



MMP Winter 2016

Chairman's Report—Mike Grantham

The final countdown for Christmas has finally begun, where has the year disappeared to?

Our Orange Army Christmas party was a huge success again; many thanks to Rachel, Julze and the team. I couldn't be at the party this time so Jayne awarded our trophies and they were presented to: *Best newcomer, Karen & Jerry Kirk; Shadow trophy, Nick Anslow; Sylvia Edwards trophy, Kate Neal; the Bellini Trophy and our marshal of the year David Cameron.* We awarded Bob Adams a special award for his continuing help and support with our tasterdays and marshal recruitment. Anna Root also received a special award because as a non-Midlands member we wanted to recognise her exceptional contribution to marshalling. Congratulations to all of our award winners and many thanks to Jayne for awarding them.

The BMMC national AGM was held at Leeds on the Sunday following the Christmas party. Chris Hobson stood down as the National Chair and Nadine Lewis was formally confirmed as our new Chair. Many thanks Chris for your not inconsiderable efforts over the past twelve years in office and many congratulations to Nadine on her appointment. As befitting the long service Chris has given to the club he was made a vice-president and conferred Life Membership. Chris was warmly thanked by everyone attending and was presented with a farewell gift as a token of his fine and long service to the club.

I can't believe that it's almost a year since we held our Training days at Donington. Jim and his team did their usual fantastic job of organising the weekend, even handling the problem of the fire alarm that decided to set itself off. January's marshal training days are 28th & 29th with rescue training on the 22nd. Volunteering is via a dedicated website, the volunteering links are all on our regional website and also on page 10 of this newsletter.

BMMC (formerly BMRMC) will be celebrating its sixtieth or diamond anniversary next year. To mark this significant milestone, all members will receive a 'Goody Box' if they renew and pay their subscription by 31st March 2017. This will also entitle members to be entered into a prize draw; the winner will receive a day at Palmersport Bedford Autodrome and our grateful thanks are extended to Jonathan Palmer for his generous support. The 'Goody Box' will be delivered by courier so could you please check your postal address at www.marshals.co.uk/volunteering. Deliveries will be between February and April, broadly reflecting the timing when we receive your membership payments. You won't have to sign for receipt and the couriers will be asked to 'leave with a neighbour' if you are not at home. If you have paid your subscription but not received a 'Goody Box' by 10th April, please email Colin Barnes at nat.treasurer@marshals.co.uk quoting your name and membership number.

All that remains now, is to thank everyone for their help through the year and to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Mike Grantham

Midlands Region Chairman



Find us on the above



MSA Bulletin—Rally Marshal Registration



Dear Marshal,

We would like to thank you once again for engaging with the MSA's online rally marshals' training and accreditation. We would like to encourage everybody not only to finish the online modules but also to complete the process by going on to register as a card-carrying MSA marshal.

Why register? By registering with the MSA you will:

1. Receive an MSA marshal's tabard, registration card and training Personal Record Card, so you can keep a log of your activity as a valued volunteer in the sport
2. Have the opportunity to progress through the Rally and Cross Country Grading Scheme
3. Receive the monthly MSA newsletter and quarterly MSA magazine
4. Qualify for the forthcoming MSA marshals recognition scheme – more on this soon!

So how do you register?

Log in to the MSA members website as an existing customer [here](#).

- If you cannot remember your username and/or password, please contact the MSA Licensing Department directly on 01753 765050
- Select the 'Marshals' tab to visit the REGISTERED MARSHALS RENEWAL page
- Select option one: First Time Rally/Cross Country Online Application
- Confirm your personal details and upload a photograph.

You will then receive your MSA marshal's registration pack, including card and tabard, in the post within 10 working days.

Please note that from 1 January 2017 marshals will need to demonstrate that they have completed the online training modules in order to marshal alone on the stages. If you cannot show that you have completed the training, organisers will have the opportunity to buddy you up with an experienced registered marshal.

The easiest way to show you have done the training is to register with us as per the above – you can then simply show your MSA marshal's registration card.

Your support is hugely appreciated – thank you!

The MSA Training Team



Winter Quiz

Wishing all marshals and officials a very happy festive season – enjoy the quiz! Roy Harrison

NAME THE CHAMPIONS OF 2016!

- 1 Who won the DTM championship?
- 2 Who is the BTCC champion?
- 3 Who is the WRX champion?
- 4 Who is the European Formula 3 champion?
- 5 Who is the WRC champion?

