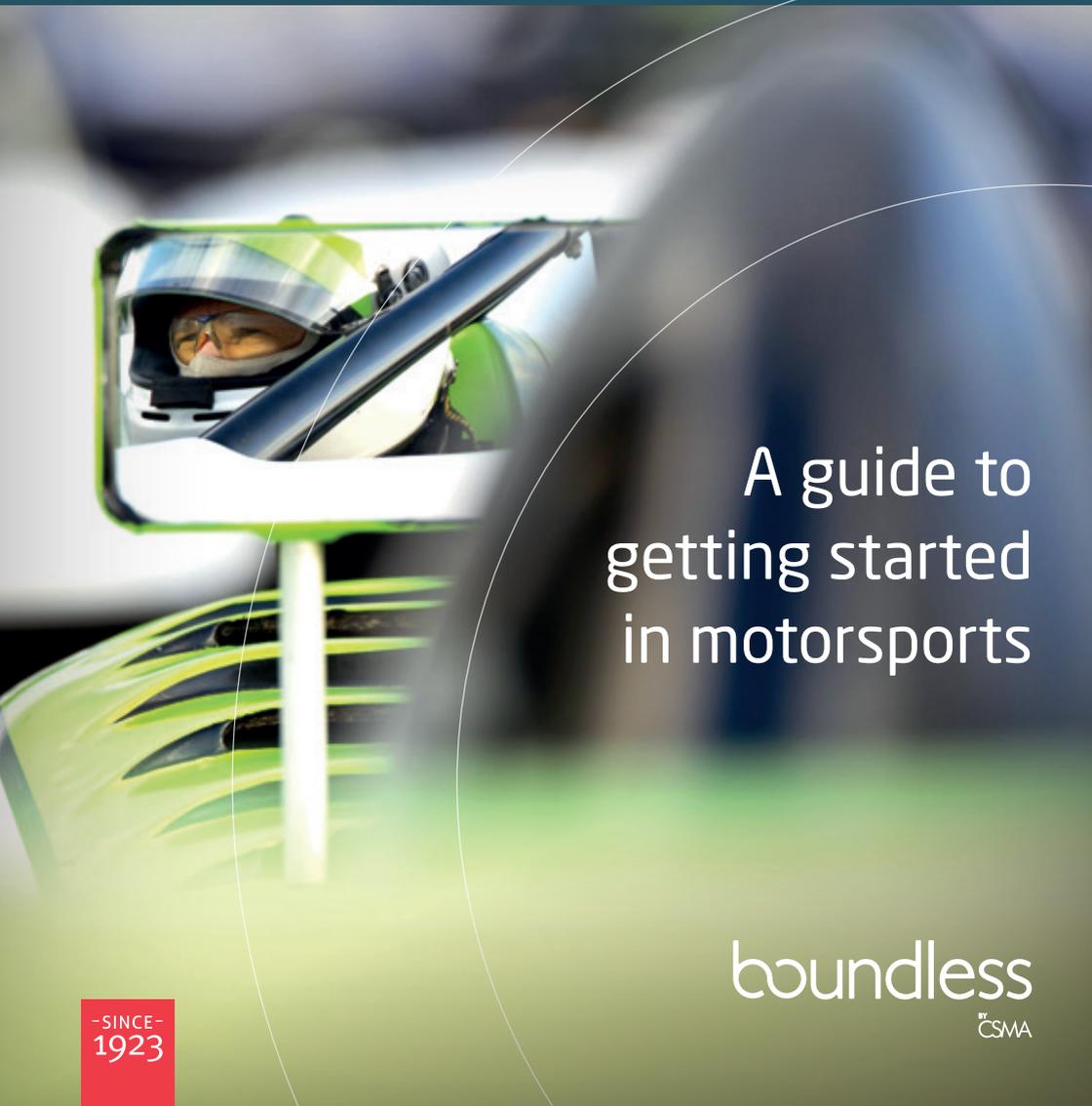


# Motorsports Group



[boundless.co.uk/motorsports](http://boundless.co.uk/motorsports)



A guide to  
getting started  
in motorsports

boundless  
CSMA

-SINCE-  
1923

# Motorsports Group guide

## Welcome to our guide to getting started in motorsport

The Motorsports Group has put together this booklet with the aim of helping you to participate in motorsport events. We hope it's helpful, and if you have any questions after reading it, please feel free to contact the Boundless Motorsports Group Committee.

