

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL ENDURANCE COMPETITORS.

After another great year for Endurance Trials, it is time to look ahead to 2019.

This branch of the sport continues to increase in popularity. We now have 8 clubs running championship events, a far cry from the 3 – 4 of a few years ago. Not alone that, entries are climbing all the time. On that note, all potential competitors in the ALMC Trial in February are advised to get their entries in as soon as regs become available, as the 2018 event was close to the maximum (70).

The dates for next year are:

February 16th, ALMC.

March 23rd, Galway MC.

April 14th, Cavan MC.

May 26th, Tipperary MC.

July 14th, Wexford MC.

August 5th, Munster MC.

August 18th, Monaghan MC.

October 19th, Birr MC.

There are some significant changes for 2019. The first concerns tyres. It has been agreed by the Navigation Sub-Committee that there will be two control tyres for 2019. The first is the Starmaxx IceGripper W810, already used by many competitors.

To give competitors a choice, the Sunny Wintergrip SN 3860 will also be allowed. One or other of these tyres must be used on the driven wheels, but only in the two Endurance Classes (A1 & A2). In all the other classes, tyres are free, except that tyres with very 'open' treads will not be allowed, due to the damage they do to the private roads into which we are allowed.

The following is the full text of the Navigation Trials Sub-Committee full tyre rules:

Endurance Trial Control Tyre List 2019

In conjunction with Appendix 35 - Standard Regulations for Endurance Trials: Article 21.14, this list will outline the tyres permitted for the 2019 Endurance Trail discipline.

This 'Control Tyre' list is **ONLY** relevant for Endurance Specification cars in classes A1 and A2 and are **ONLY** mandatory on the driven wheels.

Control Tyre A	Control Tyre B
Starmaxx Ice Gripper Tyre	Sunny Winter Grip Tyre SN3860

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Control Tyre Guidelines:

1. The Starmaxx IceGripper tyre and the Sunny Winter Grip SN 3860 are to be the mandatory control tyres for the driven wheels in the two Endurance Classes only.
2. Tyres are free in all the other classes, as long as they comply with Appendix 35 regulations. An exception to this rule would be to allow the Yokohama A021R tyre in the Historic Classes only, due to the unavailability of a suitable tyre for cars in these classes.
2. An exception will be made if a crew in either of the two Endurance classes damaged a control tyre (or tyres) through puncturing or in an accident. In the event of this happening, the crew will be allowed substitute a tyre different to the control tyre but the crew must keep the damaged tyre/s in the car and make it/them available to any official for inspection when requested to do so. Failure to comply with this rule will result in exclusion; the official will be considered a Judge of Fact in this matter.
4. In the Endurance classes, the non-driven tyres are free, which will help competitors to run down existing stocks.
4. If at some stage during the year there is a shortage of control tyres, then the Navigation Sub-Committee reserve the right to nominate a substitute (but similar) control tyre.
4. If a competitor wishes to compete in an Endurance specification car for which there is no suitable control tyre in that size, then the Navigation Sub-Committee only may nominate another, similar tyre. This tyre will be nominated by the Sub-Committee.

One of the benefits of these rules would be to outlaw the practice of competitors swapping tyres depending on the surface of the next selective, as well as reducing costs.

The second major change is the expansion of the Endurance A2 class. As more and more newcomers come into this class, it was felt that 'sub-classes' be introduced, to avoid newcomers having to compete directly with very experienced competitors for class awards, never mind overall awards. ALMC have decided that there will be 5 such classes – Masters, Experts, Semi-Experts, Novices and Beginners. The first four classes will be defined by success/experience in 2018, while the Beginners class will be exclusively for those in their first year of competition.

If this system throws up unfair grades (for instance, a competitor who may have won several events in 2015 but who didn't compete in 2018), ALMC reserves the right to place the competitor in a class more appropriate to their success/experience.

Another issue which was discussed over the summer was that of code boards. While most people dislike them, they are a necessary evil for clubs who are short of marshals on the day. However, clubs will be reminded that they MUST abide by the description of a code board as laid down in Appendix 35 of the MI Year Book. There has been great (and disappointing) variety in the way code boards are displayed and it is hoped that strict observance of App. 35 should ease the situation.

On 15/01/19, ALMC will be repeating the Introductory Evening that they held in January of this year. There will be a talk on what Endurance Trials are all about (driving, navigating and car preparation), as well as a chance to drive a typical selective through the Luttrellstown forest (weather permitting) in a convoy at

controlled speed. This last part of the evening proved hugely popular last January and once again there will be a limited number of experienced competitors present to take newcomers through the selective in their Endurance cars. People can also take their own cars, but bear in mind that the surface is gravel and the onus of keeping to a non-damaging speed rests with the drivers.

The evening starts at 7:30 p.m. in Luttrellstown Golf Club and admission is free. Potential competitors will have the opportunity to join ALMC and/or register for the 2019 championship, the rules for which will shortly be up on the ALMC website.

For the last 8 years, I have represented Endurance competitors on the Navigation Sub-Committee and, if re-appointed for 2019, I will continue to do so.

However, I will be stepping down as Registrar for the championship. Also, after 8 years of being Course Organiser for the ALMC event, I'm stepping down from that as well, partly because a new team usually brings new ideas and also because I intend to compete in the event. However, you may be dismayed to learn that I will continue to put this Newsletter together from time to time – at least until some foolish person decides to take over the job!!

The new Registrar for the Championship is:

Louise Conaghy,

The Old Coach Road,

Monasterboice,

Drogheda,

Co. Louth.

Have a safe 2019.

Frank O'Donoghue.