FORMULA 1

- 6 Name three Formula 1 drivers who have retired this year
- 7 Who are the new owners of Formula 1?
- 8 Michael Schumacher and Rubens Barrichello belong to the F1 300 Grand Prix starts club – who has recently joined them this year?
- 9 This year for the first time, there were four sons of ex Grand Prix drivers on the Formula 1 grid – can you name them?
- 10 Name the only two sons of past Formula 1 champions who have also won the F1 title?

TRUE OR FALSE?

- 11 Mercedes Benz GP Limited has reserved an entry to join Formula E in 2018/19 season – True or False?
- 12 Mark Webber won the 24 Hour Le Mans race in 2015 – True or False?
- 13 The manufacturer of KTM Bikes competed at the last race in the Moto GP championship 2016 – True or False?
- 14 Guy Martin is involved with a land speed record on two wheels with the “Triumph Rocket Streamliner” – True or False?
- 15 Where do the letters of KTM come from?

FACT – referring to question 5, the winner Sebastian Ogier was his fourth successive win but also was the 13th successive win for a Frenchman with the name of Sebastian!



Orange Army Christmas Party and Awards Evening

On Saturday 3rd December this years annual Orange Army Christmas party took place at the very eventful, thanks to a fire alarm sounding in the early hours of the morning!, Jurys Inn East Midlands. The event was attended by 74 very glamorous marshals and their families.

The evening commenced with people gathering for pre dinner drinks before sitting down to enjoy a 3 course carved meal excellently prepared by the chef at the Jurys Inn . Following tradition; after dinner a raffle was held seeing some amazing prizes being donated in order to raise funds for Donington Park Racing Association Club (DPRAC) - a welfare fund which provides support to drivers who have been injured competing at Donington and find themselves in hospital. DPRAC also help the vital equipment required to run the rescue unit at Donington Park. Thanks to everyone's generosity we raised a record breaking £426 on the raffle - THANK YOU.

Following on from this, the BMMC Midlands regional awards were very professionally presented by Jayne Poston, who very kindly step in on behalf on our regions chairman Mike Grantham who was unable to attend due to national BMMC commitments. Jayne, with the assistance of Kara Florey, presented the trophies to our very deserving winners.

After the awards, people took to the dance floor and danced the evening away before the close of the party at 1am.

Julze and I would like to thank you all for attending the evening and very generously supporting the raffle. We would also like to pass on our gratitude to Diane Hardy, Mike Grantham, Sue Birch, Kara Florey, Jayne Poston and Mel and Tony Baggaley, plus all our very generous raffle donors.

Please pencil in your diaries the 2017 Christmas which will take place over the weekend of 2nd - 3rd December, the venue (for obvious reason) to be announced in mid 2017.

Thanks again to everyone who attended - without you, none of this would be possible.

Merry Christmas and a Happy new year. Rachel and Julze





Photos from the Orange Army Christmas Party





An Interview with Tom Sykes—WSBK

Mel Baggaley and I were lucky enough to have the opportunity to interview Tom Sykes on a lovely summer evening of this year. Jay Allen kindly chauffeured us; Tom and Jay know each other personally, which gave us a chance to find out a few very interesting things about Jay too - sworn to secrecy!

Tom is the most successful rider at Donington in WSBK history, and has had another fantastic year competing in 2016.

I just have to say Mel doesn't follow the bikes, but did an outstanding job with her interview questions. Mel's report is on page 8.

Here's what we found out...

You had your 200th race start in Misano this year—did you celebrate? *"I didn't realise it myself, as I don't normally look at the statistics of my racing career. I was presented with a chocolate cake—I do like cakes, especially jam Victoria sponge—and carrot cake!"*

August saw your birthday too, Happy Birthday! What did you get up to? *"I celebrated it with two coffees and a piece of pumpkin cake. I do like banana cake too, with a proper cup of Yorkshire tea Gold Blend." (There's definitely a 'cake' thing going on here)*

That's very Yorkshire – do you have a flat cap too? *"Yes I do, and a tweed jacket!"*

How do you usually prepare yourself before you go out on circuit? *"I try not to have too many people around me. Usually I listen to some music, stretch and get my leathers on."*

What sort of music do you listen to? *"Now don't knock it—Celine Dion is there. Also Guns 'N' Roses, Iron Maiden, Pit Bull and Eminem."*

Do you have any unusual rituals you perform beforehand? *"I'm not superstitious, but I do always put my right boot on first, and my left glove on first. I also get on the bike from the left."*