In many cases, entering a Boundless Motorsport event is very easy: you just complete the entry form, turn up and take part. Other events might require a bit more planning, but again nothing difficult. You could also get the kids involved – they can start driving at age 14 at some events, and it will help them develop skills for later on when they go on the road.

You don't need to start out with an expensive competition car. We have plenty of events that you can do enter in an unmodified standard road car. These events are safe, with nothing to hit, and will not damage your car. You can be as competitive as you want, either starting gently and building up speed as your confidence grows or seeing how fast you can go before your nerve runs out! The more experienced competitors will always be willing to give you guidance on how you can go faster and the events themselves allow you to drop scores, so you can see how you are improving.

Once you've been bitten by the motorsport bug, you may well find that you wish to start modifying your car – or even getting a separate car just for motorsport. It can be very addictive...

If you're not able to compete at the moment, why not come along to an event and do a spot

of marshalling? We can team you up with an experienced marshal – that way you'll get to see what's involved close-up and be able to talk to the other competitors.

Basically, we want you to go out there and have fun!

If you have any questions you can contact us on:

**Mike Biss - 01525 720299**  
[mike.biss@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.biss@btinternet.com)

**Doug Harrison - 07917 021312**  
[douglas.h@btconnect.com](mailto:douglas.h@btconnect.com)

[motorsports@boundless.co.uk](mailto:motorsports@boundless.co.uk)  
[www.boundless.co.uk/motorsports](http://www.boundless.co.uk/motorsports)

The aims of the Motorsports Group are:

- To raise the profile of motorsport within Boundless
- To increase participation at events from Boundless members

Boundless is a registered club with Motorsport UK, previously the Motor Sports Association (MSA), which governs motorsport in this country. We are also members of all the regional associations in the country, so if any of them are invited to an event, then so are you.

# Local Groups

## Many Boundless Local Groups are also involved with motorsports

Several of the Boundless local groups are also involved with running motorsport events – most of them are listed in the Boundless magazine, Motoring Ahead or on the Boundless website.

As a member of Boundless, you're entitled to go along to any of the local group events, even non-

motorsport ones, and enjoy what they have to offer. These are usually very sociable events and can be a great way to start competing.

You can find your nearest local group by looking on the Boundless website or in the Boundless magazine.



## Motorsport Groups' news

Visit the Motorsports Group's web page at [boundless.co.uk/motorsports](http://boundless.co.uk/motorsports) to see details of forthcoming events, including regulations and entry forms, photo galleries and reports on recent events. How about sending us reports or photos of you and your car in action?

We also have a Motorsports Group on Facebook

so please stop by and have a look. You can use the Facebook Group as a forum to ask questions of your fellow Motorsports Group members. You will need to be a joined-up member of the Motorsports Group to access the Facebook Group so please visit it and request to join.

**[Facebook.com/groups/motorsportsgroup](https://www.facebook.com/groups/motorsportsgroup)**



# Event types

## What can you go out and do?

As a Boundless member you can take part in all these Motorsport UK-sanctioned events – and the majority can be undertaken in your unmodified road car. Some require extra safety equipment but most of the cars are still road-going, so no special car or trailer is required. Interested? Then read on to find out which type of event suits you best – or contact the Motorsports Group. More details are given on the website at [boundless.co.uk/motorsports](http://boundless.co.uk/motorsports).

### AutoSolo

If you prefer to drive only in a forward's direction but faster than an autotest, then AutoSolo's are for you and are an ideal first step into motorsport. Tests are marked with cones and markers so that drivers, especially novices, are free to concentrate on setting competitive times rather than trying to remember the course. You must use a road car and it must be driven to the event.



### Autotest

This is one of the slowest forms of motorsport because you rarely need to get out of first or reverse gears. However, autotesting demands a bit of skill. Autotest's put the emphasis on precision driving rather than flat-out speed.

