

## Message from the Clerk of the Course

As the dust settles on last weekends' event, I would just like to say a few words on behalf of KDMC and myself as COC.

I think it's safe to say we had a thrilling opening round to the Sligo Pallets Forest Rally Championship 2023. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge all the competitors who took part in our event last weekend, we were delighted with the support and enthusiasm shown by all over the course of the weekend. Without competitors, we as a club wouldn't have great events like we had last weekend, so to all 71 starters, a big thank you from myself and from Killarney and District Motor Club.

I must say a huge thank you to our event sponsors, without the sponsorship these events just wouldn't happen. We are very lucky to have had two local businesses come on board once again this year and sponsor the event, Cyril Wharton of Wharton Tool Hire and Niall Murphy of Castleisland Tyre Centre. Our rally HQ, River Island Hotel, they couldn't have done enough for us not only on the weekend of the rally but in the run up to the event itself. KC Print and Switzer Design for all the printing and Graphic design for the event.

Neilus McAuliffe and all the staff of Castleisland Co-op mart they supplied us with one of the finest rally centre hubs in a long time. Scrutiny, Trailer Park, Service Area and Parc Ferme all inside the one gate, a competitors and organisers dream. Coillte and Cordal wind farm for accommodating us with the classic stages that we were lucky enough to rally last weekend.

To all the businesses who supported us with our Rally Programme, it's safe to say it was and will be for a long time, one of the finest rally programmes for a Forestry rally, all made possible because of the support shown by local businesses. A huge thank you from all the team involved in organising and helping with the event.

To say a few words on the event itself, from Scrutiny on Saturday afternoon right through to the finish ramp Sunday afternoon, the atmosphere around Castleisland town was fantastic. The support the local businesses showed us was incredible and it was great to see such crowds around so we could give a little something back to the local businesses as a thank you.

The ceremonial start was something else, the crowds that lined the streets in Castleisland were brilliant. It was great to bring the cars down through the main street and let not only our top 4WD and 2WD crews show off their impressive machinery, but the future of the sport our J1000 crews showcase the cars which they spent hours and hours getting them ready to be at the start line for the



Killarney Forestry Rally. What was also very important to us in Killarney was that each crew got a chance to say a few words at the start and give them the taste of what things will be like in years to come when they will be at the top level of the sport in Ireland. To top it off we had our very own club member Paul Nagle who himself has over 100 WRC starts in his career there to present the starters awards to all J1000 crews.

To all the marshals, time keepers and radio operators, for giving up your day to help us run the club event a big thanks from myself. The support and sportsmanship that was shown to us from our neighbouring clubs to help us was fantastic it hasn't gone unnoticed.

The team out on the road in at service, managing rally office, those who spent many a long day and night organising the event behind the scenes, the jobs that no one sees in organising these events, no job was too big or small for anyone. I want to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you. To hear competitors complement us on our event, the welcome they got the craic that they had and how accommodating everyone was, well as COC it was fantastic to see our Club KDMC pull together to put on another fantastic event. It's a credit to each and every one of you involved.

Lastly to my own family who it's fair to say have given me the biggest amount of support behind the scenes in the last few weeks leading up to the event. My wife Fiona who has the patience of a saint, our soon to be 3-year-old boy Rían and our 5-month-old daughter Aoife. The help and encouragement shown to me was incredible and the success of this event is also down to you all.

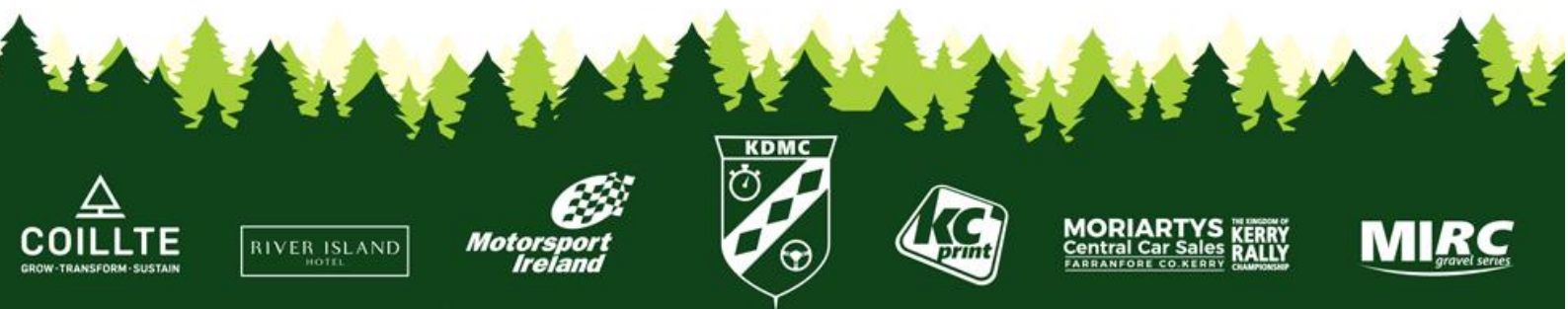
In the coming weeks we will finalise all finances of the event and we will confirm the donation that we will be making to the Community Air Ambulance and Ground Services.

Until then I would just like to say a big thank you to anyone who helped out in organising this fantastic event, when the motorsport family comes together its brilliant to see.

With Sincere Thanks,

*Adrian Cronin*  
Clerk of the Course  
Killarney Forestry Rally 2023.

Photo credits: Cian Donnellan





*COC Adrian Cronin with Overall Winners Mark Donnelly and Stephen O'Hanlon.*

*Photo Credit:  
Cian Don*

*Jack Kennedy and Colin O'Toole being presented with the Eoin McCarthy perpetual cup by Liam and Nora McCarthy.*

*Photo Credit:  
Cian Don*





*Diarmuid Lynch and Eleanor Looney being presented with the James O'Rourke memorial Trophy by Britany O'Rourke. Also pictured are COC Adrian Cronin and joint event sponsors Niall Murphy of Castleisland Tyre Centre and Cyril Wharton of Wharton Tool Hire.*

*Photo Credit: Cian Don*

*COC Adrian Cronin pictured with his wife Fiona, son Rían and daughter Aoife.*

*Photo Credit: Cian Don*

