



Introduction to 2018 Yearbook

Greetings to all and a very warm welcome to the 2018 Motorsport Ireland Yearbook. Like in previous 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 practical, clear 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 is normal throughout the year some changes will occur 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

I think that it is fair to say that 2017 brought many challenges, not least the insurance premium that is levied on us and the burden that that places on us. To ensure that this fact was fully understood we had a number of meetings throughout the country to explain the detail of that premium. I want to record the huge effort that many people within the sport went to so as to ensure the success of those meetings, and to do our best to present the actual situation in the clearest possible form. I also want to thank all of you travelled many miles to these meetings for the good of the sport and indeed your own clubs. On the subject of meetings I want to thank all those delegates that continue to attend the C.A.C. meetings – in my opinion this is a very valuable connection between the committees, the office, the grassroots of the sport. It also provides a very good meeting point with the clubs and different disciplines.

To make our sport successful and to keep it safe takes many, many people – club personnel, marshalls, officials, competitors, rescue services and so many more. On behalf of everyone involved in the sport I wish to thank them most sincerely. Without the hard work and enthusiasm of all, our sport would not survive. Thankfully we can record that 2017 was a very safe year, and we pray that this trend will continue throughout 2018. I also want to recognize the many people in all the disciplines who voluntarily give of their time to develop the younger generations who come into our sport. We continue to see the fruits of their work, as more and more competitors perform so well both at home and abroad.

I want to draw your attention to “Team Ireland” – our international fund raising vehicle. This fund is to provide a development programme and assistance to our young up and coming competitors. Everyone who has been involved in this programme gives a very positive feedback regarding it. I want to particularly thank John Campion – our American Ambassador - and his team in America for the hard work they continue to do.

On an international basis our sport – under FIA President, Jean Todt, continues to be recognised as a source of good, for the work it does around the world to promote learning and 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 and social events to enhance the standing of the local motor club in their area. This can only be good for our sport, and enhance its standing within the broader community.

As always we continue to develop the Motorsport Ireland social media offering. A lot of effort is applied to keep information fresh, relevant and up to date. In the present day we feel this is most important, I would ask you all to feel free to contact the office – if you think you can contribute in any meaningful way.

I do want to extend my congratulations to all those competitors who have done so well in the many competitions throughout 2017, and it is always a pleasure to see Ireland doing well on the international front in addition to our strongly performing home championships. We continue to see local names appear on the world stage – and that makes us all proud. We wish them continued success in 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 pay tribute to Alex Sinclair and all the office staff for the good work that they do for the sport. They continue to provide a very professional service on a very restricted budget – and for this we all owe them a debt of gratitude and a sincere thank you.

Together can I wish you well & hope we all have a safe, enjoyable and successful 2018 – and always remember; We do this for Sport & Relaxation.

Martin McKenna.
President.
Motorsport Ireland.