



WELCOME

To the first edition of Ulster Rally News. This short newsletter has been produced specifically for the many volunteer Marshals and Officials who are the core of the event and without whom it could not be run at all – let

alone at the very high standard we have set ourselves.

Thanks for all your help with the 2009 Event and we hope you will again help us make the 2010 Toodslap.com Ulster Rally one of the best in Europe.

Remember the date -- 20th and 21st August 2010 at Antrim. I hope to see you all then.

MICHAEL JOHNSTON
Clerk of the Course

ULSTER RALLY AGAIN WINS TROPHY FOR BEST ROUND OF BRITISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP...



Michael and Philip receiving the trophy from Mark Taylor

The award was presented by Mark Taylor, Championship Manager and reflects the very complimentary views of both competitors and officials on the organisation, location and excellent competitive stages provided by the 2009 Toodslap.com Ulster Rally. This is the second time the Ulster Rally has received this prestigious award.

Speaking after the presentation Michael Johnston, Clerk of the Course, said that the award was “a tribute to all the hard work put in by many people to make the event a success. The move to Antrim was very well received by competitors and championship officials but undoubtedly added to the work required – both for Stage Commanders and Marshals working new stages and all those involved in the new HQ and Service Area arrangements. It is good to have their efforts recognised”

Philip Murray, Event Director, also thanked everyone involved for making the event such a success -- “We had our difficulties over the weekend but with the usual enthusiastic input from our volunteers and the strong support of Benny O’ Hanlon and the Toodleap.com staff, Antrim Borough Council and Junction One we delivered another excellent event for both competitors and spectators”.

At the recent British Rally Championship Awards Ceremony, the 2009 Toodslap.com Ulster Rally was awarded the trophy for the best round of the 2009 British Rally Championship.

A TRIBUTE TO ALL THE HARD WORK PUT IN BY MANY PEOPLE TO MAKE THE EVENT A SUCCESS



NEW WEBSITE

A revamped Ulster Rally Webpage – with the same domain address **www.ulsterrally.com** has now become operational. This has a fresh look and, as well as allowing more frequent updates, will have pages dedicated specifically for Ulster Rally Marshals

WHAT THEY SAID...

INTERNATIONAL CO-DRIVER by email

Just a short note to thank you all for running an excellent event and also your understanding and helpfulness towards us ...

From the officials, to timekeepers and marshals, all were very professional and seemed to enjoy the roles they were given. Again Many Thanks and I hope that we will have the pleasure of competing in your rally again next year.'

NATIONAL DRIVER by text

'Event was one of the best. Great location, great stages. Congrats to all the team, well done'

INTERNATIONAL CO-DRIVER by email

'Please pass on my thanks for a cracking event. Excellent venue, fantastic stages and very helpful organising team. Hope to be back in 2010 (sponsors permitting!) All the best'

NATIONAL CO-DRIVER by email

'Thank you for all your work and help on this rally. Congratulations to everyone involved in the organisation. It was a huge success. Bring it back to Junction One and Antrim next year, please.'

INTERNATIONAL DRIVER AND CO-DRIVER by email

'A very sincere thanks to you, all the organising committee, marshals and timekeepers for a brilliant event. Everyone involved was very helpful and pleasant making the rally a real joy. Not everyone can win, or be a class winner; many of us are the also-rans. We don't make headlines but our entry fees and participation are what keeps events alive. Therefore a sincere thanks from two happy (but tired) competitors who really enjoyed Ulster 2009.'

INTERNATIONAL CO-DRIVER by email

'I would ask you to pass on to the committee my congratulations on a most excellently organised event. As you are aware I compete in at least 15, generally high status, events each year and visit, or am involved with, many more throughout Europe. The strength in depth, commitment, and pool of knowledge of the 'Ulster' organisation committee verges on the incredible.

PHILIPPE BOUVIER (Renault Clio R3 Series Organiser)

'In the name of all my RENAULT Sport Technologies colleagues, and behalf of our Clio R3 drivers, I would like to thank you, all your Staff and Team, and also the Mayor, and the Department of Leisure and Art of Antrim, for the welcome we all receive last week during the Ulster Rally.

It was really a great opportunity to do a rally with a very highest level, and we will do all our best to come back, with more Clio's, next year.'

INTERNATIONAL DRIVER by email

Just wanted to thank yourself and the Ulster Rally team for a wonderful event. Even from months before the rally the level of information was incredibly helpful. The stages, the venues and the marshals helped to provide such an

enjoyable Ulster. Having competed in rallies across the water mostly, not many local rallies over here have their level of professionalism; the Ulster 2009 was certainly one of the showcase events in terms of organisation. Pass on my thanks to everyone involved.

LEONA BARR (JUNCTION ONE) by email

The figures are encouraging from the tenants for last week, it was always a worry due to restricted parking. Lissa did a great job keeping the peace and the extra security helped car parking issues so overall we were pleased with the outcome.

NICOLA MCCULLOUGH (ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL) by email

I'm so pleased everything went really well for the Rally. We get to work on quite a lot of events throughout the year, but the Ulster Rally definitely is our favourite so far. I saw the BBC piece on the news last night it was super, but I can't help thinking how better it will look with the wall rebuilt and the Courthouse finished.

