

## Billy Coleman Award Appendix 16

### Billy Coleman Award/Rally Academy Membership 2022

Due to the Covid restrictions prevailing throughout 2021 limiting the amount of competition that could be held, for a second year in a row the Billy Coleman Award will not be presented.

The present Rally Academy group are in place since the awards process in 2019 and have benefited from this over the last two years, 2020 and 2021. It is proposed to select a new group for the 2022 season and the process for that is laid out below in sections 3, 4 and 5.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION.

The Billy Coleman 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 World Rally Championship (WRC) level.

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 was launched in 2019 to build on the foundations of the Billy Coleman award to provide additional training, development and financial support to the award winner and the award contenders. The Academy is fully funded by the Team Ireland Motorsports Foundation through philanthropic donations received from friends of the sport.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES.

- To identify young drivers who demonstrate driving ability, ambition and capability to compete successfully at international level.
- To support young drivers through training and development, to progress up a clear ladder from J1000, J1600, Rally5, Rally4, Rally3 to Rally2 and Rally1.
- To provide assistance and guidance to enable them to develop their ambitions through competition 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 26 years of age on 1st January in the year of the award.
- 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.

The qualification process for the Billy Coleman Award and membership of the Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy is:

Any Competitor who is eligible under the criteria set out in Section 3, wishing to register, should submit a Digital document that is available through the Motorsport Ireland Website and through Club Secretaries.

The digital format submission should outline their plans for the use of the award and incorporating a costing for their chosen programme. It should also include plans for their own PR, promotion of the Billy Coleman Award and the Rally Academy.

A shortlist of eligible candidates will be created and a group of up to 6 drivers will be selected to become members of the Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy .

### 5. SELECTION PROCESS.

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

- A convenor appointed by the President of Motorsport Ireland.
- A Current Rally driver or Co-driver appointed by the President of Motorsport Ireland.
- Two representatives of the clubs contributing to the award
- A representative of the Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy.
- A representative of Sport Ireland.
- A member of the Motorsport media.

The judging panel will select up to 6 drivers from the shortlist of candidates. In making their selection they will consider not only the candidates competition results and ability, but also their plans for the future and commitment to the sport.

Canvassing any member of the judging Panel will disqualify.

The decision of the judging panel will be final.

## 6. THE AWARD.

All members of the final Group, (Up to 6), are eligible for inclusion in the Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy for one year.

They will receive:

- A support programme to compete in stage rallies at home or abroad
- Assistance of the Billy Coleman Co-ordinator in achieving maximum benefit from the award.

Support 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.

They may also apply for additional support for further years dependant on fulfilling the eligibility criteria in section 3, and delivering on the previous year's plan. Support in a second or further years may become available depending on the level of funding available.

In order to avail of this support and assistance, all recipients will be required to sign a contract with Motorsport Ireland.

## 7. FUNDING.

Billy Coleman Award.

Each club presently organising a Stage Rally under Motorsport Ireland permit contributes €500 per event and the balance, up to €25,000, is provided from the Motorsport Ireland general fund, if required. Sport Ireland provides matching funds of €25,000.

Since 2019 the Team Ireland Motorsports Foundation has provided an additional €50,000 to the Billy Coleman Award winner and £30,000 in runner up prizes, bringing the value to a potential €130,000, depending on the programmes agreed.

Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy.

The Team Ireland Motorsports Foundation funds all Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy training, development and competition activities.

Additionally, the Foundation supports enhanced prize funds for the current MI J1000 Forestry and J1600 Mixed Surface Championships.

#### 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. He/she 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 00353 87 2798119 Email: [seanmac135@hotmail.com](mailto: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.