Which circuit do you find most challenging, and why? *"Physically it has to be Donington Park, as you often get arm pump (when your forearm goes solid and it's hard to keep a good grip). Lausitzring in Germany is one of the most challenging, as this venue hasn't been part of the WSBK series for a number of years. Some of the hotter venues can have a big impact, as the temperatures can be savage. You can be out in the heat for some time in full gear before you start the race."*

What other sports/activities do you enjoy doing? *"I've been running since racing started to discipline me at around 13 years of age. As to whether I enjoy it, that depends on my mood and the weather!"*

If you had the chance, which Olympic sport would you like to try and why? *"You mean apart from being on the back line of the Brazilian women's beach volleyball? The cycling events in the Velodrome appeal to me. I'd prefer to chase than lead!"*



An Interview with Tom Sykes continued...

Who is your racing role model, and why? *“Mick Doohan was outstanding for Honda in the GP, on his 500cc 2 stroke. Carl Fogarty was impressive, and Valento Rossi is incredible, and still doing the business.”*

If you could give yourself a nickname, what would it be? *“Possibly Duracell. Fred Clarke the commentator referred to me as The Grinner, which stuck.”* **Tom did refer to another nickname, but not printable sorry.**

What’s the most unusual fan gift you’ve ever received? *“I get nice ones all the time, the Italians often give me ice-cream and pasta. I had one Italian who was very generous with mozzarella—1KG!”*

And finally, we’d love a scoop for the marshals—what news can you share with us? *“I don’t know much gossip, as I pay little attention to social media. I do have a big appreciation for the marshals, who have helped me many a time!”*

We’d like to thank Tom and his family for giving us his time—as we left he was also heading off, and had stayed on only to meet with us. What a nice man! Look out for him at the 2017 round of WSBK at Donington on 26th to 28th May.

Also a huge thank you to Tom for donating some amazing prizes to our Christmas raffle—money raised will go to DPRAC, total to be confirmed.



Photo: Mel and I looking decidedly dodgy hovering in the background, with Tom grinning as always—more likely because he was just about to wave us off...



An interview with Tom Sykes—Mel's report

During the Summer months a few of us were asked to do a survey for Donington Park for the bikes. Not being into bikes I thought it would be my opportunity to try and understand why people like bikes I can't find the fascination of the two wheeled variety.

It was a great weekend to get to know the bikers and their love for Donington Park and what a great track we offer, so then being offered to interview a star from the biking world with Kate I couldn't say no.

Wow what an evening we had.

Myself, Jason Allen Tony and Kate headed off on the adventure to Tom Sykes home. Jason Allen's driving was a little bit to be desired but we got there in one piece eventually.

We were made to feel very welcome into Tom's home and offered an insight into his world, so below is my interpretation of events and my questions which to me made perfect sense, and Kate's the professional has the better understanding.

Do you ever educate drivers that don't wear leathers when on the road – this pies me off .** *“I always wear a back protector and my helmet. have driven at 150 mph and come off with no injury but driven at 30mph and caused damage to my wrist, but I do wear jeans when I'm out on normal road use” — Shocked I was!!*

Can you go down the street and not be recognised? *“Yes, I'm lucky enough to be able to have my freedom unless at a circuit where people know me. My neighbours don't know who I am, but if stopped and recognised I will always autograph and have photos with them as it's a privilege .”*

So tell me how you got in to bikes why not cars? *“From an early age it was my Grandad who introduced me to bikes and Grandad is still a big part of my life my family are a big part of my life, if I hadn't been lucky enough to get into racing bikes I would have been a mechanic. A life span in bikes is shorter than cars I would like a crack at Touring Cars and I love Karts I would love to experience a proper go in a kart.” -*

Oh Tom we can sort that for you.

At this point Tom's adorable two young girls which are full of beans come and join us, they were preparing for a trip up to Yorkshire and had squeezed our interview in before this trip. It's very clear that Tom's family are very important to him, his brother is the Nanny and looks after the girls when he is racing, and the family support him in his biking and travel whenever possible to support him.

Kate then takes over with her questioning which is more race related as she showed off when doing her research! Our interview concluded with myself and Kate being allowed to hold the trophies that are so precious to him and the look on our faces say it all. I'm still no wiser as to the fascination of bikes; maybe Tom needs to take me out on one to make me understand more but I don't think Tony would ever allow that for the safety of Tom. We hope that Tom won't be a stranger to us at Donington; we will set him up with Karting around our track which he loves so much. Well he says it's better than Silverstone and that's good enough for me.



