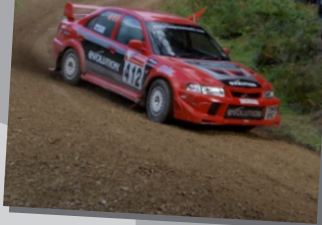


# DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN MOTORSPORT?



START UP  
LOOK INSIDE!  
GUIDE...



**NEW MEMBERS REQUIRED**

**CLOWNE**  
and district  
**MOTOR CLUB**

[clownemotorclub.org.uk](http://clownemotorclub.org.uk)

CLOWNE & DISTRICT M.C.

# GETTING STARTED IN MOTORSPORT



Motor sport is one of the most popular and successful sports in Britain. There are over 750 registered motor clubs who organise over 4000 events each year. Club membership nationally is in excess of 200,000 and over 30,00 hold competition licences.

Clowne & District Motor Club aim is to promote affordable motor sport at club level and its members involvement in such events. Presently its members are actively participating in the EMAMC Multi –use Stage Rally Championship, some are entering the likes of National B Multi-venue status events and even the odd International Event.

**To help give an understanding of how to get involved in some form of motor sport here is a brief description of some of the events:**

## AUTOTESTS

One of the cheapest and most enjoyable forms of motor sport, where you can use a standard road car, but driving ability is vital.

Cars compete alone against the clock. The driver must negotiate a set route between obstacles, such as plastic cones and usually some parts of the course are tackled in reverse. The surface is normally smooth, often tarmac. The entry is divided into classes, according to the physical size of the car and/or its technical specification (e.g. front wheel or rear wheel drive).

### **Minimum Requirements:**

- Any roadworthy car.
- You must be at least 14 years old to drive in a Production Car Autotest (with an adult passenger) or 16 years old to drive in a 'normal' autotest.
- You must hold either a valid motor club membership card or a MSA Competition Licence depending upon the status of the event.

## AUTOSOLO

This is a new form of motor sport to this country with its origins being in the USA.

It is a contest of driving skill that falls somewhere between an Autotest and a Sprint. The cars run one

at a time against the clock on a short course that lays the emphasis on car handling and agility rather than speed or power. No reversing is involved and the speeds and hazards do not exceed those encountered in normal driving on the road.

The event is open to road legal cars that are taxed, insured and MOT'd. The level of car preparation is limited to removing loose objects from inside and any clip on wheel trims.

The events can be entered with a valid membership card of the organising (or invited) club. The routes are marked with cones with numbered marker posts, bearing either a red or a green flag. The posts are passed in ascending order, red posts to the left and green posts to the right. Other cones are used to help point the way. Penalties will be incurred if you go wrong or hit the markers but the main aim is to complete the course smoothly and quickly. Times are recorded by hand held stop watches. The intention is to make the event a test of driving skill rather than a test of memory.

## SPRINTS & HILLCLIMBS

These events fall into the category known as 'Speed Events'.

Events take place on a smooth sealed surface over a measured distance against the clock.

Cars start separately in their own time after a green light and there may be up to three cars on the course at any one time separated by a safe distance. Timing to 1/100th second is electronic by means of a light beam at the start and finish line. A wide variety of cars compete from standard production saloons to single seater racing cars, but the entry is by class and engine capacity so a 1 litre Nova has as much of a chance of winning a trophy as has a 3 litre racing car.

### **Minimum requirements:**

- Car complying with MSA regulations including safety equipment.
- A crash helmet and flame resistant overalls to the MSA regulations.
- An MSA Competition Licence.
- You must be at least 16 years old.

# WHAT TO DO FIRST:

- **Visit [gomotorsport.net](http://gomotorsport.net)**
- **Join your local motor club**
- **Consider the type of competition you'd enjoy taking part in.**
- **Prepare a budget for getting started**  
*(remember, you don't need to out competing every week, once or twice a year is enough for many people).*
- **Order the relevant starter pack from [msauk.com](http://msauk.com)**

## PRODUCTION CAR TRIALS

This is perhaps the best form of motor sport for the complete novice. The sections are on private land, off the beaten track, but still negotiable by a perfectly standard road car. There is virtually no risk except getting the car dirty and needing a wash afterwards. A trial is essentially a test of the ability of cars to climb sections of ground having varying difficulty and gradients. The objective is to get as far up the course as possible without sliding back or hitting course markers. Time is not a factor, the distance covered is all that matters.

The car is crewed by a driver and a passenger.

### Minimum Requirements:

- **A roadworthy car (with an MOT certificate for any car that needs one)**
- **The driver must hold a valid club membership card.**
- **Anyone who is 15 or 16 years old or has not passed a driving test, may drive if accompanied by the holder of a full RTA Driving Licence.**

## RALLYING

This is the most popular form of motor sport in Britain, perhaps because it involves ordinary looking cars. It involves two people working together as a driver and co-driver/navigator and the cars run at intervals of 30 secs or one minute, competing against the clock rather than directly against each other.

The term 'Rally' covers different sort of events such as economy runs, treasure hunts and '12 car rallies. It also covers Navigational Exercise (navX) The most common forms of rallying are as follows:

**Road Rallies** - The essence of this type of event is to maintain a time schedule through a series of control points by following route instructions which challenge your map reading and observation skills. It also tests the ability to interpret complex and sometimes obscure navigational instructions. These events take place on normal public roads, almost always at night and the time schedule can be met without exceeding the normal speed limit.

