



A Word from the Clerk of the Course – Mark Phelan

Westlodge Hotel Fastnet Stages Rally 2025

Now that the final bale has been stacked, the last junction sign found, and the WhatsApp groups have gone eerily quiet... it's time to pause and say a genuine thank you.

The Core Team

To my Deputy COC Ruaidhri Nash and Assistant COC Iarla McCarthy, along with John Buttimer and James Kingston — thank you for keeping the wheels turning and the panic levels low. Your calm under pressure, whether dealing with radios, roadbooks, or rogue weather forecasts, was nothing short of remarkable. You made it look easy — suspiciously easy.

To Event Secretary Lisa O'Dowd and the rally office dream team — Sarah, Declan, Jennie, Paula, Mags, Alannah, and Orla — thank you for running the administrative heart of the rally with grace, grit, and just the right amount of caffeine. The rally office was a masterclass in multitasking — and possibly the only place in West Cork where you could get a timecard, a safety pin, and a biscuit in under 30 seconds.

Setup Crews

Don, Enda, Jack, John, Keith, Oran, Brian, Conor, and Matthew — you were out before sunrise, back after sunset, and somehow still smiling. You made the stages happen. You made the signs appear. You made the impossible look routine.

To the Bale Crew — Ger, Sean, Padraig, Alwyn, Maurice, John, David O'Connell, and Andrew Mahon — your work was quiet, precise, and essential. You wrapped, loaded, transported, positioned, and collected every bale with care and efficiency. You were there before the first car left Parc Fermé and still working long after the last trailer door closed. The rally ran safely and smoothly because of your dedication — and for that, we are sincerely grateful.

Stage Commanders & Marshals

Eoghan, Terry, Ciaran, Cathal, Finbarr, and Flor — your stages ran like clockwork, which in rally terms means “only mildly terrifying.” In West Cork, where the roads are narrow and the weather unpredictable, that's no small achievement.

To our Chief Marshal Orla Galvin Griffin — thank you for assembling a marshal team with the precision of a military operation and the warmth of a community bake sale. Your ability to rally the troops is legendary. We suspect you may have magical powers.

To every single marshal and volunteer — thank you. You gave up your weekend, stood in the elements, and kept the show on the road. Without you, we'd be a collection of cones and cars in a field wondering what went wrong.

Service & Scrutiny

To Alan Clarke and the team at Drinagh Co-Op — you didn't just host a service park, you created a rally ecosystem. It was clean, efficient, and welcoming — even when crews were elbow-deep in engine bays or chasing torque specs like they owed them money. You gave competitors a base they could rely on, and that's invaluable.

To Raymond Warner and the Barrett Agri crew — scrutiny was smooth, professional, and kept everything moving. Thank you for your precision and patience.

♥ Sponsors & Supporters

To our sponsors — thank you for believing in us and backing Fastnet 2025. You made this rally possible.

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And to all our programme supporters and advertisers — thank you.

We're proud to be part of:

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To the residents, Gardaí, Cork County Council, Motorsport Ireland officials, medical, rescue, recovery, and safety crews — thank you for your cooperation, professionalism, and patience. Your support is the foundation this event is built on.

🏁 Competitors & Crews

To every competitor, co-driver, and service crew — thank you for bringing the pace, the passion, and the spectacle. You gave us a rally to remember, and we hope we gave you an event worthy of your effort. To those who messaged us after the event — thank you. We read every word. Some made us laugh, some made us proud, and a few made us wonder if we should frame them. If emojis were trophies, we'd be national champions.

We had sunshine. We had sideways moments. We had a bale that tried to escape. And we had a team that made it all happen.

From myself and the entire Fastnet team — THANK YOU.

We'll see you back in Bantry for Fastnet '27.

Mark Phelan

Clerk of the Course

2025 Westlodge Hotel Fastnet Stages Rally

Kind Regards,



Mark Phelan

Clerk of the Course

