

HRCR Internet Table-Top Rally Championship 2022

Postal Table-Top Rally Championship			
Year	1st	2nd	3rd
1987/1988	Martin Rea	Richard Norbury	Malcolm Price
1988/1989	Martin Rea	Phil Bird	Pete James
1989/1990	Martin Rea	Roger Lintott	Malcolm Price
1990/1991	Martin Rea	Dave Bell	Colin Hensman
1991/1992	Martin Rea	Malcolm Price	Phil Bird
1992/1993	Roger Lintott	Martin Rea	Phil Bird
1993/1994	Colin Hensman	Martin Rea	Roger Lintott
1994/1995	Roger Lintott	Colin Hensman	Malcolm Price
1995/1996	Malcolm Price	Roger Lintott	Colin Hensman
1996/1997	Colin Hensman	William Lynch	Glynn Hayward
1997/1998	Colin Hensman	Martin Rea	David Goode
1998/1999	Martin Rea	"Crow"	Colin Hensman
1999/2000	Mitch Fielding	Martin Rea	Peter Robertson
2000/2001	Malcolm Price	Martin Rea	Mitch Fielding
Internet Table-Top Rally Championship			
Year	1st	2nd	3rd
1998	Jeremy Rodgers	Dave Bell	Ted Manktelow
2003	Mike Biss	Peter Smith	David Bell
2004/2005	Gavin Rogers	Mitch Fielding	Steve Baber
2006	Gavin Rogers	David Bell	Peter Smith
2008	Iain Tullie	Steve Barber	Gavin Rogers
2010	Iain Tullie	David Bell	Gavin Rogers
2012	Gavin Rogers	Peter Smith	Richard Laking
2017/2018	Bart den Hartog	Nigel Parish	Peter Rushforth
2018/2019	Marcus Duyzend	Nigel Parish	Steve Barber
2019/2020	Marcus Duyzend	Robert Owen	Andrew Green
2021	Keith Irvin	Phil Robbins	Ian Canavan
2022	Lyn Gale	Phil Robbins	Keith Cunningham

There's been a Table-Top Rally Championship as far back as 1987 when several clubs running regular events combined forces to start a National series. It started life as a Postal Championship: buy an OS map; receive the route cards by post; plot the route on your map; send the map or the route check answer sheet back to be marked. As today it usually comprised four events with names like Pathfinder, Nelly, Langer Park, Pegasus, Cultivator and Gunpowder Plot that will be familiar to *oldPLOTTERS*. Some events attracted over 200 entries, which was a major workload for organisers to mark. The Postal Championship ran for 14 years.

In 1998 an experimental Internet based series was launched with route check questions, answers and results appearing on-line. A full Internet Championship began in 2003, and by 2010 had evolved with increasing sophistication use to on-line forms for answers and digital maps. *Don Barrow Rally Navigation* and *The Basic Roamer Company* helped with sponsorship.

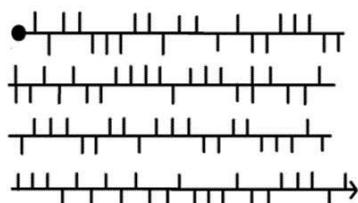
There was a major step change in 2012. Route check days were over replaced by marking a route on an on-screen map. This was then automatically compared to the master route with penalties computed for missing secret passage checks and

"time" penalties applied for taking a longer or shorter route. Since 2017 the Championship has run on an annual basis often interspersed with other themed events such as the Crowless, La Slog, CoRvid-19, HRCR Jogle and Binary Bash rallies.

It's interesting to compare 1987 and 2022 Championship entry lists. Thirty-five years on the names of Bob Blackstock, David Bell, Andrew Green, Henry Carr, Tim Vassie and "Crow" can be seen on both lists.

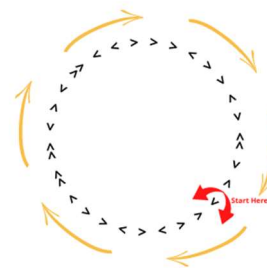
The **HRCR Internet Table-Top Rally Championship 2022** came to an end in November after three months of tough competition. Starting in September and comprising four rounds, each with a cycle of 16 days plotting and 5 days rest, 50 UK and overseas competitors endured an autumn battle on digital maps. Each round had 8 legs, 32 in total which were set by a host of setters: Lyn Gale, Monica Dowson, Phil Robbins, Andrew Green, Roger Ashmead, Henry Carr, Bob Blackstock, David Bell, Glynn Hayward, Robert Owen (Germany), Nikki Baker (Australia) and the promoter "Crow".

Entry to the table-top competitions was by donating to charity and on this occasion over £1,600 was passed to deserving causes swelling the totalled achieved to almost £38,000.



Navigation used every kind of conventional offering such as spot heights, grid lines, references, herringbones and map features, many heavily disguised to severely test the Masters, while a series of penalty-taking hints simplified the route cards to solving at an Expert, Novice or Beginner level.

Route card innovation was to the fore with registration plates, morse code, Welsh, runway designations, digits of pi, a piano keyboard, coded Roman numbers and the periodic table all making an appearance. Herringbones were transformed, the one here referring to bones of grid lines (ignore left=cross northing, ignore right=cross easting) rather than roads. There were some clever graphics too; the circular gradients here being the Novice hint to plot an undulating route around Llanfihangel-yng-Ngwynfa in Wales. With Henry Carr's affinity to the Ilkley Jubilee *real rally*, it was no surprise that his two rallies were based upon photos and navigation from previous events. Lyn Gale was influenced too with a route defined by the car years on the 2022 Ilkley Rally.



The routes covered the length and breadth of the OS map coverage, from the Shetland Islands to the Isle of Wight and sometimes ferries were needed. Welsh roads and forests were popular too. There was an occasional diversion to Open Street maps and real-time rallies, a notable one being a stage rally up Pikes Peak hill climb in Colorado with street views at scenic places.

Winners of the four rounds were:

The Nearest FarAway Place Rally: **1.** Andrew Green (120), **2.** Lyn Gale (180), **3.** Phil Robbins (197)

The Panglossian Rally: **1.** Lyn Gale (150), **2.** Phil Robbins (201), **3.** Henry Carr (220)

The Schoolfrenz Rally: **1.** Phil Robbins (18), **2.** Keith Cunningham (80), **3.** Monica Dowson (98)

The Thalamorph Rally: **1.** Lyn Gale (clean), **2.** Keith Cunningham (clean), **3.** Keith Irvin (clean)

A ruling saw the class awards spread across the competitors on each round, so that 16 different, previously unrewarded, competitors had an unexpected prize. Steve Barber, Simon Lytton, Francis Tindall, Suze Endean, Bob Blackstock, Helen Dove, Ernie Waldron, John Green, Steve Gaddy, John Murdoch, Nikki Baker, Phil Carpenter, Michael Cochrane, Tim Vassie, Mark Tolhurst, Bobby Clinton received a personalised mug for their efforts.



The top-10 overall (based upon ranking points across the four events) were:

1. Lyn Gale 4, **2. Phil Robbins** 6, **3. Keith Cunningham** 11, **4.** Keith Irvin 14, **5.** Andrew Green 15, **6.** Monica Dowson 19, **7.** Helen Dove 23, **8.** Steve Barber 24, **9.** Jennifer Holborow 25, **10.** Bob Blackstock 31.

The podium places received engraved trophies as did the **Best Master:** Andrew Green; **Best Expert:** Glynn Hayward; **Best Novice:** Jennifer Holborow and **Best Beginner:** Suze Endean.