



Introduction to 2017 Yearbook

Hello to all and I wholeheartedly welcome you to the 2017 Motorsport Ireland Yearbook. As has been done over the years a lot of detailed work and attention has been applied to ensure the content of this yearbook is accurate, and laid out in a manner that is clear in it's meaning and easy to work with. To those of you from the different committees and indeed to all other contributors who worked on this year's book a very sincere Thank You. As normal some changes will occur during the year and these changes will be flagged as they happen in the motorsport bulletins and on the MI website. These together with other useful information can be found on www.motorsportireland.com

2016 was a year that certainly presented it's own challenges. Having launched our Strategic Plan the previous year and having appointed our sports development officer we felt that we were indeed in a good position. However the year started off with a huge increase in our insurance premium, which obviously has had a big impact on the sport, particularly rallying. The last days of 2015 and the early days of 2016 were spent putting a plan in place to ensure the very future of rallying - as we knew it. Haven taken counsel from a wide variety of sources and with many hours hard work a fair system was worked out so that we could progress into the new year. Here I would like to thank all those who worked so hard on this project, those who organised meetings, those who travelled to meetings to help and explain the rational behind the levies applied to insurance, and generally those who helped in so many ways. I also want thank the many people – clubs, officials, marshalls, competitors and all those people who worked so hard throughout 2016 to make motorsport as safe as it is. It took a special effort – and I am proud to say you did make that effort. There were many other disciplines within our sport who made a great effort to develop and enhance the sport throughout the year. To all those people who give of their time freely as volunteers to work on the ground, attend many meetings, and generally contribute to the delivery of a safe and enjoyable sport I want to acknowledge your work and thank you very much.

It is indeed a very proud time for our sport when the FIA President, Jean Todt, recieves an international award from The United Nations for the work motorsport does around the world to promote road safety. It is recognised and accepted that every club can play a very important role locally in many different ways. Here I want to compliment the many clubs and competitors who get involved with their local schools, organise information days, social evenings etc to enhance the standing of the local motor club in their area. It is of the utmost important that we continue to show publically how much work we do to ensure safety in all aspects of our sport.

As always we continue to develop the Motorsport Ireland website, and a lot of effort is applied to keep information fresh, relevant and up to date. As a sport we have a brilliant forum for discussion and debate in the Competition Advisory Committee meetings, and I would sincerely ask all clubs to ensure that you are represented at these meetings. They are the perfect conduit between the Motorsport Ireland office, committees and the grassroots of the sport, and I would like to see these further develop in the future.

I do want to extend my congratulations to all those competotors who have done so well in the many competitions throughout 2016, and it is always a pleasure to see Ireland doing well on the international front in addition to our strongly performing home championships. This year we are very proud to have two Motorsport Ireland competition licences holders named as members of the Citroen W.R.C. team – namely Craig Breen & Paul Neagle. We wish them well for the future. We would like to thank Sport Ireland and the Road Safety Authority for their continued help and support, and we are always working to improve these important links.

I would like to compliment Alex Sinclair and all the office staff for the good work that they do for the sport and cost containment is a very important part of that work. We hope to continue this through 2017, and I would encourage everyone to help to ensure our sport prospers in the future. I am delighted to see Alex back to full health and there to guide and direct us as we procede into a new year.

Together, I hope we all have a safe, enjoyable and successfull 2017.

Martin McKenna.
President.
Motorsport Ireland.