

Assess Ireland

**AUTOMOTIVE & ENGINEERING
INSPECTION SERVICES**

Rally of The Lakes

KDMC
KILLARNEY & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB

GLENEAGLE

HOTEL & APARTMENTS

★★★★★



IRISH TARMAC Rally Championship 2025



Motorsport Ireland

SOUTHERN RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

MORIARTY'S CENTRAL CAR SALES

THE KINGDOM OF KERRY RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

STELLANTIS MOTORSPORT RALLY CUP IRE & UK

PRESS RELEASE

Rally of the Lakes 2025 Officially Launched with Star-Studded, Family-Friendly Event at Gleneagle Hotel

The 47th year of the Assess Ireland International Rally of the Lakes was officially launched at a vibrant event in the Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney, on Sunday, April 6th, drawing a fantastic crowd of rally fans, families, club members, and well-known competitors.

Hosted by Killarney and District Motor Club (KDMC), the launch was a celebration of motorsport, community spirit, and local pride. The event was emceed by KDMC veteran Mike Marshall, a stalwart of the rally since its inception and former Clerk of the Course. The afternoon served as the perfect curtain-raiser to what promises to be an unforgettable rally weekend from May 2nd to 4th.

This year's launch was a truly family-focused affair, with children and parents alike enjoying the chance to sit into real rally cars, try on helmets, snap selfies with drivers, and soak up the electric atmosphere ⚡. A host of iconic rally cars were on display, offering a rare hands-on experience that created lifelong memories for young rally enthusiasts.

Thomas Randles, KDMC Chairman, praised the dedication and teamwork it takes to stage such an event, and Johnny Maguire, President of Killarney Chamber Tourism and Commerce, acknowledged the rally's positive impact on local business and tourism.

Minister of State Michael Healy-Rae TD spoke at the launch, highlighting the economic importance of the Rally of the Lakes to the Killarney area and reaffirming his strong support for motorsport.

He noted his ongoing efforts to secure increased funding for Kerry roads, stressing their importance to both the local community and the sport.

"Without good roads, you won't have good rallying," he said, to warm applause.

Speaking at the launch, Clerk of the Course Dermot Healy revealed exciting details of this year's compact, Killarney-based route, describing it as a "crowd-pleaser" that puts the entire rally footprint in and around the town — keeping spectators, crews, and businesses at the heart of the action.

"We're keeping it all local—supporting Killarney businesses, reducing logistical demands, and creating a better experience for both fans and competitors," Dermot explained.

"There are so many moving parts that make this rally possible, and behind each of them are passionate, dedicated people. I just want to say a big thank you to everyone involved—you know who you are. It's a joy to work with such an incredible team."

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Healy confirmed the return of title sponsor Assess Ireland for a third consecutive year and expressed his delight at the outcome of a recent meeting with CEO Conor Deasy, during which the company committed to a further three-year partnership covering 2026, 2027, and 2028 — a major boost that helps secure the future of the Rally of the Lakes for years to come.

Founded in 1999, Assess Ireland is a leading provider of automotive and engineering inspection services across the country, employing over 80 staff, including more than 40 at its Tralee headquarters, supporting both the local economy and motorsport in the Kingdom. IE James O'Brien from Assess Ireland praised the synergy between their brand and the rally and looked forward to building on a successful relationship.

Associated sponsors also received special recognition, including The Gleneagle Hotel, a cornerstone of the event, and KC Print / The Killarney Advertiser, whose ongoing support continues to shine a spotlight on motorsport in Kerry.

This year's rally promises an action-packed weekend, with a capacity entry already in sight — over 140 entries unveiled at the launch and more expected in the coming days.

The Rally of the Lakes is a counting round of the:

- Irish Tarmac Rally Championship (ITRC)
- Southern 4 Championship
- Kingdom of Kerry Championship
- Stellantis Cup IRE & UK

Representatives from each championship were present at the launch.

The stages will test drivers' skills and entertain thousands of fans lining the roads, with safety and smooth operations ensured thanks to local Gardaí, rescue services, and a dedicated team of marshals.

Dermot Healy also thanked the residents living along the rally route for their patience and continued support.

“Without their cooperation, events like this simply couldn't happen. We are deeply grateful for their understanding and hospitality.”

Economic & Community Impact

With a focus on boosting the local economy, Dermot Healy confirmed the stages would remain based around Killarney town, supporting local businesses in the surrounding areas.

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With its exciting route, family-friendly events, and star-studded competitor list, the 2025 Rally of the Lakes is shaping up to be one of the most memorable editions yet.

Official Rally Programmes will be available to preorder now online at <https://ddec1-0-en-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=www.rallyofthelakes.com&umid=858369c4-cca4-4ace-aa2b-dee862872bd0&rct=1744113767&auth=a32fe4660476c8de1c93d2afea5f92a476774788-c4cebecd5bb83a63f52f70683f496f8d22e34604> and in local outlets from mid-April.

Mark your calendars – May Bank Holiday weekend in Killarney is not to be missed!

The Rally of the Lakes is not just for motorsport die-hards anymore — it's a weekend for everyone. From the ceremonial start in town to the drama of the stages and the family-friendly atmosphere, this is Killarney at its best.

May 2nd to 4th

Engines will roar

Crowds will cheer

Memories will be made

See you at the stages!

Stay part of the conversation and show your support online by using and following our official hashtags:

Official Event Hashtags

#RallyOfTheLakes

#RallyOfTheLakes2025

#KillarneyRallyWeekend

#MotorsportInKerry

#KillarneyEvents

Key Partners & Sponsors

#AssessIreland

#GleneagleHotel

#KCPrint

#KillarneyIE

#StellantisMotorsportCup

#IrishTarmac

#Southern4

#KingdomOfKerryRally

#MotorsportIreland

Don't forget to tag us in your posts and stories — let's make this year's rally one to remember!

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Assess Ireland:

www.assessireland.com

Gleneagle Hotel:

www.gleneaglekillarney.ie

KC Print:

www.kcprint.ie

Killarney.ie:

www.killarney.ie

Stellantis Motorsport Cup:

www.stellantis motorsportcup.com

Irish Tarmac Rally Championship:

www.irishtarmac.com

Southern 4 Rally Championship:

<https://www.facebook.com/southern4rc/>

Kingdom of Kerry Rally Championship:

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Moriartys-Central-Car-Sales-Kingdom-of-Kerry-Rally-Championship-100057368742707/>

Gleneagle Hotel on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/gleneaglekillarney/>

Killarney.ie on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/killarney.ie>