



Rally News

Midnight Sun

KAK (the Swedish Kungliga Automobil Klubben) will introduce a number of changes for the 2019 edition of the KAK Midnattssolsrallyt in order to further consolidate the event's reputation as Sweden's largest and one of Europe's finest historic rallies.

New for 2019 is that there will be an age limit for the drivers in the historic rally, who must have reached their 40th birthday during the competition year. There is no age limit for navigators or drivers in the regularity section.

Only two-wheel cars up to 1990 will be eligible. Both these changes are expected to prove controversial.

The technical control of participating cars will be tightened in order to ensure compliance with their current HTPs and Appendix K.

In a statement organisers said the changes were, "to allow more historically interesting cars into the competition, thereby contributing to the enhancement of the rally experience for both audiences and participants. The event focuses on the cars that participated in the original Midnight Sun Rally in the years 1950-1964 and the rally cars that developed during the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s. It will provide participants, audience and partners with a unique experience of classic rallying on fine rally roads under safe conditions. Participants will be offered a nice meeting with good food in a spirit of nostalgic motorsport culture, where the competition, and the overall experience, is in the classic Midnight Sun spirit.

Dates for next year are set for 10-13 July, later than the usual June date, and organisers have not yet announced the route. See www.midnattssolsrallyt.com for updates.



Modena Cento Ore

The 2019 Modena Cento Ore will take place on 4-9 June and, after last year's unpopular start from Monza, will revert to its coast-to-coast format from Rimini to Florence, Forte dei Marmi and Modena, including circuit races in Misano, Imola and Mugello and a dozen challenging special stages.

For the first time there will also be a night race, under the artificial lighting system of Misano Circuit. There are priority places for past competitors in the oversubscribed event. Early entry is recommended. Application forms are available at www.modenacentooreclassic.it.



The Cento Ore will revert to what has become its traditional starting point in Rimini

Winter Marathon

Entries are open for the 2019 edition of the Winter Marathon that will take place in Madonna di Campiglio on 24-27 January.

While organisers are busy refining the details of the route that, after the positive feedback of last year means the rally will again run in two legs, the first a repeat of 2018's night run through Val Rendena, and the second on Friday 25th, taking participants through the most famous roads and passes of Trentino-Alto Adige to discover the magic of the Dolomites.

Eligible cars are those built up to 1968 both front and rear wheel drive, with an added selection of collectible and special interest cars produced before 1976. Particular attention will be given as usual to the hospitality of competitors, who will stay in a four-star hotel in the centre of Madonna di Campiglio, headquarters of the event, and once again there will be special trophies to winners of the races on the frozen lake there.

Entry can be made on line at www.wintermarathon.it, and there are discounts for those entering early as well as for team entries.

British Historic Rally Championship

North Yorkshiremen Matthew Robinson and Sam Collis scored a home victory in their Ford Escort Mk2 on the Trackrod Historic Cup, the final round of the British Historic Championship, while newly crowned Champion Paul Barrett, one of a host of Ford Escort Mk2 drivers, gently rolled his car on the opening night stage in Dalby Forest, smashing the windscreen and picking up a maximum time for the test.

The jovial Irishman recovered, with the aid of a windscreen borrowed from friend and rival Robinson, to register fastest times on three of Saturday's five concluding stages but remained way down the leaderboard, allowing Robinson to lead from start to finish for, "one of the most meaningful successes of my career, as it's my local event and I've tried so hard in previous years."

With title-winner Barrett using several co-drivers through the season, Brian Hodgson was confirmed as champion co-driver after a superb campaign alongside Escort MK2 driver Stuart Egglestone. Chris Skill was crowned as Category Two champion, also in a Ford Escort Mk2. Among the most notable achievements came from octogenarian Bob Bean, who with Miles Cartwright on the notes, claimed the Category One title and the inaugural BHRC2 crown after coming out on top of the division for 1600cc cars in his Lotus Cortina.

Championship standings
 1 Paul Barrett – 128 points
 2 Stuart Egglestone/Brian Hodgson – 102
 3 Simon Webster/Jez Rogers – 101



Matthew Robinson and Sam Collis in action on the Trackrod Historic Cup, Photo Paul Lawrence Courtesy MSA