



2017 Autosport International BTRDA Clubmans Rallycross Championship in partnership with Toyo Tires

The 2017 BTRDA Clubmans Rallycross Championship certainly looks like it's in for a bumper year and some would say it could be its BIGGEST and best year yet!

2017 not only marks the 50th Anniversary since Rallycross was born at Lydden Hill in February 1967 but is also the 40th Anniversary of the actual BTRDA Rallycross Championship. The Championship was first won by Trevor Reeves back in 1977.

The winter months have certainly been busy for the Championship organisers and this firstly saw the renewal of the title sponsorship from [Autosport International](#) and this was closely followed by a 3 year partnership agreement with [Toyo Tires](#). These 2 sponsors join a whole host of category and associate sponsors which have come on board for the 2017 season.

The Championship organisers weren't resting on their laurels or content with the filming coverage in 2016 and quickly pressed ahead with plans to get the 2017 Championship broadcasted on TV. After a few busy weeks this has been secured with '247.TV' winning the tender to film the coverage this will then be broadcast on at least 3 main stream channels; 'MotorsportTV' (Formerly Motors TV), the UK's biggest Freeview sports channel 'Front Runner' and sports channel 'Premier Sports'. These channels will each show a 1 hour programme covering all 7 rounds of the Championship at peak times followed by repeats.

Turning our attentions to the on track action the 2017 Championship once again features 7 rounds at 3 circuits over 5 weekends. With the 2 times BTRDA Champion John Ward moving up to compete in a RX150 buggy in the British Championship and 2014 Champion Kieran Curran not yet 100% committed to a full season, it looks highly likely there will be a new name on the trophy on 2017.

New for 2017 sees the Historic category, for the first year will now able to score points towards the overall championship meaning anyone from; Super Modified, Production or Historic could become the 2017 Champion.

All categories seem to be on the up in terms of entry levels with an expected 60-90 car entry due at each of the 7 rounds. In addition to this the May double header at Pembrey is expected to receive a bumper entry with Irish drivers crossing the sea and MSA British Championship drivers coming to test on the 'new' Rallycross layout before their rounds later in June. The season finale at Croft in November always promises to be the best event of the year and with the expected European drivers set to return it is already sure to be a great event





New classes, new drivers, new cars, new sponsors, Television coverage all add up to what will be a great 2017 season.

Runners and Riders:

Clubman 4X4; The 5 round Class Championship begins its season at Pembrey in May and certainly features the fastest, most expensive cars in the sport. With over 400bhp on tap, 4wd and acceleration capable of beating an F1 car they are certainly the cars to watch for at events. Two times champion Gary Pusey will return with his Subaru, but is sure to face stiff competition from the likes of; Simon Horton (Subaru), Mark Richardson (Sierra Cosworth), rallycross returnee Aidan McCullagh in his unique car plus if you add in the possibility of Andy Grant competing as well as some top Irish and British drivers it could be a great class this year.

Production 4x4; In only its second year in the championship this class could certainly spring a surprise or 2. The class is growing with 5 cars on the grid at Blyton and the expectation to be in double figures by the Pembrey event in May. Class favourite must be Mike Manning but he is sure to face stiff competition from his son Liam Manning plus, Paul Davis, Richard Lewthwaite, James Lyon, Dan Beattie and the guest car which will be driven by 3 different drivers during the course of the season.

SuperModified; In 2017 this could be one of the most open categories in the Championship. With Tommy Graham not doing a full championship and the likes of Kenny Hall taking a year out it will be interesting to see who comes out on top. Some new drivers and cars add to the variety and time will tell if the likes of Phil Chicken, Mike Boak, and Kieran Curran compete in a full season. 2016 Champion Marc Jones is back for another crack at the title and he will be pushed all the way by the likes of David Attiwell, Andy Brinkley, Todd Crooks and Rob Scott.

Production; Generally known as the starter class within the Championship it is certainly living up to name with 40% of the drivers expected out this year being new to the sport. Favourites in the class must be former champion James Orton, returnee Jeff Hope-Davies and Chris Harper. Add into the mix some new cars and new 2ltr cars and it certainly could lend itself to some great close racing.

Historic; This class for 2017 will continue to grow and with the opportunity for drivers to win the overall championship the racing is certainly going to be fierce. The machinery on offer is extremely diverse, everything from the Classic Mini's, Ford Escort MK2's, VW Golf's and a range of Peugeot's. On the track the MK2 drivers of Shaun Buckley, ex Rallyman Brian Hardman and Darren Owen are sure to be as flamboyant as Vince Bristow with the sideways action.

Junior Rallycross (14 to 16 year olds!); After 2 seasons of trying to get this class off the ground, 2016 finally saw a breakthrough in the final 2 meetings with 5 cars taking to the track. The championship is likely to feature between 4 to 8 cars at each round. The cars are diverse and for many of the drivers this will be their first time they have ever driven a car.

