

2026 Southern 4 Rally Championship

Another year passes and another spectacular season awaits us all once again for 2026. Welcome once again to the whistle stop tour of the south of the country on some of the best roads on the best events completed with the club crew mentality to the forefront. With all eyes firmly on the bustling town of Clonakilty and a the town centre start on Friday night as we see the return of the 3 day West Cork round 1 of the 2026 GK Print Southern 4 Rally Championship ahead of trips to the Killarney Rally of the Lakes, Circuit of Munster, Kerry Mini, Stonthrowers, Cork 20 and Historic Lakes before the end of the year.

We are delighted to welcome back John and Cathy Bagge from GK Print for another year's partnership as the title sponsor for the championship. Speaking at the recent launch for the West Cork Rally Cathy said " John and myself are delighted to be on board for this year and really enjoy supporting the club men and women of the Irish Rallying Community. With a tremendous calendar of events laid out again this year we are looking forward to meeting everyone over the course of the year!"

With West Cork, Killarney and the Cork 20 bringing an international rally flavour to the mix along with some one day competitor favourites it has all the makings of a great club driver championship for another year. Mix into the winning recipe that has stood the test of time is the Historic and Junior championships which return plenty of prizes and grandeur to the champions to help bolster their competition CV.

Making a return to the top step of the podium was David Guest who had previously tasted success in 2019 when he won the championship at the wheel of an S2000 Fabia. Moving on to 2025 it was at the wheel of a Fiesta Rally2 with Stephen Quin on the notes that the pair managed to stop Eddie Doherty in his hat trick quest of championship wins with a good performance in Cork 20 and the Fastnet to end the year on a high.

The support of Junior Drivers is a very serious guiding principle that the Southern 4 holds as a value. This point is once again demonstrated with the very generous package laid on for the winner of the Junior championship this year will receive a prize fund that will cover the entry for all their GK Print Southern 4 junior round entries for the 2027 season with the championship winning navigator receiving a set of notes for each round as well.

Few championships have ever offered such a variety of testing conditions for crews as seen in the 2025 Southern 4 season, with drivers, navigators and cars pushed to the limit in everything from icy conditions, Torrential Rain and Tar-melting Heat, in some cases even all three in a single day. From the blistering blast into Ring Village, to the iconic left swing through Molls Gap, add in the vistas of the Premier County and the high banked lanes of Mid-Cork, it's fair to say that we really pushed our crews last year across some of the finest stages that Munster has to offer. And we will do it again for 2026!!

The hard working team lead once again by Chairman John Buttimer promise that the 2026 Southern 4 championship will be one to remember and offer plenty of smiles per miles all for the price of a club competitor orientated scene. So if you are strapped in and sitting comfortably? Then we shall begin!! Onwards to Clonakilty under Friday night lights for a blast up MacCurtain Hill.