- Grass- Usually all forwards and employing a few handbrakes turns, these are fun events for both the beginner and the more experienced. They take place in big open fields with plenty of room to play. A lot of them allow participants to carry a passenger, so help is at hand in guiding you on the correct route.
- Tarmac- Employing spin turns, reverse flicks and handbrake turns to negotiate the route in the shortest time, these are the more skilful events and very spectacular to watch. They take place in car parks or any other location where the organisers can find a sealed surface.





## Trials

Speed is not needed in this sport as it requires finesse, judgment and a finely -tuned throttle foot. Competitors take part in a series of tests on twisty courses marked out by poles, the object being to get as far as possible up each hill without stopping or hitting the course-markers. Points are lost depending on where you stop or which course marker you hit – get right to the top without stopping and you 'clean' a section, i.e. score with no penalties. The crew with the lowest score over the whole event is the winner.



## Rallying

In road rallies, the emphasis is as much on navigation as driving skill as crews must maintain a time schedule through all the control points. The navigator, who uses Ordnance Survey maps to direct the driver around the route, must be very careful with timing – it's just as bad if you check in too early as it is to check in too late at a time control.



## Drag Racing

For those who want something faster, drag racing thrives at grassroots level, where competitors can use their road cars. The sport is particularly welcoming to low-budget racers, who will usually compete in handicap classes. It's a sport that rewards bravery, reaction times and mechanical ingenuity – so if you enjoy tinkering in your garage, this is definitely for you.



## Hill Climb

This sport involves driving a car very quickly up a narrow asphalt course, very often little wider than the car itself! These events usually take place up the driveways of private estates or farms deep in the countryside; Goodwood House in Sussex is probably the best known. The courses are fast and challenging and are usually completed in less than a minute.



## Autocross

Autocross is an ideal first 'speed sport' for beginners. It's a high-speed time trial around a temporary circuit roughly 800m to 1200m long, laid out in a grass or stubble field. Timed runs consist of heats of three or four laps. Each competitor gets a practice and normally at least two-timed runs, with the best time counting towards the results.



## Sprint

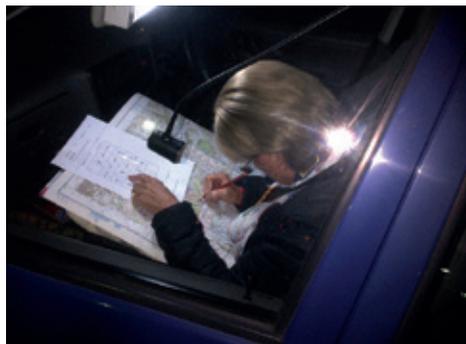
Sprinting is a high-speed time trial, held over one lap of a racing circuit, or on a course laid out at a disused airfield. It is probably the ultimate in precision driving – the lines you take through the corners have to be exactly right, as the smallest mistake during your lap can cost a class or even an overall win.





## Track Days

Track days are non-competitive but a great chance to drive your road car or competition car around a race circuit at speed. There will be a safety briefing beforehand to ensure all entrants are aware of racetrack etiquette and safety procedures. Your car will be scrutineered to make sure it's safe to take onto the track and many circuits also have a strict noise test. You will need to wear a crash helmet while on the track, but these are usually available to hire at the event.



## 12 Car Navigations rallies

These are the introductory events to road rallies. They are generally evening events, starting and finishing in a pub so there is a social side to them as well. Beginners at North West London Group events, and some others, receive the entire route marked on a map at the start. The challenge is then to follow the correct route, making sure all the controls are found and keeping to a time schedule. After a few events, or whenever the navigator feels ready, you can progress to 'novice' status and will have to work out the route as you go. Instructions are given at various points along the route and use map references and other navigation. Some crews use these events to step up to competing on full road rallies, as they provide excellent grounding to build experience and rapport with your driver or navigator.

