



A BRIEF GUIDE TO 2026

TUESDAY 2ND - FRIDAY 6TH JUNE



- 2026 sees the twenty-second running of the Three Castles Trial. It's for any car of a make and model first introduced between 1923 and 1985. Those introduced before 1st January 1954 run in the Heritage category. Cars from the period 1954-1985 run in the Classic categories. **New this year**, we have the Three Castles *Trail*, a non-competitive category running after the competitive categories. All share the same route, halts and entry fee.
- The Trial will again run Tuesday - Friday. This is to maximise the availability of venues, to reduce traffic on the last day, and to allow crews the option of a weekend after the event for relaxation.
- Rally HQ remains at the Imperial Hotel: You are free to stay where you wish, but we have a rally deal here, which has been kindly held at 2024 pricing for a third year. Double or twin standard rooms are £170 B&B for 2 per night and may be booked online using a code word accompanying your entry acceptance. The Imperial hosts the Welcome Dinner and the four-course Gala Awards dinner. We plan lunch halts at two superb hotels, Portmeirion and Caer Rhun Hall and at the reborn Brookhouse Mill. Excellent coffee or tea halts include Tower, Pant Du Vineyard, Glan Y Gors, Bodnant Welsh Foods and the Kinmel Arms, plus the irreplaceable Mostyn Hall.
- Competitive mileage will be around 40% of the total, and each day will comprise a mix of touring, regularities and tests. Average speeds set on the event will be mindful of older cars. The event is intended to be fun; both competitive and friendly.
- Our highly experienced team remains unchanged: Baz Green is Clerk of the Course and Route and Test Designer, Robbie Jones is his Deputy, Matthew Vokes is Assistant Clerk of the Course and Regularities and Roadbook Designer, and Ifor and Peredur Davies are Joint Chief Marshals. Kerry Bate is Secretary of the Meeting, Rick Bate is our Safety Officer. Chief Timekeeper Lee Vincent returns, as do Graham Raeburn and Ronnie Sandham, our hard-working Competitor Liaison Officers. Wendy Crammond plans hospitality.
- Historic Road Rallies with driving tests and regularities can be run on scratch timing or on class index, the method by which performance on tests is assessed by comparison within your own class. In our HYBRID scoring system, your class is judged on Class Index, while your Scratch performance determines positions Overall.
- **Key features of the event include:**
 - ▶ The Penderyn Prologue and the Class awards on the Trial are decided on Class Index. At all times crews will be able to see their class position in the results.
 - ▶ All Overall awards, such as first overall, first in an experience category, best on tests, best on regularities, run on scratch timing. All crews will be able to see their overall position in the results.
 - ▶ Our "Joker" system reduces the highest RTP lateness penalty on each day to 10 secs. There will be three Jokers, one each day. Regularity penalties will be 1 second per second early or late, capped at one minute for each RTP visited.
 - ▶ The ratio of regularities to tests will be around 1:1, with the aim of running 20 of each. As many as six road regularities may feature easy non-tulip diagram navigation; we may include more than one private land regularity.
 - ▶ Start times will be rotated. We'll seed for the last day in rally order at halfway (lunch day 2).
 - ▶ A new Category T is introduced for those who wish to enjoy the route without competition. The Trail group will have a simplified roadbook and will run after the competing cars.
 - ▶ If numbers allow we will also introduce a further category, run as a separate road rally, The Three Castles Trophy, for normally aspirated 2WD "Modern Classic" cars of a make and model first registered up to 31.12.99. Entries will open on December 1st 2025 and acceptance will be at the organisers' discretion. Expressions of interest to info@three-castles.co.uk, please.

- Tests will be smooth, simple, forward and flowing. The keynote is fun. Classic venues such as Parc Lleweni, Plas Faenol, Mostyn Hall, Hartsheath and Plas-yn-Cefn are already confirmed.
- Trailer parking and overnight locked rally car parking will each be available, covering five nights 1st – 5th June.
- The Imperial Concours D'Elegance will be a stand-alone event. Heritage entries automatically gain a place if desired (but can opt out if they wish) and Classic entries may also enter via a tick box on the (digital, all entries will be online) Entry Form.
- The popular Prologue will run with a timed test and regularity. It isn't compulsory, though almost everyone enjoys it. Scrutineering will be on Tuesday morning 08.00-13.00. A few cars can be accommodated on Tuesday afternoon if needed.
- Brit Assist will provide full mechanical support, again helped in the evenings by the fine Llandudno garage facility TenAcre VW, used in 2022-25.
- Penderyn, Brantz, Magneto, Clwydian and Vintage Tyres join us again as generous event supporters.



Malcolm Davies/Martin Davies, 1934 Alvis Speed 20, Heritage returning entrant 2025.

As we all know, inflation remains quite high. We have taken great care to look at the increased costs we face before setting the entry fee for this year. We have chosen to increase it by around 4%, matching the prevailing rate of inflation. We will not increase our own margin and we will not compromise on quality, in which regard this will be, as always, the best event we are able to run.

The entry fee will be:

For entries accepted on or after 01.04.26

£3,845.00

For entries accepted on or before 31.03.26

£3,645.00

For entries accepted on or before 31.01.26

£3,495.00

For Entries Received On Or Before 30.11.25

£3,345.00

Loyalty Bonus

In October 2025 only, competitors who have previously completed a Three Castles Trial can deduct a further £100 loyalty bonus.

Example: Fee £3,345.00, less £100.00.

Tick the relevant box on the on-line Entry Form, send £3,245.00 before October 31st.