



## MOTORSPORT IRELAND BILLY COLEMAN AWARD

### 1. INTRODUCTION.

The award was created in 2000 to help young Irish Rally Drivers take the next step into international rallying and emulate the achievements of Billy Coleman.

The first recipient, Rory Galligan (RIP), certainly fulfilled that ambition and competed as a “works” driver for Peugeot and Mitsubishi. Many subsequent winners have achieved International success at British Rally Championship (BRC), European Rally Championship (ERC), Junior World Rally Championship (JWRC) and now at the top level, World Rally Championship (WRC).

Sport Ireland fully recognises motorsport and is a partner in the award scheme ensuring a much improved package and giving the award higher status. Motor clubs running rallies under a national permit contribute to this initiative. The Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy which is funded by the Team Ireland foundation will provide additional Training and Development support thanks to the philanthropic donations received from friends of the sport.

### 2. OBJECTIVES.

- To identify young drivers who demonstrate driving ability, ambition and capability to compete at international level.
- To support young drivers through training and Development, to progress up a clear ladder from J1000, J1600, Rally5, R2/Rally4, Rally3 to R5/Rally2 and Rally1.
- To provide assistance and guidance to enable them to develop their ambitions through competing at home and abroad.
- To create ambassadors for Irish motorsport.
- To create an Irish World Rally Champion.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY.

A driver wishing to qualify for the selection process must meet, in the first instance, the following criteria:

- Be under **25 years** of age on 1st January in the year of the award, **reducing to 24 years of age for eligibility by January 2025.**
- Hold a valid current competition licence issued by Motorsport Ireland.
- Be resident on the island of Ireland.
- Competing at home or abroad in any type of car eligible for Motorsport Ireland rallies except WRC cars.

### 4. QUALIFICATION PROCESS.

A shortlist of up to eight candidates will be established using the following method:

- Two qualifiers will be selected from events taking place in the following monthly groupings:  
Jan / Feb / Mar / April / May - One Qualifier  
Jun / July / Aug / Sept / Oct - One Qualifier

These qualifiers will be picked by a judging panel appointed by Motorsport Ireland.

- Highest placed eligible driver **in the overall classification in either Class 2 or Class 2A** of the Motorsport Ireland National Rally Championship.

- Highest placed eligible driver **in the overall classification in either Class 2 or Class 2A** of the Motorsport Ireland National Forest Rally Championship.

- Highest placed eligible driver in the MIJRS **Class 16 and Class 1 combined**

- Highest placed eligible driver in the MIJRS **Class 2**

- Highest placed eligible driver in the MIJRS **Class 2A**

- One wildcard candidate will be chosen by a panel appointed by Motorsport Ireland, and if any of the above categories are unfilled, these also may be filled by way of wildcard.

The same panel may also choose a candidate to fill a position if the same driver qualifies twice under the options set out above. If there are not at least three eligible award winners in each of the above classes, in their respective championships/series, then the nomination may not be offered.

### 5. SELECTION PROCESS.

The shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by a judging panel consisting of:

- A convenor (non-voting) appointed by the President of Motorsport Ireland.
- A Current Rally driver or Co-driver appointed by the President of Motorsport Ireland.
- A representative of the clubs contributing to the award (to be decided by a public draw).
- A representative of the Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy.
- A representative of Sport Ireland.
- A member of the Motorsport media.

Each qualifier will be required to provide the following to the Judging Panel 7 days in advance of the interview date:

- A digital format submission outlining their plans



for the use of the award and incorporating a costing of their chosen programme. It should also include plans for their own PR and promotion of the Billy Coleman Award.

The judging panel will select a winner and two runners up from the shortlist of candidates each of whom will be invited to attend the annual Motorsport Ireland presentation of Awards, where the winner will be announced. In making their selection they will take into account not only the candidates competition results and ability, but also the interpersonal skills, commerciality and commitment to the sport. The decision of the judging panel will be final.

## 6. THE AWARD.

All Nominated candidates, who take up the offer to be interviewed for the Award, are eligible for inclusion in the Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy for one year.

The winner will receive:

- A support programme to compete in stage rallies at home and abroad in **an amount up to €50,000**.
- Assistance of the Billy Coleman Co-ordinator in achieving maximum benefit from the award.
- Additional support **of up to €50,000** from the Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy as part of a training and development plan to further their careers will also be available in year one.

He/she may apply for further support for a second year dependent on fulfilling the eligibility criteria in section 3, and delivering on the previous years plan. Support in a second or subsequent years will depend on the level of funding available. The runners up (2) will receive a support programme to compete in stage rallies at home and abroad up to the value of €15,000 each.

To avail of this support and assistance:

All recipients will be required to sign a contract with Motorsport Ireland. **Their programmes will be monitored, and progress assessed, throughout the eligibility period, and execution and achievement must meet agreed criteria to maintain continuous funding throughout the year.**

## 7. FUNDING.

Each club presently organising a Stage Rally under National permit will contribute a minimum of €500 each. Motorsport Ireland, Sport Ireland and the Team Ireland Foundation will provide the remaining funding necessary to bring the value of the award to the amount set out in Section 6.

## 8. CO-ORDINATOR.

Motorsport Ireland has appointed a Co-ordinator to monitor and promote the Billy Coleman Award throughout the year to ensure Motorsport Ireland, Sport Ireland and the Team Ireland Foundation derive a suitable return on their investment in the award.

The Co-ordinator will assist the winner throughout the year and help them to gain maximum benefit from the award. The Co-ordinator will be present at the final interview process to act as liaison for the finalists regarding the process on the day of the interview. They will provide results and any information to the judging panel. The coordinator will report directly to Motorsport Ireland and to the Billy Coleman Award judging panel.

The Co-ordinator is Sean McHugh  
Mobile 087 279 8119  
Email: seanmac135@hotmail.com

## 9. BILLY COLEMAN.

Billy Coleman, from Cork, is a fine example of the type of competitor we are looking for. When it was almost unimaginable that an Irish person could win outside their own "patch" Billy Coleman went out and won the British Rally Championship outright and finished third in the European Rally Championship. He has remained a well-known figure in Irish sport at home and abroad.

The list of previous winners can be found in App 20 of the current yearbook.