---

CSMA NWL 12 Car Friday 12th February

TC5 @ SSE162160 to TC6 Coloured Roads Only – Novice

Go via the following spot heights: 129 102 131 112 111

---

Distance: 5.5 miles

Time Allowed: 11 minutes

---

# Road Rallying and Navigating

## Road Rallying

Road rallying involves a driver and navigator finding their way around a set route, to a time schedule, and takes place on Saturday nights from around midnight until dawn. Smaller events (12-car rallies) take place during weekday evenings and are good practice for a full-night road rally. Boundless runs several 12-car rallies throughout the year, usually in the winter months. Some parts of the UK have a stronger road rallying tradition than others; in Wales, for example, the sport is almost a religion. The 'flavour' of rallies varies depending on the area in which they run. Some events are held mostly or wholly on private land, which allows the drivers to have some fun without the navigators needing to do too much work, while others are very dependent on the navigator being able to solve cryptic clues to work out the correct route.

Road rallying really is a great place to start in motorsport – whether marshalling, driving or navigating. Entry fees for a crew are typically £75-£90 per event, which usually includes breakfast. Marshals will often be given tasty (if unhealthy!) snacks and a free breakfast. For many events, a totally standard car can be used, although as unsurfaced roads are sometimes included so a sumpguard is recommended.

If you'd like to experience this exciting sport but don't know where to start, please contact one of the Motorsports Group (see page 2) and we'll be happy to share our enthusiasm with you.

## Navigating

Do you enjoy crosswords, sudoku or other puzzles? Then you should try navigating!

You may be surprised to hear that you don't necessarily even need to sit in a car – there are navigational competitions that you can compete in from your favourite armchair. For further details, please visit the Boundless website: [boundless.co.uk/motorsports](http://boundless.co.uk/motorsports).

# Motorsport Minimum Ages

## How young can you be to drive?



Boundless membership is available to children of existing members from the age of 10. This means that children can compete in certain events as a driver, subject to conditions and regulations.

The most common events are grass Autotests

where you can drive from the age of 14, and tarmac AutoSolos where you can drive from the age of 16 (in unmodified saloons up to 1400cc). The grass Autotests have to be Production Car events where a passenger must be carried, and those under 17 can drive if there is an experienced autotester alongside. No special car or safety gear is required to have a go. Parent and child can both enter the same car for the event, swapping seats between runs.

Rallying allows you to navigate in 12-car rallies from the age of 12, and you can drive from the age of 14 in certain single venue stage rallies in the Formula 1000cc Juniors Championship. However, you will need a properly prepared rally car for this one.

Hillclimbs and Sprints are open to 16-year-olds but as these are speed events, participants need some training beforehand and will also require some safety equipment.

## Under-17 Boundless Membership

### How to get junior membership

Anyone competing in a motorsport event, whether as a driver or a passenger, is required to be a member of a motor club. We have now formalised the membership process to allow children of current members to apply for junior membership of Boundless. So, if you're happy to be a passenger in an Autotest or do a bit of navigating on a 12-car rally, then sign your youngsters up now!

The minimum age to take part as a driver is 14 in some events and 16 in others. You can become a junior member as long as your parent or guardian is a Boundless member, which we

hope will be an incentive to get your budding young competitors out and about. Now you can both enter events – junior participants can learn so much from competing at a young age which will help them when they're let loose on the road. Junior members will receive their own Motorsport UK (MSA) competition card that can be used at motorsport events.

Applicants must be aged between 10 and 17 years old and need to be relatives of existing members. To apply directly for junior membership, please contact Member Communities on **01273 744763**.





# Motorsports for the Disabled

## Not a bar to taking part

As long as you can show that you are competent and safe behind the wheel then whatever your disability, there is no reason why you can't compete in motorsport.

Motorsport's most famous disabled driver is Alex Zanardi, who has been a winner in the FIA World Touring Car Championship for BMW while driving with prosthetic legs. The former IndyCar champion lost his legs in a racing accident in 2001 but was competing again two years later. In the UK, former British Touring Car Champion Win Percy, who suffered paralysis long after his professional racing career ended, still regularly competes in historic racing.

There are many other enthusiastic club-level competitors, helped by the British Motorsport Association for the Disabled ([bmsad.co.uk](http://bmsad.co.uk)). This looks after the interests of, among others, amputees, insulin-controlled diabetics and those with paralysis – all of whom would have found it impossible to get a circuit racing competition licence just two decades ago.

