



CHAIRBEING'S FESTIVE FEELINGS

(but not in any way inappropriate)

This has been our club's Diamond Jubilee Year. Amazing to think that the BMMC (inc BRMC) has been taking care of motor sport business across each and every discipline for 60 seasons. Very moving to think of our forebears who volunteered from the very first day, just as we do now so many years later. So many famous, and revered, names in our imaginary Hall of Fame.

Motor sport was a very much more relaxed - yet still competitive - affair back then. Health & Safety and all the rules and regulations that guide us these days had not been invented. Marshalling was, I guess, more exciting, but facilities were rather primitive.

Cars whizzing past your straw bale or piece of rope must certainly have generated a shot of adrenalin! Then tinfoil suits for Fire Marshals appeared and ever since then we have moved further back from the action, behind barriers and debris fences. There have been instances, this season, when we have been grateful for our protection, but.....

Our club furnished us with our Goodie Bags to kick-off the Jubilee year. All regions have also been doing something a bit different to mark this notable anniversary. We had an "act" at our post-AGM social. Brian "Lancashire Sid" Calderbank (Flag Marshal of distinction and Star of Tea-time TV) did his thing, and enjoyed thoroughly by those present. The buffet put on by the Blue Cap was pretty damn good. This month we have a few "old soldiers" sitting down to dinner at Chester Racecourse. We'll be 2

toasting colleagues past and present, and I'm sure there will be happy memories to share.

So, the BMMC has been around for 60 years. We now look forward to the future. Not sure that there will be racing and rallying as we know them in 60 years time, but we will continue to enjoy our brilliant hobby for so long as cars go round and round, up hills, along courses and through forests.

Very warmest wishes to all Northerners for a fabulous Jubilee Christmas.

We'll all be back in orange for Spring Training on March 10th and/or 11th, with our season starting almost immediately after.

In the meantime, please do be careful as you go about your Festive Frolics.

Mike Cadwallader

TRAINING 2018

Before we get too far into the festive season, it is time to look ahead to next year's training weekend, which will be held on the 10th and 11th March 2018 at Oulton Park circuit, near Tarporley in Cheshire.

As in previous years, training will be held in the Fogarty Moss Centre and will cover Post Chiefs, Flag marshals, new and Cadet marshals, Track and Experienced marshals, Incident Officers and Specialist marshals.

Full details will be circulated separately with an application form.

Bill Gray

BMMC NW Region Training Co-ordinator

AGM NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

It is the way of the world that we suffer the loss of a member from time to time. Our great friend and long-standing colleague Peter Preston-Hough passed away in February. Peter was a committee stalwart, a former training officer and an invaluable vice-chairman. Track side, he was an examining post chief, a speed clerk and co-ordinator for AMOC sprints. He is very much missed.

We have also lost one of the greatest friends our club ever had. Dear Tom Dooley passed away just weeks ago, so soon after he had celebrated his 90th birthday. Tom's legendary career in motor sport spans almost my entire lifetime. He never did write that book, but I am hoping that his personal effects will reveal material for young Dave Williams to work up an outline biography.

We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated committee. At every meeting, we discuss matters affecting our members. Many issues can be resolved locally, and serious matters are escalated to our national council - where we have Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Regalia Supremo and PRO drawn from NW region!

We are still maintaining membership at around the 630 mark. This fact reflects very well the work being done by our newly launched "New Marshals Liaison Team". Natural wastage in early years is a fact of life in any organisation. We are attempting to stem that outflow by making new entrants feel welcome – among themselves and alongside a number of mentors, buddies.

Rob Wood has brought a blast of initiative and innovation to our recruitment processes. Viewed in tandem with the above-noted NMLT initiative, recruitment and retention activity has been transformed in North West region.

In very simplistic terms, we have gathered 265 expressions of interest from 16 sources, entertained 101 on taster days and signed-up 60 new members this year. This conversion rate is outstanding against any recruitment norm and is up over 2% on anything we have previously achieved.

The Training days in March were well supported by our members with over 300 in attendance over the weekend. Thanks to all the trainers who supported us over the weekend, as well as those other helpers who signing on, assisted the fire training and especially the cyclists who provided their novel support for the practical flag training session.

37 Upgrades have been processed since the 2016 Regional AGM. While this is fewer than in recent years, we have quality rather than quantity.

Our lady members clearly aren't pushing ahead so keenly. We need to encourage progress next season, we have no glass ceiling in the BMMC.

Once again, this year Speed events covered the region from North to South and as far West as Anglesey, with a dedicated band of enthusiastic BMMC members.

We have a fabulous newsletter, all we need is some input from you! Young Dave Williams' articles continue to be the highlights. May I register my sincere thanks to him for his extraordinary contributions.

Don't forget to update us if you change your Email address. The penalty if you don't is loss of your regular Outpost!

Last, but by no means least, I offer our thanks to our 2 local race organising clubs, BARC (NW) and BRSCC (NW)

Margaret Simpson is an exceptional friend to we marshals. My thanks to her for looking after us once more.

