

Getting Started in Historic Rallying



So, you'd like to have a go at Historic Rallying in the HRCR Clubmans Rally Championship and you've never done a historic rally before. Here's the answers to some of your initial questions.

1. Do I have to join the HRCR?

Before you can register for the HRCR Clubmans Rally Championship, you must be a paid up member of the HRCR. Both driver and navigator must be members, but if you share a common address a saving can be made by taking joint membership. You can join and pay your annual subscription on-line, or download a membership form, if you visit the main club section of the HRCR website, www.hrcr.co.uk

2. Does the HRCR provide instruction for Beginners?

Although not compulsory, you will benefit considerably by attending a Newcomers Rally School. The HRCR runs single day schools for rallying beginners at the start of each year, usually in January or February. Highly experienced rally competitors and organisers give talks on all aspects of starting Historic Rallying. If there's one coming up you'll find an announcement on this website or in the HRCR monthly newsletter.

3. Do I need a special car?

You don't need to own a suitable car to join the HRCR, but you will need one if you want to start rallying in the Clubmans Rally Championship. In general, cars for historic road rallying must have been first registered on or before 31st December 1981. Most Historic road rallies have four basic vehicle age groups, pre-1960, 1960-67, 1968-74 and 1975-81, so you may wish to choose a car to suit a particular group in which you wish to compete.

4. Do I need special documents for my car?

You'll be required to show your Registration Document (V5) to verify the age of your car at each rally you enter. The car will obviously need to have a current MoT certificate, and you'll have to show this each time as well. If you are entering the championship as a Master or Expert, or if your car was manufactured after 1974, you will need to have a valid **Historic Vehicle Identity Document** for your car (see notes below).

5. Are car modifications acceptable?

If you're starting rallying you will be well advised to use a standard and reliable car. However, if your car has any non-standard features or tuning modifications, you should ensure that they are acceptable. Generally any modifications that were used in rallying in the relevant period (pre-1960, 1960-67 or 1968-74) are OK. You'll find some useful information on vehicle eligibility for historic rallies on the HRCR's Historic Rally Car Technical website, at www.hrct.co.uk and competitors are recommended to study the information there before phoning HRCR officials with their eligibility queries.

6. What safety modifications are required?

Safety modifications may be advisable and will be acceptable, but most are not compulsory for any rallies in the HRCR Clubmans Rally Championship. You can fit modern rally seats, full harness belts, roll cages and fire extinguishers if you wish, but these are only mandatory for special stage rallies. Seat belts must be fitted and used if required by the Road Traffic Act for the vehicle age. Crash helmets, intercoms and fireproof racing overalls are for special stage rallying and definitely not to be worn on road rallies as they would give the general public the impression that we're racing on the public road.

7. Do we need MSA Competition Licences?

For all rallies in the HRCR Clubmans Rally Championship, all occupants of the car must have MSA Competition Licences. These licences have to be of National B status and will be inspected at each rally. The one to apply for is the **Non-Race National B**, currently costing £33, for which there is no previous qualification requirement and normally no requirement for a prior medical examination. Just fill in the form and send off your money to the Motor Sports Association (MSA). You can find the full requirements including the licence fees, and you can download a form from the MSA's website, www.msauk.org

8. How do I register for the Clubmans Rally Championship?

You can obtain a registration form from the Championship Coordinator or from the HRCR website. Fill it in and send it off with your cheque for the registration fee. You'll receive back a registration card, which must be presented at each championship rally you enter. Your name and address will be put on the mailing list and you'll then receive printed regulations and entry forms for each championship rally, about six weeks before the event. Some event organisers publish their regulations and entry forms on their club websites.

9. What about my Car Insurance?

Most car insurance policies exclude use in any form of competitions. You should check your insurance policy, and if you contact your broker he may be able to arrange a policy for you which extends cover to participating in car rallies of this type. However, every rally in the championship has insurance arranged through the organisers and for a moderate cost drivers can get the minimum Road Traffic Act cover (third party only) for the duration of the rally. Requirements for taking out this insurance cover will be detailed in the event regulations.

10. How do we enter our First Rally?

After studying the event regulations, send off the entry form with the appropriate entry fee to the rally organisers in good time. Each rally is organised independently, not by the HRCR but by a motor club local to the area, so each rally has to be entered individually. The rally organisers will send you an acknowledgement and any additional information you will need prior to the rally. The navigator will need to obtain the required 1:50000 scale Ordnance Survey maps.

This has been a very brief summary of how to get started in the HRCR Clubmans Rally Championship. You can find a lot more useful information on the HRCR website.



www.hrcr.co.uk

HISTORIC RALLY VEHICLE IDENTITY DOCUMENT

Historic Rally Vehicle Identity Forms are available from the MSA (Tel: 01753 765000). They will send you two blank forms, of 12 pages each, plus a supplement. The form asks for full details of the car's identity numbers, its engine dimensions, details of ignition, fuelling, lubrication, transmission, brakes, steering, wheels and tyres, lighting, and brief history. Photographs are required of several aspects of the car and components. On completion of the forms, a declaration is signed by the owner and both copies are sent to the MSA, along with a fee, currently £50. Importantly, the form must also be accompanied by evidence that any modifications declared were used in rallying on that model during the period for which eligibility is claimed. The MSA has ample experience of the more popular models and the available period modifications, but unusual vehicles or 'novel' modifications may well require research. On receipt of the forms, declaration and fee, the MSA will refer the form to one of its panel of Historic Consultants who will (hopefully) endorse the specification of the car. One copy of the form is then over-printed by the MSA and returned to the car owner, the other copy being retained by them.