Taster Days 2016—Donington Racetrack

For more details go to www.tasterdays.info

PROVISIONAL DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

8th/9th April

22nd/23rd April

3rd/4th June

8th/9th July

9th/10th September

23rd/24th September

Under 18?

In association with **Go Motorsport**, the BMMC Midland Region & Donington Emergency Services Team Taster Day programme provides opportunities for prospective marshals between **16 and 18** years of age. Complying with the Motor Sports Association’s (MSA) ‘Duty of Care’ guidelines, this provides younger volunteers with the chance to gain first-hand experience of a motorsport environment.



Photo courtesy of Brian Tyler Photography—thanks Brian!



Marshal Training for 2017

It's that time of year again and we have the usual training opportunities for you in 2017.

Whether you are progressing through the grading scheme, maintaining your grade or just want a pre-season refresher, you will find details below, together with the link to our on-line volunteering form.

For Race trainees (track and specialist) and those totally new to marshalling:

Saturday 28th January - <https://goo.gl/forms/vmFa80YnSYitQZPE2>

For Race trainees (track and specialist) and those totally new to marshalling, Track, Experienced Track, Incident Officer, Flag, Specialist and Experienced Specialist:

Sunday 29th January - <https://goo.gl/forms/NvxYlfzZgGtOA4Go1>

For Rescue crew:

Sunday 22nd January - <https://goo.gl/forms/WMYIHdiEnsd4JYlj1>

We are not running sessions for Post Chief this year.

In each case we will be sending out (by email) joining information about a week beforehand.

Any queries please send an email to m.training@marshals.co.uk





New Members and Upgrades

Welcome to our new members...

Jade Warrilow—Stoke On Trent

Jonathan Sugden—Severn Stoke

Phillip Rutter—Hereford

Phillip B Rutter—Hereford

Jonathan Long—Milford

Paul Simpson—Long Eaton

Mark Keeling—Swadlincote

Mark Smith—Nuneaton

Matthew Stokes—Droitwich

Anna McWatters—Coventry

John McLelland—Leamington Spa

Congratulations to the following members on their upgrades...

Dan Brough—Track

Steve Akrill—Track

Sara Jayes—Track

Janet Swain—Track

Richard Swain—Track

Nick Phipps—Specialist

Peter Littley—Track

Bob Fellows—I.O.

Michael Billingham—Speed Post Chief

Marshals Appeal—Stuff the Turkey Autotest

Wednesday 28th December 2016 Curborough Sprint Course.

Drivers compete on courses marked out by plastic pylons or cones.

All marshals should wear appropriate attire to make sure they are warm and dry.

Signing on is around 0900 and we should be finished weather depending at approx 1600, possibly earlier.

You will be given a food voucher and hopefully a little goodie bag.

If anyone is interested in helping out please contact Will Barnes:- wrbfiat@yahoo.co.uk



A Warm Grand Prix

I have been lucky to get an invitation to the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix for the last three years.

Doing my usual job as rescue unit crew means joining up in the Medical and Rescue Team headed up by the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Sean Petherbridge and Rescue Chief Chris Harding. This year I chose to add on a week in Jordan beforehand. Fascinating place and Petra, that “rose-red city half as old as time” is amazing and totally lived up to its reputation.

Flight to Dubai was a bit delayed and immigration queues long, so getting the bus to Abu Dhabi became a bit urgent to make the initial team documentation session. Getting the right ticket was the only challenge – an Oyster-like travel pass is in use for Dubai. Great once you have one and understand the rules.

Work started next day with kit checks and meeting up with the other team members. Briefing from the CMO, followed by the FIA Incident exercise. I don't know why exercises are more stressful than the real thing but they are!

After that we had time for a training session to get people thinking about new techniques and reminding ourselves of some old points.

We were then free to watch the “KED” teams (provided by a local ambulance service) go through their usual practice runs on F1, GP2 and GP3 cars. The race teams hate it as they watch us crawling all over their immaculate cars! Always interesting to chat to the team members who do value the marshal's efforts. After this hot work, there was the usual return for a beer.

The organisers put us up in the Armed Forces Officers Club and Hotel, which is a very grand building and organisation. BBQ and a beer and a catch up later before an early night.

Friday practice and GP2/3 qualifying. Saturday F1 practice and qualifying.

Medical inspections get the Med car, Extrication, Rescue and Ambulance crews lined up on the white line to smile at the FIA medical car as it goes past. (No longer do they get out to say hello since they can't be seen not to be wearing their seat belts and a six-point harness takes too long to secure and would slow things down.)

