

Navigation Rally

Navigation Rallying is often referred to as Road Rallying

Navigation Rallies take place on the public highway at low speed. The Crew is made up of a Driver and a Navigator who together must follow a fixed route of between 70 and 200 miles, whilst collecting 'Codes' which are displayed on boards at the side of the road and checking into a number of controls at specific times. You must be very careful with timing - it's just as bad if you arrive at a control too early as it is to arrive at the control too late. Typically the Driver is responsible for driving the car, whilst the Navigator is responsible for plotting the route onto the Ordnance Survey map and making sure the correct route is followed. The aim of the event is to always be in the right place at the right time along the route.

What do I need to do if I want to take part in Navigation/Road Rallies?

For Road Rallying all you need to do is join a motor club like the Durham Automobile Club, that run such events. If you want to be a driver you will need to have a full driving licence and be at least 17 years of age but you can compete as a navigator from the age of 12.

What kind of car do I need?

A standard production car is all you need.

In terms of specialist equipment for your car very little is required, however we would advise that a working speedo would assist you greatly.

You will be required to have valid car insurance covering the event. Your car will be checked before you start for general safety and compliance to the Road Traffic Act.

We recommend that you carry a fire extinguisher (not BCF or dry powder) first aid kit and a small spill kit, but these are not mandatory requirements in order to take part.

Competitors are divided into classes based on levels of experience, Expert, Semi-Expert, Novice and Beginners. Before the Competitors start to drive the route they may be permitted a fixed amount of time to plot the route from 'Instructions' onto the map. But they may also be given the route in small "chunks" and the Navigator has to plot each section on the move. 'Route Instructions' are a series of instructions designed to inform the navigator of the route in a clear and unambiguous way, these will typically be features of the map and/or six figure map references and are tailored to the level of experience of each class. For example: Cross a river twice, go under a railway line before reaching map reference 123456 from the West.

If a competitor is early or late at a Time Control they receive 'Penalty Marks', the time they arrive at each control is written onto a Time Card, which is carried in each car, by a Marshal, who is stood on the side of the road awaiting their arrival. Should a Competitor fail to 'collect' a Code Board, they receive Penalty Marks. The Crew with the least number of Penalty Marks at the end of the event wins.

Marshalling on a Navigational rally is a great fun day out. Volunteers are allocated into groups, given a check sheet and a rally clock and dispatched into the countryside to await the arrival of the competitors at one of the Time Controls. There are also a handful of administrative duties, including signing on and results team.

If you would like to find out more and get involved in marshalling on a Navigational rally please visit
- <http://www.durhamautoclub.co.uk/>

Your navigator will require some navigational equipment such as an Ordnance Survey map (these can be purchased in most book stores), pens, pencils, rubber, ruler and a romer.

A romer is a small piece of plastic designed to help you plot the grid references, and can be purchased online from:

<http://www.thebasicroamer.co.uk/>

<http://www.donbarrow.co.uk/>