### Minimum Requirements:

- **Any standard road car that is taxed, tested and insured.**

- **2 crew members with valid club membership cards.**
- **Ordnance Survey maps.**

**Multi-Use / Single Venue Rallies** - Stage rallies which take place on private land and not on the public highway. Such venues are old airfields, quarries etc and the stages are run as slight variations of one basic course. The cars return to the service area at the venue in between the stages to allow the service crew to attend to any repairs or changes that are required within the allocated time. The competing cars are entered in different classes usually by engine capacity and the number of driven wheels ; - i.e.

Class 1 :-1400cc

Class 2 :-1600cc

Class 3 :- 2000cc

Class 4 :- 2000cc and above

Class 5 :- Four Wheel Drive.

The course is navigated by a means of a stage plan from the organisers.

### Minimum Requirements:

- **A car that is prepared to the MSA safety standards and has been issued a MSA log-book.**
- **2 crew members with valid club cards and the appropriate MSA competition licence.**
- **A crash helmet and flame resistant overalls to the MSA specifications.**

**Multi-Venue Rallies:** Stage Rallies that use a number of different locations for timed Special stages with road sections in between.

The road sections are travelled at non-competitive speeds and the emphasis is on navigation and timekeeping. There are set times to travel between the stages and time penalties issued for arriving early or late at the time controls. The Special Stages are completed in as a quick as time as possible, with the navigator switching to pace notes or maps so as to instruct the driver what to expect on the road ahead, the idea to set the quickest time possible.

### Minimum Requirements:

- **As per Multi-Use requirements, however car must be road legal inc Tax and Insurance.**

## EVENTS FOR NON-DRIVERS

You don't have to own a car or even be able to drive to be able to enjoy motor sport. Plenty of friends, brothers, sisters, husband, wives etc. get enormous pleasure from having a supporting role. These roles can be in the form of passenger on a PCT event, navigator on road rallies or co-driver on stage rallies. The passenger on a PCT event is partly for ballast but their primary job is to bounce like mad in the seat to try and get the tyres to grip. Some events even have a 'bouncers' trophy.

The passenger on road rallies is the one in the crew who has to interpret the navigational instructions and follow these instructions on the Ordnance Survey maps.

The passenger on stage rallies is the one who details the stage route from either stage plans, pace notes and sometimes from maps and keeping within the time schedule.

Essential qualities for these non-driver roles are the ability to concentrate, read a map in a moving car and most importantly the resistance to car sickness!

Non-drivers can also become involved by marshalling on events and at some events this is sometimes the only way to spectate. The only qualifications needed for marshals are enthusiasm and common sense. The Chief marshal on events will allocate you duties with experienced marshals who will explain all about event safety, communications and incident management. After a few events and you feel that marshalling is for you then attending one of the many Marshal Training Days held around the country will benefit you. You can gain certificates demonstrating your competence which will enable you to offer your services anywhere in the country.

## HOW DO I GET STARTED?

If you want to get started in motor sport at any level, your first step is to join a recognised club. All motor sport in the UK is regulated by the Motor Sports Association (which used to be the RAC). Clubs such as Clowne & District are affiliated to or recognised by the MSA and are thus licensed to organise motor sport events. To take part in such events competitors must have a club membership card, indeed for many UK motor sport events, that is all you need - you don't need a competition licence. Regulation of motor sport in this way ensures that events are run to the same rules and are covered by the same insurance.

For those who would like to enter the world of rallying as a driver then a set procedure exists for you to get the basic licence (a National 'B').

The applicant has to obtain from the MSA a starter pack at a cost of £45, which includes a video on rallying, a MSA 'blue book', a licence application form and details on BARS centres. These are British Association of Rally Schools who have been accredited by the MSA to carry out the testing of licence applicants to determine if they have adequate safety knowledge and driving competence to enter a rally event.

There is a cost of around £80 for taking the BARS test which consists of a 25-30 multiple choice test and a 10 minute driving test to determine general competence. When the BARS test has been successfully completed then the licence application form is stamped according and can then be submitted to the MSA with the appropriate fee and the licence issued in due course.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT ALL COST?

It costs as much or as little as you want and the cost need not be a barrier to you entering the world of motor sport.

The 'starter' type events are naturally the least expensive i.e:-

**Production Car Trials:** Entry fees are typically £10-15.

**Autotests:** Entry fees are typically £10-15.

**Hillclimbs and Sprints:** Entry fees in the range of £50 to £100.

**Multi-use Rallies:** Entry fees in the range of £180 to £210 and these should offer between 40 and 55 miles of competitive stages.

**Multi-venue Rallies:** Entry fees of around £350 to £450 for a one day 'club event' up to £2000 for an International event.

There are additional costs for some of the events such as a MSA competition licence, crash helmet and fire resistant overalls. The price for these generally reflects the specification and quality so you can expect to pay from £75 to £700 for helmets and £150 to £600 for overalls. A point to remember is that these items can save your life so get the best that you can afford.

**Clowne & District Motor Club members have experience and advice that they will gladly pass on to you to help you get started in Motor Sport.**

**JOIN CLOWNE & DISTRICT  
MOTOR CLUB:**

- [Visit clownemotorclub.org.uk](http://clownemotorclub.org.uk)
- Register your interest through the 'Join Us' link on homepage and we'll be in touch.