
Wexford Volkswagen Stages Rally 2023 – Press Release 2

The two day Wexford Volkswagen Stages Rally takes place on 9th and 10th September 2023. Being the largest annual sporting event in the county, the Rally attracts over €1 million to the local economy and provides thousands with free entertainment. After a highly successful 50th anniversary event in 2022, the rally returns with the same format in 2023 with a ceremonial start in the Bullring on Friday 8th September followed by nine stages in the New Ross area on Saturday and nine stages in the Wexford area on Sunday. Over 500 volunteers are needed to run the event safely and this year Wexford Motor Club are appealing to local Wexford people to get involved.

Clerk of the Course, Graham Scallan explains “We made a big effort in 2022 to get a lot of new people involved in the event and the feedback was very positive. We had scores of people attend the Motorsport Ireland Marshal training evenings to become accredited marshals before volunteering to help on the event. Marshalling is a great way to see the event up close while ensuring the safety of spectators and getting some good Sunny South East Weather!”.

Tasked with the enormous job of organising the marshals for the weekend is Chief marshal, James Doran from Carnew. Returning for his second year in the role, James gives an insight into what goes on behind the scenes. “Planning for the event started back in December with potential routes being investigated. At the same time, we start work on recruiting volunteers for the event. While we need timekeepers, officials, paramedics, rescue crews and lots of other volunteers, my main focus is the 300 or so marshals needed on the days of the event itself. I would have started contacting people to help with the event back in January. A safety plan for the event is being finalised with Motorsport Ireland with details of exactly how many marshals are needed at each location of the event. I then take this safety plan and start to allocate marshals to the various locations. The event cannot run unless the safety plan is fully complied with, so it is vital that we have more than enough people to cover any last-minute issues.”

Running such a large event is serious business as Graham explains, “With over 300 competitors taking part, over 500 volunteers and thousands of spectators, there is definitely pressure to ensure it all goes off according to plan, and most importantly, safely. The Rally returned to a two-day event in 2022 after a COVID enforced break and it really was a big undertaking to bring the event back to its best. This year, we aim to build on that success, give local tourism a big boost. We hope to see as many local people as possible involved!”

There are some nice perks for those who do volunteer as James adds, “We provide breakfast/lunch vouchers to keep people topped up during the day and then meals for all volunteers back in the

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Riverbank House Hotel and other locations at the end of the day as a way of saying thank you. Local businesses have been very kind to assist us in providing goodie bags to all marshals also. A big draw for marshals on our event is our free Marshals draw which has thousands of euros worth of prizes up for grabs including trips to the World Rally Championship. We really do appreciate people giving up their time to help and the free prize draw is a small token of that appreciation!"

Full training and accreditation are provided by Motorsport Ireland for people who would like to volunteer on the weekend. These courses run over the summer and details can be found either on www.MotorsportIreland.com or by contacting Wexford Motor Club.

If you would like to get involved in the event, please contact James Doran on 087-9760000

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