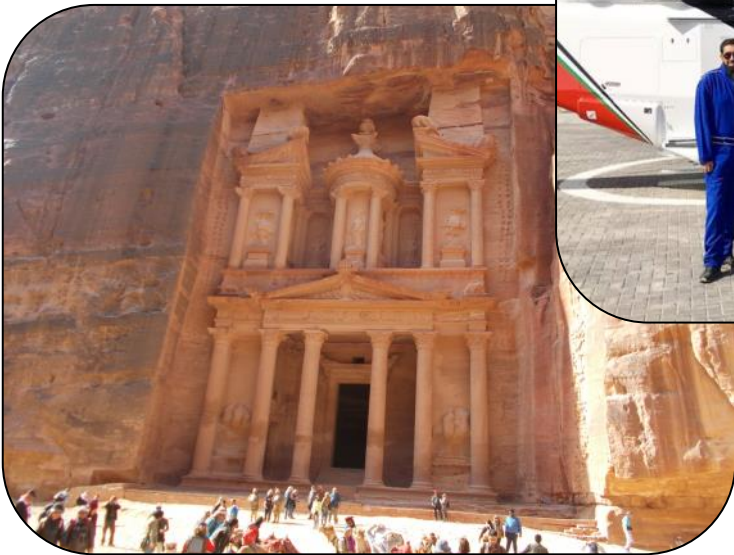
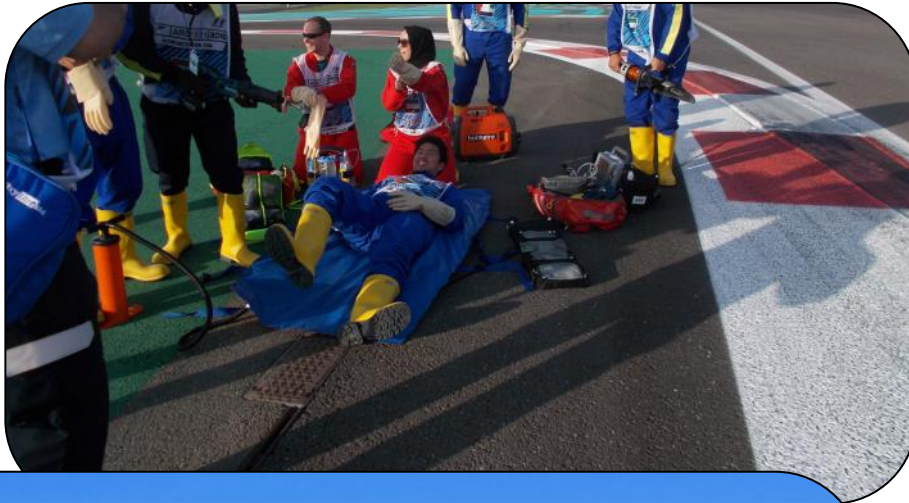
Last inspection before the GP has evolved into a less formal event and we did a mannequin challenge for them. The image below is the preparation but the video is at <https://www.facebook.com/siddu.jain/videos/10153950990397327/>. It made us laugh anyway.

As always, if you watched on TV you will have seen more of the race than we did but the spectacle close-to at the superb Yas Marina circuit was excellent. I don't care very much who wins the race (and even less, the championship), it is the vroom which thrills.

Immaculate organisation without a heavy hand makes the event great fun.

Jim Whitaker

Photos from the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix





Overseas Tour 2016—Round One

Some of you may recall my 2015 road trip through the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic with 3 weekends of marshalling on the trot at Zandvoort, Brno, and Nurburgring. Well this year I decided not to try to do something quite so big, so I split the trips up.

Some of you may well think my first event is cheating a little to class it an overseas event. However this is my story, and you do have to cross the Irish Sea so it is included. The event I am referring to was a very enjoyable weekend in Northern Ireland. I flew into George Best Belfast City Airport and collected my hire car and had a leisurely drive westerly along the coast, stopping at a couple of nice fishing villages along the way. The whole week previous to me turning up, the weather had been very wet in NI, but just as my plane landed it dried up to remain fine for the rest of my trip. Friday morning I had agreed to meet the Chief Marshal Fel in a car park at Kricubbin, and she would then take me into the circuit to help with the test day. I got there and took advantage of the excellent sunny conditions to take some photos of Strangford Lough while I waited. After a little while I started to wonder if I was in the right car park as Fel was nowhere to be seen. Sure enough a 2 minute drive to the other end of the village and I found Fel waiting. We got to the circuit just in time, and I was allocated Colonial Corner. Friday was just testing and a quiet day with only 4 marshals around the entire track. Saturday was a very different case.

