



Tim Clifford set to Clerk his first Assess Ireland International Rally of the Lakes this May Bank Holiday Weekend.

There is a new face set to take charge of Killarney and District Motor Club's flagship event, as the 2026 Assess Ireland International Rally of the Lakes planning continues ahead of the return of one of the town's largest annual events, which will run from May 1st to 3rd this year.

Tim Clifford, who recently ran the hugely successful 'Rally Masters' event in Killarney Racecourse, takes the reins of the International rally for the first time in 2026. Tim is a well-known figure in the town and owns the equine stables Pony Tales in Faha. Although this will be Tim Clifford's first attempt at running the biggest motorsport event in the county, he has experience running Killarney's Historic Rally, running the event on 5 occasions from 2002 to 2006.

Planning is continuing at a frantic pace ahead of the spectacle, which is sure to give Killarney that early summer boost once again this May Bank Holiday Weekend. The route is currently being finalised with a localised, compact route with the best interests of the town's

businesses and rally competitors and spectators to the forefront of the plans.

The 2026 International Rally of the Lakes will once again be title sponsored by Assess Ireland, Ireland's leading motor and engineering assessor, whose headquarters are right here in the Kingdom. Assess Ireland's partnership with the event began in 2024 and has grown from strength to strength ever since.

The rally will be headquartered in the Gleneagle Hotel in Killarney again in 2026, with everything from rally office to prizegiving held in the historic Killarney hotel, which has a long-standing partnership with the event and Killarney & District Motor Club.

The 2026 edition of the famous rally will be a counting round of multiple championships, which should attract a large entry once again. It's Round 4 of the 2026 NAPA Auto Parts Irish Tarmac Rally Championship, which is currently led by Killarney co-driver Noel O'Sullivan and his Derry counterpart Callum Devine, who will be looking to make it a famous 5-in-a-row when the cars take to the start line in Killarney in a few weeks. It will be a double points scoring weekend for the GK Print Southern 4 Championship, which gets underway at the West Cork Rally on St Patricks Weekend. The rally will also be the opening round of the 2026 Moriarty's Central Car Sales Kingdom of Kerry Rally Championship. This will be the first time that the Assess Ireland International Rally of the Lakes will be the opening round of the Kerry-based championship, which always leads to great competition amongst the Kerry-based crews.

Speaking after the announcement, Clerk of the Course Tim Clifford said, "It gives me and my family great pride to run the extraordinary Rally of the Lakes here in my hometown. But it's a huge team effort, and I'm delighted to say I have a fantastic team working non-stop to get this rally on the road. We have identified our preferred route, which I think will be a big hit to rally crews and spectators, with low

road mileage in and around Killarney to keep costs to a minimum, all while supporting local businesses in the wider Killarney area over the two days. It's all systems go in Rally HQ!"

Entries for the event will be opening soon, with updates for the event being posted across all Rally of the Lakes Social Media channels.