from crews nationwide is expected.



Further details, including regulations and entry information, will be announced in the coming weeks. Spectators are reminded to follow official safety guidance and marshal instructions at all times.

For updates, follow Carlow Car Club on social media.

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