



MOTORSPORT IRELAND BILLY COLEMAN AWARD

1. INTRODUCTION.

The 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 which is funded by the Team Ireland foundation will provide additional Training and Development support thanks to the philanthropic donations received from friends of the sport.

2. OBJECTIVES.

- To identify young drivers who demonstrate driving ability, ambition and capability to compete at international level.
- To support young drivers through training and Development, to progress up a clear ladder from J1000, J1600, R2 to R5 and beyond.
- To provide assistance and guidance to enable them to develop their ambitions through competing at home and abroad.
- To create ambassadors for Irish motorsport.

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.

A shortlist of up to **8** candidates will be established using the following method:

- 3 qualifiers will be selected from the following monthly groupings.

Jan/Feb/Mar/April, One Qualifier

May/June/July, One Qualifier

Aug/Sept/Oct, One Qualifier

These qualifiers will be picked by a judging panel appointed by Motorsport Ireland.

- Highest placed eligible driver in the Junior Championship, **Class 16**, category **of** the Motorsport Ireland National Rally Championship.

- Highest placed eligible driver in the **Junior Championship, Class 16, category of the** Motorsport Ireland National Forest Rally Championship.

- Highest placed eligible driver in the Motorsport Ireland J1600 Dual Surface Rally Series.

- **Highest placed eligible driver in the Motorsport Ireland JR2 Dual Surface Rally Series.**

- One wildcard candidate **will** be chosen by a panel appointed by Motorsport Ireland.

- The same panel may also choose a candidate to fill a position if the same driver qualifies twice under the options set out above.

5. SELECTION PROCESS.

The shortlisted candidates will be interviewed 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.

- A representative of the clubs contributing to the award (to be decided by a public draw).

- A representative of Sport Ireland.

- A member of the Motorsport **media**.



The convenor will have no voting right except in the case of tied decision where he/she may cast deciding vote.

Each qualifier will be required to provide the following to the Judging Panel 7 days in advance of the interview date:

A digital format submission outlining their plans for the use of the award and incorporating a costing or their chosen programme. It should also include plans for their own PR and promotion of the Billy Coleman Award.

The judging panel will select a winner and two runners up from the shortlist of candidates. In making their selection they will take into account not only the candidates competition results and ability, but also the interpersonal skills, commerciality and commitment to the sport. The decision of the judging panel will be final.

6. THE AWARD.

All Nominated candidates, who take up the offer to be interviewed for the Award, are eligible for inclusion in the Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy for one year.

The winner will receive:

- **A support programme** to compete in stage rallies at home and abroad in the amount of €50,000.

- Assistance of the Billy Coleman Co-ordinator in achieving maximum benefit from the award.

- Additional 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.

He/she may apply for **additional support for further years** dependant on fulfilling the eligibility criteria in section 3, and delivering on the **previous** years plan. **Support in a second or further years may become available depending on the level of funding available.** The **two** runners up will receive **a support programme** to compete in stage rallies at home and abroad up **to a maximum value of** €15,000 each.

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

7. FUNDING.

Each club presently organising a Stage Rally under **Motorsport Ireland** permit will contribute **500 for each event. The balance will be provided by** Motorsport Ireland, Sport Ireland and the Team Ireland Foundation.

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

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.