The Way Forward

1998 saw the publication by the RIAC (now Motorsport Ireland) of the firstever strategic plan for Irish motorsport. One of the goals of that plan is to "protect and maintain the popularity of Stage Rallies".

In line with this goal the Rallies Committee of Motorsport Ireland have compiled a document entitled "The Way Forward". In particular, they set about finding an answer to the requests for additional events to cater for ever increasing numbers of competitors who wish to take part. This document is an attempt to address this issue in a structured and orderly fashion and to provide answers to a number of other issues of long standing. The document has been put together after a long process of consultation with event organisers and competitors and is the result of seven months work by this Committee. The Committee also received assistance from the Goal Achievement Group specifically tasked with this goal.

At their last meeting on 16 September the Motor Sport Commission approved the plan with effect from 01.01.2000. It is hoped that these changes will enable many more competitors to take part in 2000 than has been possible under the present arrangement.

EARS Motorsport sponsor premier Navigation Championship

The Motorsport Ireland Navigation Sub Committee are delighted to announce backing from EARS Motorsport for the 1999/00 Irish Navigation Trial Championship. The official title for the championship will be the "EARS Motorsport Irish Navigation Trial Championship".

The backing from the Mallow based competition and accessory specialists will ensure that Ireland's premier Navigation Championship moves into the new Millennium on a strong and secure footing.

The Navigation Sub Committee are delighted with EARS Motorsport's enthusiastic response and involvement with the Championship. This is EARS Motorsport's first venture in the sponsorship of a Navigation Championship and the company see it as a way of promoting their business directly to an audience who rely on many of the navigation and safety products which they retail. At the same time they are investing in the future of Navigation Trials which as a result of the EARS involvement will reach a wider audience.

The EARS Motorsport Irish Navigation Trial Championship comprises 8 rounds with a competitors best 6 scores to count.

The Championship rounds are:

20/21st November 1999 Carrick-on-Suir Navigation Trial.
11/12th December 1999 Munster MC "Reggie Tilson" Navigation Trial.
12/13th February 2000 Skibbereen & District CC "100 Isles" Navigation Trial.

The reigning Navigation Champions "Bones" O'Connor / Paul Phelan have confirmed that they will be defending the crown which they so comprehensively won last season.

Stop Press!!

Congratulations to Peter Walsh from Cork on becoming the 1999 Benelux Formula Ford Zetec Champion. This victory is the former National Kart Champion's first major success in single seater racing.

Congratulations also to Ray Moore from Rathmines and Irish chassis manufacturee Leastone on clinching their third British Formula Vee Championship title.
Ballina Motor Club Honour Martin Birrane

The recent Leinster Trophy meeting at Mondello Park marked a significant chapter in the 23 year history of Ballina Motor Club as Mayo native, Martin Birrane, Chairman of Lola Cars International, was bestowed with the title of Honourary Life President of the Club.

A large delegation from Ballina Motor Club travelled to the County Kildare motor racing circuit for the occasion which was televised by RTE Sport and broadcast that day (Sunday 19th September, 1999). The ceremony began with a short citation delivered by John Duffy, Secretary, Ballina Motor Club followed by the presentation of a specially commissioned Bog Oak Sculpture to Martin Birrane by Willie Durkan, Club Treasurer.

In keeping with the Mayo link for the occasion, Michael Ander's theme for this piece is based on the folk legend, the Children of Lir. On accepting the title, Martin Birrane said "I am delighted that you should offer me the Honourary Presidency of Ballina Motor Club and I readily accept the honour. Thank you for the very thoughtful gift which you presented to me as it brings me back to my childhood days in Ballina. I well remember my mother telling me never to throw stones at swans as they could be the Children of Lir! It is really a beautiful piece".

Message of Thanks

The Shanahan Family would like to thank everyone in the Irish Motorsport community for the many tributes and kindness shown to them on the tragic loss of their son Neil who was killed in a racing accident at Oulton Park in England on May 31st.

Hundreds of flowers were received, many from people not known to the family, all of which brought comfort during this very difficult time. Racing for the works Van Diemen team in the British Formula Ford Zetec Championship Neil was one of Irish Motorsport's greatest young prospects. Twice a winner of the Sexton Dunlop Driver of the Year, the hugely talented teenager left Ireland as Irish F/Ford Zetec Champion full of high hopes and dreams.

