



For Immediate Release  
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## **Ulster Rally Returns to Antrim.**

Plans are in full swing for the 2010 Todd's Leap.com Ulster Rally and after the success of the 2009 event, which was voted best British International Rally; the organisers are delighted to again base the event in Antrim.

Welcoming the 'Ulster' back to Antrim, Mayor of Antrim, Councillor Adrian Cochrane-Watson commented,

"This is the second year that the Todd's Leap.com Ulster Rally has taken place in Antrim. Last year's event was a fantastic success and a great boost for the Borough. With teams and spectators travelling from all over Europe, there is no doubt that an event of this calibre will contribute significantly to the tourism sector and boost the economy of the Borough. We are proud to support this event."

Speaking at a photo shoot with Councillor Cochrane-Watson, Clerk of the Course Michael Johnston endorsed the Mayor's comments and added,

"It's great to be able to base the Ulster Rally in Antrim again this year. The local area and its facilities were widely praised by competitors and spectators alike and I have no doubt that this was a major factor in the event being voted best British International Rally in 2009"

Michael also took the opportunity to confirm that for the first time in the event's history the August Rally weekend will include the Ulster Historic Rally.

"The prestigious Ulster Historic Rally will be one of eight rounds of the Dunlop/WONAGA.com MSA British Historic Rally Championship, joining high profile events such as the Manx and the Tour of Flanders Rally in Belgium. Rally fans will be able see a variety of cars not seen for many years and we hope that they will bring back memories of the first Ulster Rally in 1976"

"Add this to the latest state of the art rally cars included in the Dulux Trade British and Citroen Irish Rally Championships and the local competitors in the National event we are confident that there will be something of interest for everyone."

The 2010 event will set off from the Courthouse Square in Antrim Town at lunchtime on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August and following a selection of interesting and challenging tests around the Hills & Glens of Antrim the cars will return to the finish within the Junction One International Outlet Shopping Centre on Saturday afternoon.

Prospective competitors can now download Ulster Rally Guide 1 giving full details and all the information they need to plan their trip to Antrim for the Rally from the event website at [www.ulsterrally.com](http://www.ulsterrally.com).

**ENDS**



**'The coats come off as the plans hot up for the Toddsleap.com Ulster Rally'**

L-R Clerk of the Course Michael Johnston with Councillor Adrian Cochrane-Watson, Mayor of Antrim.



L-R Clerk of the Course Michael Johnston with Councillor Adrian Cochrane-Watson, Mayor of Antrim.

**The 2010 Ulster Rally is supported by:**

- • Toddsleap.com – [www.toddsleap.com](http://www.toddsleap.com)
- • Antrim Borough Council – [www.antrim.gov.uk](http://www.antrim.gov.uk)
- • The Northern Ireland Tourist Board – [www.nitb.com](http://www.nitb.com)  
The Ulster Historic Rally is supported by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board through the Event Growth Fund.
- • The Holiday Inn Express, Antrim – [www.hiexpressantrim.co.uk](http://www.hiexpressantrim.co.uk)
- • Junction One International Outlet Shopping Centre - [www.junctionone.co.uk](http://www.junctionone.co.uk)

**The 2010 Toddsleap.com Ulster Rally is a counting round of the following:**

- • Dulux Trade MSA British Rally Championship – [www.rallybrc.com](http://www.rallybrc.com)
- • Citroen Irish Tarmac Rally Championship – [www.irishtarmac.com](http://www.irishtarmac.com)
- • Dunlop/WONAGO.com MSA British Historic Rally Championship – [www.hrcr.co.uk](http://www.hrcr.co.uk)
- • Mitsubishi Ralliart Evolution Challenge UK & Ireland – [www.evo-challenge.co.uk](http://www.evo-challenge.co.uk)
- • Citroen Racing Trophy UK & Ireland – [www.c2r2.co.uk](http://www.c2r2.co.uk)
- • Ford Fiesta Sport Trophy UK & Ireland – [www.fiestasporttrophy.co.uk](http://www.fiestasporttrophy.co.uk)
- • Suzuki Swift Cup – [www.swiftsportcup.com](http://www.swiftsportcup.com)
- • BRC Challenge including the Fiesta Sport Challenge and the Citroen C2R2 Cup – [www.rallybrcchallenge.co.uk](http://www.rallybrcchallenge.co.uk)

## Event Sponsor Toddsleap.com

At Toddsleap.com having fun is a serious business. Set in 100 acres of picturesque countryside near Ballygawley, this purpose built, off-road activity centre offers the very best in high octane thrills. With extreme off road driving, quad biking, paintballing, clay pigeon shooting and archery, plus bespoke team-building activities, there's something to suit every visitor, every group and every budget.

And there's more. Toddsleap.com will shortly be introducing an awesome 100 feet high inflatable slide, guaranteed to challenge the nerve of even the most hardened thrill seeker. But while excitement is paramount, so too is safety, and visitors wear top quality protection equipment at all times.

And so to bed....after an action-packed day, why not chill out and relax in Toddsleap.com's ultra comfortable self catering log cabins!

For more information, visit [www.toddsleap.com](http://www.toddsleap.com) or call 028 8556 7170.

### **Editors' Notes**

- The Toddsleap.com Ulster Rally is an International Motor Car Special Stage Rally on closed public roads.
- • The 2010 event is the 34<sup>th</sup> Ulster Rally.
- • The first Ulster Rally was held in 1976 and was won by Cathal Curley in a Porsche Carrera.
- • The 2009 Ulster Rally was won by Maghera's Eugene Donnelly in a Skoda Fabia WRC.
- • Ulster Rally encompasses 300 road miles and 127 miles of competitive stages.
- • The event takes place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August with pre-event preparation starting early on Thursday 19th August.
- • The event includes 14 special stages (7 stages, each run twice) and 7 visits to the Central Service Park at Junction One International Outlet Shopping Centre, Antrim.
- • Rally HQ will be at Holiday Inn Express, within the Junction One complex, Antrim.
- • Up to 800 volunteer officials are involved in running the event each year.
- • The Event can allow a maximum of 175 competing cars – bringing approximately 1000 competitors/support team members to the area.
- • The 2010 Dulux Trade MSA British Rally Championship is currently being led by Carryduff's Jonny Greer in a Mitsubishi.
- • The 2010 Citroen Irish Tarmac Rally Championship is currently being led by Enniskillen's Alistair Fisher in a Mitsubishi.
- • Coleraine driver Dessie Nutt won the 2009 Dunlop/Wonago.com MSA British Historic Rally Championship in a Porsche 911.
- • Rallying is the 4th most popular sport in Ireland.

### **Brief event Schedule:**

- First car starts from Courthouse Square, Antrim on Friday 20st August at 13:30.
- Cars run at one minute intervals.
- Cars return to Junction One International Retail Park Service Area during the event
- Re-start on Saturday 22nd August at 06:30
- Official finish in Junction One scheduled for 15:30 (Historic Rally) and 17:00 (International Rally)

### **Paul Biggerstaff**

[pbiggerstaff@ulsterrally.com](mailto:pbiggerstaff@ulsterrally.com)

tel: 077 5384 6734