

ASSOCIATION OF LAND ROVER CLUBS

President: Mr Denis Bourne



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11th February 2019

Dear Club Secretary,

ALRC National Rally – the Future

I am writing to all member clubs, both competitive and non-competitive, to seek views from clubs about the future of the ALRC National Rally. I believe that it is time to do so because it is becoming increasingly difficult for the ALRC Council to effectively co-ordinate and have a forward plan for future National Rallies. To put this into context, we currently have only one offer, after this year's event to be hosted by Anglian LRC and Chiltern Vale LRC at Whaddon, which is from MROC for the 75th anniversary of Land Rover in 2023 at Eastnor.

The ALRC Council recognises that due to the economic slowdown and austerity some member clubs have lost members. This hasn't been an overnight phenomenon or in the wider context of off-road motorsport limited to just the ALRC but has been a gradual process which overall has meant that the total ALRC membership across clubs nationally has reduced. Notwithstanding that reduction, I believe that the ALRC is still the biggest off- road association in the U.K as club returns for 2018 show some 3,369 competitive club members and 6,690 non-competitive club members so total membership in 2018 was 10,239.

With reducing memberships, some clubs are no longer able to realistically independently host a national rally without support from other neighbouring clubs (which is the case for 2019) and/or support from other ALRC club members with specialist skills. At the same time the numbers of members attending the National Rally has also reduced making the task of organising and running the rally somewhat easier.

To try to support clubs wishing to host a National Rally, the ALRC Council has developed a package of support for clubs, (see Appendix "1") attached, which aims to assist club committees with the natural concerns which exist around finance, contracts, health and safety, permits, timing and other logistics etc.

In recent years the ALRC Council has, in the absence of a host club for the event, hosted the event assisted by several of the smaller clubs for competitive events with larger clubs helping for example with site services and camping. This collaboration has worked well and is likely to be required in future. Can competitive clubs consider if they have any capacity for collaboration with their neighbouring clubs to host a collaborative National Rally or would be prepared to help run an ALRC hosted National Rally? Or indeed would be prepared to take on hosting the event in the future, having previously had experience of doing so?

Another factor is that in recent years the event has been attended almost exclusively by competitive club members with few members from non-competitive clubs attending. Why is this? Is it about what is on

offer at a National Rally? Can this be changed? What is needed to persuade non-competitive members to attend?

On collaboration, could a future National Rally model be successfully based on a regional collaborative effort across say the south west clubs, the south east clubs, the home counties north and east, the northern clubs and the far north clubs? Views welcome please

I do realise that the most significant factor in recent years has been the loss of suitable land for national rallies. If you or your club are aware of land suitable for a National Rally, then please let us know. If clubs are aware of suitable land but do not wish to run a National Rally on it please could you let us know as it could, with the local club's permission, be used for an ALRC hosted event.

Finally, I realise there are and have been traditions surrounding the National Rally especially in terms of competitive events. Should these change? Would an approach towards the format of two-day competitive events provide better value for money for competitors and thereby encourage attendance?

Should some competitive events be dropped from the programme?

Would a move towards the event becoming partly a Land Rover Show boost attendance from non-competitive clubs?

What is it that members want from the ALRC National Rally?

Please help the ALRC Council to put together a strong forward plan for future National Rallies.

I will be raising this issue at the forthcoming ALRC Annual General Meeting to be held on 16th March at the Ibis Hotel, Dirft East, Parklands, Crick, Rugby NN6 7EX.

Please feel free to respond to Simone or myself.

Many thanks



Paul Barton

ALRC Chairman

For and on behalf of The Association of Land Rover Clubs.

Cc:

Post to Club Secretaries

Email to:

ALRC Council

All member club secretaries & delegates

S&ORC / LBS

Attached Appendix "1"

Appendix 1

The ALRC will provide the following package to assist in the running of the National Rally.

- Initial loan to assist in setting up the event. This is repayable by the 30th September after the event.
- ALRC perpetual trophies replicas and class trophies provided by the ALRC.
- Competitors wristbands provided by the ALRC.
- Numbers for vehicles and score cards, Sponsors logos can be added to these.
- 3 sets of trial cane tops and section markers. To be retained by the host club after the event.
- 200 motorsport arrows. To be retained by the host club after the event.
- The use of 12 waterproof weatherwriters for score marshals. Marshal vests and lanyards. To be returned after the event.
- Motorsport UK Competition Permits will be applied for by the ALRC in their name and passed to the host club. Any Motorsport UK cashback received at the end of the year will be returned to the host club.
- A standard set of Supplementary Regulations with only alterations as dictated by specific sites.
- An extended caravan / camping permit free of charge.
- Flags and banners for the event.
- A free website that publishes event information from the host(s) club.

Also

The ALRC Council is currently able to potentially offer the following specialist advice: to host clubs if required:

- Event safety plan
- Liaison with local authority may be possible
- Advice on land contracts
- Advice on catering contracts
- Potentially an electronic booking system for the event
- Event timing may be possible
- Radio cover may be possible
- Event first aid may be possible
- Signing on and secretary of the meeting may be possible
- Appointment of Event stewards
- Management of award ceremonies
- Assistance with Event signage:

Ends

11.02.2019