

# COURIER

(Isle of Man)  
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## 'MANX STUDENTS HIT THE ROAD'

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MANX university students are embarking on a road trip across Europe that will put the Wacky Races to shame. Richard Patterson, 22, and Katie James, Karen Quayle and Ryan Kelly, all 19, study at universities in the UK. For six days in September they will be competing for the £1,000 prize in the first ever Student Gumball Rally. They are the only all-Manx team and are aptly named Three Legs of My Mann. They will be competing against more than 500 students in 150 teams over the 1,500-mile journey. The 'no frills, more thrills' challenge takes students from Dover to Pag Island, off the coast of Croatia, with overnight stops on the way in Cologne, Prague, Budapest, Zagreb and Zadar. Each night, in true student style, there will be a party for all those involved. The organisers stress the event isn't a race and all road law must be adhered to. Engines must be less than two litres. The organisers say: 'The event is a chance for students to experience some of Europe's most beautiful cities while making new friendships and having lots of fun. 'Challenges throughout the trip include a treasure hunt and contests for the most stylish cars - and crews. The students became involved in the rally after a university friend of Katie heard about it. 'It looked like a good laugh and a chance of meeting students from all over the UK,' said Richard. 'It's going to be an amazing experience. 'The event will benefit the Teenage Cancer Trust, a charity that raises money for research and builds specialist centres. The team is also raising money for Richie's Charity, set up locally in 2004 in the memory of their friend Richard Brookes, who died in a car crash. It supports youth in the Island and at university in the UK. The friends are seeking sponsorship from companies and the public for travel, petrol and food, plus donations to the charities. The six-day event will feature in a Channel 4 documentary. Richard said: 'Car stickers for companies, as well as T-shirts and products will be displayed so that a Manx company logo can be seen around Europe and literally broadcast to the world. 'Ring Richard on 416496 or email [richiepies@hotmail.com](mailto:richiepies@hotmail.com) Links: [www.studentgumballrally.com](http://www.studentgumballrally.com)