The racing was very close and I was rather busy at the Colonial corner where I was post chief. The races were all traditional club races for Legends, Road sports/Saloons, Fiestas, Ginetta Juniors (Mk1), and FF1600. Colonial is not the fastest corner, but does have two long straights and a fast corner just prior hence a great chance to overtake. I witnessed numerous incidents. In one of these a very lucky gentleman came out of Debtors Dip at full chat in his Legend, which suddenly snapped left into the grass bank, flipped over the bank and landed out of sight in a hedge. Not a scratch on him, and he fixed his car only missing one of his three races. Another couple of close calls with one car shooting off just in front of the flag post and another in a separate incident with broken suspension just missing the rear of the flag point. In total I had to write 8 reports, making me the busiest Post Chief that day. Everyone had a good race, everyone went home in one piece, and only 2 people got a roasting from the Clerk due to my reports.

After the race I was invited to join in the Thoroughbred Sports Car Club fish and chips tour of the Ards Peninsular the following day. The Ards Peninsular is South East of Belfast separating Strangford Lough from the Irish Sea. I turned up at the event not really knowing how big it would be or what sort of cars would be there. In the end there were 40 cars and a massive variety of makes and models. As I had flown to Belfast, my friends decided I would enjoy the drive better if I was paired up as navigator for someone in their sports car. Can't say I was too upset to leave the hired Vauxhall Corsa behind. Gordon Buckley, one-time Chairman of MGCC Ulster was very kind to offer me a ride in his Porsche Carrera 4s. We all had a great afternoon, and Gordon's knowledge of the peninsular both on land, and from a nautical point of view added to an excellent route organised by TSCC. On the Monday I flew home having had a very enjoyable trip.

Simon Morris

Rounds 2 and 3 will appear in the Spring and Summer newsletters in 2017...



Some useful motorsport links...

Some of the Circuits in and around the Midlands

Curborough	http://www.curborough.com/
Donington	http://www.donington-park.co.uk/
Mallory	http://www.malloryparkcircuit.com/
Rockingham	http://www.rockingham.co.uk/
Shelsley Walsh	http://www.shelsley-walsh.co.uk/midland_automobile_club/
Silverstone	http://www.silverstone.co.uk/

Racing Clubs, Organisations and Events

FIA Formula-e	http://www.fiaformulae.com/
British Touring Car Championship	http://www.btcc.net/
British Truck Racing Championship	http://btra.co.uk/
750 Motorclub	http://www.750mc.co.uk/
Aston Martin Owners Club	https://www.amoc.org/
360 Motor Club	http://360mrc.com/
BRSCC	http://www.brsc.co.uk/
MG Car Club	http://www.mgcc.co.uk/
MSVR	http://www.msvracing.com/
Historic Sports Car Club	http://www.hsc.org.uk/
Vintage Sports Car Club	http://www.vsc.co.uk/
Midlands Automobile Club	http://www.shelsley-walsh.co.uk/midland_automobile_club/
Shenstone & District Car Club	http://www.curborough.com/
British Superkarts	http://www.superkart.org.uk/
Nottingham Sports Car Club	http://www.nottinghamsportscarclub.co.uk/
Hagley & District Light Car Club	http://www.hdlcc.com/

Festivals

Donington Historic Festival	http://www.doningtonhistoric.com/
Masters Festival	http://www.mastershistoricracing.com/

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TO ALL
OUR MEMBERS!**



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Answers to the Autumn Quiz—

1	Marco Wittman (BMW)
2	Gordon Shedden
3	Mathias Ekstrom
4	Lance Stroll
5	Sebastian Ogier
6	Jenson Button, Filip Massa and Nico Rosberg
7	Liberty Media (America) and Chairman Chase Carey
8	Jenson Button in Malaysia 2016
9	Nico Rosberg, Max Verstappen, Kevin Magnussen and Jolyon Palmer
10	Damon Hill / Graham Hill and Nico Rosberg/Keke Rosberg
11	True
12	False – only second in 2015 but won the WEC title with Porsche
13	True – the rider was Alex Hofman
14	True
15	Johann 'K'ronreif / Ernst 'T'runkenpolz based in 'M'attighofen (north of Salzburg)

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the BMMC, the Region or the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions for length or clarity. E&OE