The BMSAD runs an assessment programme, under which licence applicants attend a racing, stage rally or karting school to assess their competence and safety behind the wheel.

This includes a test to evaluate how quickly a driver can get out of their car. BMSAD chairman David Butler, a triple amputee since the age of 11 and now a club racer, says: "It's only reasonable to do that. We don't want to risk the lives of marshals, who are fantastic people and would do anything to get a driver out in the event of an accident."

Butler, who set up the criteria for the assessment programme, adds: "Provided we know about it, we can ask a school for a written report on any driver as to whether they are competent and safe. Our panel is there to encourage people to go racing, not to try to stop them."

Licence applicants will also need to see the BMSAD's medical specialist, Peter Dorrington-Ward. Once he's given the go ahead, there's nothing to stop you.

# Toe in the Water Events

## Ideal events for your first experience

You've seen in this booklet the different types of events Boundless offer and now you want to have a go... what happens next?

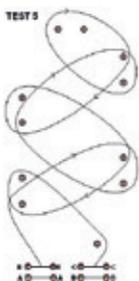
Take a look on the Boundless website at [boundless.co.uk/motorsports](http://boundless.co.uk/motorsports) and choose which event you would like to attend from the list of forthcoming events – then contact the organiser to book your place. Send in your entry and then wait for the day. Make sure you read the section below called 'essential items to take with you', and you'll be ready to have some fun. You'll find a friendly and helpful bunch of people, only too willing to help and advise you if you are new to the sport.



## Grass Autotests

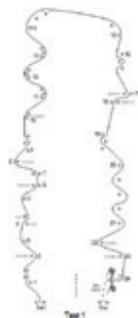
Grass Autotests are probably the most basic type of motorsport events and are suitable for anyone who can drive a car. North West London Group's Greenacres Autotest has been running for many years and attracts a wide variety of competitors. From 14 to 70+ year olds, beginners to experienced, using standard road cars to compete autotest specials, everyone is made welcome. If you're a beginner, help is always on hand from the more experienced competitors, who will, if you wish, passenger you and

give you guidance. You can just drive around the course or, as you become more experienced, use the handbrake to turn the car more quickly.



## AutoSolos

AutoSolos are similar to simple Autotests, but the tests are generally longer and faster. You won't need to do handbrake turns as the course is more open. As for Autotests, you'll receive a diagram showing the correct route to take for each test, but in AutoSolos "marker" cones are laid out as well. These give a visual aid to remind drivers which way to go. AutoSolos are always held on sealed surfaces, so if you are driving enthusiastically you may need to invest in a couple of additional tyres. All cars have to be driven to and from the event and be taxed and insured.



# First-timers' Car Preparation

## A basic guide to what's needed to prepare your car

You'll need to carry out a few basic checks on your car to make sure it will pass scrutineering and finish the event:



### Check tyres

Tread and pressures, and don't forget the spare(s).

### Exhaust system

Must be securely fixed and in sound condition. Most events have a noise check, but a standard car will have no difficulty passing this if the exhaust is in good condition.

### Remove stuff

There should be nothing loose in the car that could start flying around. Clean out all those door pockets.



### Check oil and water levels

It's a good idea to take small amounts of spare fluids, too.

### Battery earth lead

For rallying, this needs to be easily identifiable – usually, it should be clearly marked with yellow paint or tape. Also, make sure the battery is securely held in place, as a battery moving about could short-circuit on the bonnet if you went over a big bump.

### Check the brakes

Brake pad material and brake fluid level



## Check wheel bearings (front and rear)

Ensure there is no play in them as most scrutineers will check.

## Spanner check

Check that no bolts are coming loose.

## Ensure that any items you're taking in the car are securely tied down

In the event of an accident, even something small can cause injury if it's flying around inside.



## Wash the car

It's always a good idea to present a clean car to a scrutineer. They might sometimes be a bit stricter if they have to get their hands dirty checking your vehicle.

## Check the event regulations

This way you'll know if there is something specific required for the event. Some events may require you to carry a tow rope, others may stipulate that you have a spill kit in the car, or even a plastic sheet to put under the car when you use the paddock area.