INTERNATIONAL CO-DRIVER by email

Just a quick note to say thank you and very well done on the rally. For us the rally was very well organised and the stages were brilliant and very well received for all the competitors, if only a few of the rallies from around the world could be as slick as you guys then rallying could be a better place. Many congratulations to all your team and to all the marshals time keepers etc for a very professional job.

IAN BEASANT (MEDIA) by text

Well done on running an excellent Rally. Glad everything went well. Biggest crowds I have seen on the Ulster for 20 years.

NATIONAL CO-DRIVER by text

Super Rally well done to all the organisers. Best stages, slick running, best venue, a total success, well done – Looking forward to next year.

NATIONAL DRIVER by phone

Excellent event with fantastic stages and as always on time.

BRIAN PATTERSON (MEDIA) by phone

Well done on an excellent event and many thanks to the whole organising team.

SERVICE CREW MANAGER by phone

I never do this, but I felt I just had to call – the boys really enjoyed the event and the stages and service area were the best ever." I have been at 4 world rounds this year and the Ulster was much better than any of them, they could learn from you guys, well done."

All we have to do now is repeat the process this year and make it even better in 2010!!

WHAT THEY THOUGHT - ULSTER RALLY 2009 - COMPETITOR & OFFICIALS SURVEY

Competitors and Officials say thank you and well done to everyone involved in the 2009 Toddsleap.com Ulster Rally. In our efforts to meet the expectations of our customers, each year, Drew Todd and the Ulster Rally administration team circulate all competitors and ask for their views of the event past and for to suggest improvements for the future. The 2009 Competitors Survey was completed by 30 competitors – equally split between drivers and co-drivers and between International and National competitors. We are grateful to them for taking the time to reply.

Feedback was in general very positive. Some key points to come out of the survey were

	Excellent	Very Good	Average	Poor / Very Poor
Overall satisfaction	63%	33%	3%	
Manpower – numbers and effectiveness	66%	33%		
Stages	77%	24%		
Service Park	71%	26%		4%
Scrutiny	73%	17%	10%	
Results	70%	20%	10%	
Admin/ Registration	93%	7%		
Awards Distribution	16%	33%	17%	24%
Enjoyment for Money	61%	29%		

PLANNING ALREADY UNDERWAY FOR 2010...



The Organising Team for 2010 remains largely unchanged – if a little older but not necessarily wiser!! Work is already well underway for next years event.

Some of the key points already decided are –

- Return to Antrim with Antrim Borough Council's enthusiastic support.
- Toddsleap.com returns as the Headline Sponsor for the third year
- Weekend of 20 / 21 August 2010
- Again hosted within the Junction One International Outlet Shopping Centre location
- Friday / Saturday format similar to last year but with some of the old classic stages supplemented with three interesting new stages – all in County Antrim.
- A total of 5 events will be included under the Ulster Rally banner



Title	Status	Championships Confirmed at 21 January 2010.	Mileage
Ulster Rally	National A (with foreign participation)	TROA, TROA Modified, Irish Mitsubishi Evo Challenge Irish Citroen C2R2 Cup, Irish Fiesta Sport Trophy	130
Rally NI	International	BRC, UK Mitsubishi Evo Challenge , UK Citroen C2R2 Cup UK Fiesta Sport Trophy, Suzuki Swift Sport Cup	125
Ulster Historic Rally	National A Historic	British Historic Rally Championship.	100+
Ulster Challenge Rally	National B	BRC Challenge, UK Fiesta Sport Challenge	80+
Ulster National Rally	National B	None	80+

Chief Marshal, Barry O'Neill



BARRY O'NEILL RETURNS AS CHIEF MARSHAL FOR 2010

The Organising Committee are delighted to welcome back Barry O'Neill as Chief Marshal for 2010. After a steep learning curve in 2009, Barry has plans for new features and training in 2010. Watch this Space and keep your phone switched on!! Help is always very welcome, so if you have not Marshallled on the Ulster Rally before and would like to help please give Barry a ring on 07740510551.

NEW HISTORIC ULSTER RALLY

For the first time in 2010 the Ulster Rally weekend will include the Toddsleap.com Ulster Historic Rally.

This event will be one of 8 rounds of the MSA British Historic Rally Championship, joining prestigious events such as Isle of Man and Tour of Flanders Historic Rallies. We are grateful to the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure which is supporting travel and accommodation for competitors from Outside Northern Ireland. This has allowed us to put together a "good value" package which we are hopeful will allow us to attract a good quality field and some classic cars for a re-run over the classic Ulster Stages.

Historic Rallying is growing rapidly in popularity with both spectators and competitors and the MSA British Historic Rally Championship is one of the fastest growing championships in British rallying. It is co-ordinated by the Historic Rally Car Register (HRCR) and caters for cars

spanning two decades of rallying. Cars from the early 1960's through to 1981 are eligible and entries are regularly in excess of 60 cars on each of the qualifying rounds in GB.

Plunkett Boyle, the Clerk of the Course for the Ulster Historic Rally, recently attended the championship launch in Birmingham and reported considerable interest in the event. Speaking after the launch Plunkett said " We are delighted to have been asked to participate in this prestigious British Championship and have obtained financial support from Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure to put together an attractive travel/entry/accommodation package. Early indications are that this will draw a large number of top class competitors from Great Britain and Ireland. While the cars may be historic, the competition is no less fierce and they will be driven hard to provide a superb spectacle for spectators along the route."

