

ORGANISING AN EVENT

Now is the time to start thinking about an event for this year. I would like to see some more events taking place during the year to emphasise the Drivers part in our club name. Before you set out and start planning out routes and thinking of lovely places to go, there are some things you need to know.

We can organise three types of events – note, I am not calling them rallies and neither should you. These events are termed as 12 Car Events, Navigational Scatters and Touring Assemblies.

A 12 Car Event is one in which there are 12 cars or less taking part. You can organise this in whatever way you want – a set route, questions etc. You cannot, however, organize a second or third 12 car event on the same day to try and get round the rules!

A Navigational Scatter is the type of event we have at the National. You have a series of locations and the participants – not competitors – choose which ones to visit. They must not be required to visit more than 75% of the locations. They may answer questions at the locations, but they must leave the car to do so. The car is the means of transport to get from one location to another only. There can be a time by which they are required to return, but it should give sufficient time to complete everything without rushing.

A Touring Assembly is where you start at one point and travel to another. In a Touring Assembly a suggested route may be followed. Stopping points may be provided for in the event's itinerary where you can leave the car and carry out a task unrelated to driving, but no limits of speed may be laid down. There should not be any requirement to visit these pre-arranged points, other than a requirement to report at a final point not later than a specified time. No prize money may be allocated in respect of Touring Assemblies. A Touring Assembly may not give awards of any description, other than those in relation to activities arranged at the pre-arranged points.

The instructions for the event must be clearly endorsed 'Touring Assembly'.

Although you are not required to inform the police of your event, it is good practice and I would expect you to do so.

If you are setting a suggested route, then you should get someone who has not been involved in devising the route to check it, to make sure that there are no mistakes with the directions. If you are finishing at some sort of establishment, make sure that the owners are aware of your plans and are happy with your arrangements.

For new events, you can claim up to £25 for your organisational expenses and any more must be covered by your entry fee. Other events should have an appropriate fee set that covers your expenses.

The ATDC Public Liability Insurance Policy covers our events as regards the organisation of the event, but participants must ensure that they are covered by their own policy to take part in the event, which you should verify. We are not members of the Motor Sports Association and consequently do not need to have their authorisation for the events that we organise, providing that they fit into the above formats.

Remember that you must inform me of the event with a minimum of 14 days' notice, and preferably 2 months' notice, so that it can appear in the magazine.

Treasure Hunts, i.e. those events that have a set route with questions asked along the route where you are scrutinizing the houses, notices and other roadside features, are not a good idea. I think they are dangerous as the driver does not have full concentration on driving and the car is travelling very slowly thereby causing an obstruction. **This type of event should not be organised.**

Tony Westhall