## Make a list of things to take and use it as a checklist

This will help ensure you don't forget anything. If you find something missing, add it to the list so you don't forget it next time!

# Essential items to take with you

A guide to the documents you need to take with you



This is a list of items that you will need to have with you when you leave to go to an event. It's always best to keep the regular documentation together in one bag, so that you can just pick it up and take it without having to hunt around for all the bits.

For rallying or passenger-carrying events, don't forget that both members of the crew will need their licences (if applicable) and Boundless cards.

- Boundless membership card
- Boundless Motorsport UK (MSA) Card
- Britannia Rescue card (if a member)
- Car MOT certificate (if it's over three years old)
- Car V5 logbook
- Event regulations
- Event final instructions
- Motorsport UK licences (if grade of event requires)
- Car insurance certificate (AutoSolo's and public highway events e.g. road rallies)

One of the benefits of Boundless LV/Frizzell's insurance is that you may already be covered for some motorsports under your existing policy. Check your certificate and if it's not included, give them a ring to see if it should be, as part of your Boundless membership.

## Other equipment

It's always a good idea to carry duct tape and cable ties – you'll be surprised by just how much of a car you can mend with these basic items! Also, a small tool kit – but don't go overboard with it unless you're a good mechanic.

For road rallying, you will need to have a warning triangle and a first aid kit in the car. Having an SOS/OK board and a tow rope are not essential, but a good idea.

In addition, a road rally navigator will need their own equipment: maps, pencils, romer (for plotting map references), clipboard, a good map light in the car, and a map board for resting the map on – a couple of sheets of cardboard taped together is ideal. Never use a solid material for a map board – if you're unfortunate enough to be involved in an accident you don't want to be cut in half!

## Clothing

For the speed events, you will need a crash helmet and a race suit. Buy the best you can afford from a reputable stockist – good ones will cost you up to £300, but the expense is worth it. In addition, a pair of race gloves and boots is also recommended.

# Breakdown during events

## Britannia Rescue cover

If you have Britannia Rescue cover as part of your Boundless membership, then there's no need to worry in the unfortunate case of your car breaking down while on a motorsport event. We've had talks with Britannia Rescue and have confirmed that you are covered when competing in motorsport events – the only proviso is that the vehicle must be in a public area to be recovered, not five miles up a track in a Welsh forest.

The following statement has come from Britannia

Rescue/LV and their contact centre staff have been briefed on this benefit:

"We would like to provide reassurance to members that Road Rescue cover for road-based rallies and other events up to National B status remains in place with Boundless members' Britannia Rescue policy cover. In order for assistance to be delivered by the Britannia Agent, the vehicle is required to be in a publicly accessible area."



# Motorsport UK Competition Card

In addition to your Boundless membership card, for Motorsport UK events

In order to participate in any Motorsport UK-permitted motorsports events, you need a Motorsport UK (MSA) competition card from your club. To request a Boundless Motorsport UK (MSA) competition card, please contact Member Services on **0800 669944** or email member.communities@boundless.co.uk.





# Have you checked out our other interest groups?



Classic Vehicle



Photography



Motorsports



Karting



Reading Room



4x4



Motorcycle



Camping & Caravanning



Marshalling

Find out more by visiting  
[boundless.co.uk/interestgroups](https://boundless.co.uk/interestgroups)

boundless  
 by CSMA

Details of all the breaks and holidays featured in the Newsletter including prices, dates and itineraries are correct at time of going to print and are subject to late change or alteration. Most prices are based on two adults sharing with child and single supplements available for most breaks. All breaks are subject to availability and some breaks may be cancelled if insufficient numbers book. For similar reasons, some breaks may be unescorted or the welcome reception may be cancelled.

We welcome all feedback from our members regarding our breaks and ask all members to complete a questionnaire whilst on a break which is treated in confidence. You can contact us at any time via the details above if you have any suggestions, feedback or questions.

Boundless by CSMA is a trading name of Motoring & Leisure Services Limited, a subsidiary of the Civil Service Motoring Association Limited, registered office Britannia House, 21 Station Street, Brighton, BN1 4DE, registered in England no: 02813598. Motoring & Leisure Services Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and our VAT registration number is 620 9666 33.