National Autocross Championship 1999

| 1. | Ger Brennan | Fiesta | Killarney | 175.5 |
| 2. | Cathal Hogan | Vectra Special | Ballinaclay | 171 |
| 3. | Jimmy Devane | Cherry | Killarney | 171 |
| 4. | Gordon Percy | Kawasaki | Special Brr | 167.5 |
| 5. | Richard Percy | Ford Special | Birr | 160 |
| 6. | Donie Lucey | Fireblock Special | Killarney | 121 |
| 7. | Frank O'Connell | Mini | Dublin | 114 |
| 8. | Eugene Mulvey | Audi Special | Dublin | 112 |
| 9. | James Mulvey | Audi Special | Dublin | 110 |
| 10. | Dave Ray | Fiesta | Galway | 105 |

Eligibility Checks

The following cars were sealed at post event scrutiny for examination, Engine, Gearbox, Carburettor and Clutch assemble. All the cars listed when examined complied with the regulations for class entered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Car</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Driver</th>
<th>Car</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Sealed</th>
<th>Examined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uno</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>Andrew McKinney</td>
<td>20/06/99</td>
<td>28/06/99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Uno</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Brendan Travers</td>
<td>Mondello</td>
<td>20/06/99</td>
<td>05/07/99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punto</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Mark Turley</td>
<td>Mondello</td>
<td>18/07/99</td>
<td>23/08/99</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Punto</td>
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<td>Gordon Kellett</td>
<td>Mondello</td>
<td>18/07/99</td>
<td>26/08/99</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Punto</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Joe Murray (Entrant)</td>
<td>Phoenix Park</td>
<td>21/08/99</td>
<td>01/09/99</td>
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<td>Punto</td>
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<td>Joseph Freeburn</td>
<td>Phoenix Park</td>
<td>21/08/99</td>
<td>08/09/99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Licence Statistics

The following figures relate to the number of competition licences issued up to and including the 29th September:

- **1991**: 1609, 1607, 1730, 1778, 1902, 1942, 2130, 2373, 2639
- **1992**: 319, 324, 396, 466, 478, 555, 611, 716, 717
- **Total**: 1928, 1931, 2126, 2244, 2380, 2497, 2741, 3089, 3356

Contact Motorsport Ireland, at 34, Dawson Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.
Tel: 01-677 5628 Fax: 01-671 0793 Email: asinclair@motorsportireland.com

Amendments

The Trials & Off Road Committee have passed the following amendment with immediate effect:

**Appendix "W" - 4X4**

**Championship and Safety Regulations**

Section titled "CREW S"
Currently reads "Passengers must be 16 years of age or over." Amendment to read "Passengers must be 14 years of age or over."

The following amendments have been made to the Sporting Trial Rules

**Amend Appendix "V", Section 16 (Q) and Amend Appendix "V" (I)**

**Sporitng Trials Standard Regulations**

at the 1st paragraph after "Competitors are requested to Check in at ______." To read: "the Clerk of the course may enforce a penalty of up to 10 marks on a competitor who arrives late at an event or at the first section dictated by the draw."

This is to take effect immediately. Add a new section (J) to Section 11

Bodywork and Safety Equipment, to read: "A towing eye/hook to be fitted to the front and rear of all cars. Such eye/hook at the rear of the car be fitted at the lowest possibly point."

This amendment to take effect from 1st January 2000.

New Secretary

Owing to pressure of work Eoin Longworth has stepped down as Club Secretary of the Birr and District Auto Club. A new Club Secretary has been appointed and can be contacted as follows:

Miss Dorothy Cavanagh Modreeny, Cloughjordan Co.Tipperary. Tel : (0505) 42302 After 7pm

Correction

The telephone number published in the Green Book for Navigation Trial Championship Registrar Fergus Casey (Appendix R, Page 73) is incorrect. Fergus can be contacted on the following numbers:

Telephone - (01) 624 0734 Mobile - (087) 274 5357 E-mail - fergusnc@indigo.ie