Mike Cadwallader

JAAP EARNS HIS JUST REWARDS



Given his loyalty and enthusiasm for coming over from Europe to support motor sport at Oulton Park and Anglesey, all in the North West racing community were delighted when Jaap Blijleven realised his ambition of winning the Pre90 section of the Avon Tyres Northern Formula Ford 1600 Championship in 2017 after quite a few years of trying.

His success arrived in the fifth season that the resident of Haarlem near Amsterdam has been part of the series. Jaap had competed on the European Formula Ford 1600 scene since the turn of the Millennium but became disillusioned as he often found himself sharing tracks with faster machinery from higher formulae. He liked the concept of races

solely for Formula Ford 1600 which are the norm in the UK.

Jaap therefore hooked up with UCLAN Racing - the team operated by students from the Motorsport Engineering degree course at the University of Central Lancashire - then started commuting to the race tracks of England and Wales to steer an immaculately prepared white Reynard FF88.

Working with UCLAN's undergraduates, the next generation of engineers, has been a joy because Jaap thrives on their enthusiasm - not to mention the superb curries that the team's chef makes at the end of Friday testing! As there is a new crew to get to know each season it adds an extra dynamic to the Dutchman's motor racing.

Blijleven is a hardcore speed freak, be it on land or in the air. Having flown fighter planes in the Dutch air force Jaap is now a commercial airline pilot with KLM therefore motor sport is a natural hobby for him

As soon as he joined the Avon Tyres Northern Formula Ford 1600 Champion-



ship his pace was evident. During his debut season in 2013 he was in the thick of the action from the outset and took two victories - both at Anglesey - en route to second in the Championship. Only the blindingly fast Chris Hodgen scored more points than him.

Our Flying Dutchman had high hopes to go one better the following year but disaster struck the day before Oulton Park's opening meeting of the season. During testing a novice driver moved over to let Blijleven pass but during the execution of the manoeuvre lost control and speared into the side of Jaap's car inflicting untold damage to both man and machine.

The UCLAN students were able to repair the damaged cockpit section in the weeks after the accident but Jaap took a little longer to become fit enough to race as the impact had broken his collarbone. Although doctors inserted a plate to help with the healing process, a second fracture was later discovered and Blijleven was advised, to avoid the risk of complications, further intervention could not take place and he had to wait for nature to make the repairs.



At times of adversity, the true nature of a person's character shines through and shortly after the crash Nick Johnson, the UCLAN Team Manager, had this to say about the nightmare weekend and then chauffeuring his injured driver across the breadth of the country for Jaap to catch his ferry home after the crash:

"Considering the personal injury and damage to his car I was amazed that over the race weekend, and then during the long drive back to Hull, how Jaap didn't once moan about bad luck or put any blame on anyone. He just made a few calls, took some pain killers and got on with it. When you factor in that he was so far from home and had to sort the logistics of getting his car and trailer to Holland... one thing is clearly evident: You can't flap the Jaap!"

The following year there were two more victories for Jaap in a very competitive season when he was up against two star performers in the shape of young gun Matthew Cowley and the ever rapid Jamie Jardine both of whom finished ahead of him in the Northern standings. Cowley moved up to the Post89 class the following season before crossing the pond this year to claim the F1600 Championship in America.

Blijleven loves a challenge and he relished the prospect of honing his skills to get on the pace of the front-runners - it is a well-known fact in motorsport that the last couple of tenths required to obtain the ultimate lap time are the hardest to find.

He and the UCLAN team took a very high-tech approach to finding the elusive extra pace by using the VBOX telemetry system supplied by Nigel Greensall. The very experienced and talented Greensall also got behind the wheel of Jaap's car to provide set-up and driving tips.

For 2016, Blijleven was just about on the pace of Jardine and it was a thrilling season as the pair battled for the title with Jardine coming out on top.



This year Jamie, Jaap's nemesis, moved on to other things paving way for the Dutchman to storm his way to the title as he took 12 victories out of 14 - only Jack Wolfenden and Wayne Poole beat him when they made one-off appearances at an Oulton Park Double Header in June.

It was a pleasure to see 5 years of hard work and dedication by Blijleven and the UCLAN Racing team lead eventually to them clinching the Avon Tyres Pre-90 Northern Formula Ford 1600 Championship.

Dave (Fasttoes) Williams
Photos courtesy of Rachel Bourne

NEWSLETTERS

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MARGARET SIMPSON BMMC LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Dear Nadine and National Council

Thank you for the Life Membership of the BMMC. It was a wonderful surprise and honour and very much appreciated.

As I told Mike Cadwallader, I have been a marshal for a long time (started young) and feel that marshalling has given me far more than I have returned to it.

I have met such a diverse group of wonderful people, including my late husband David, many of whom have become lifelong friends.

I'm still enjoying the sport and hope to do so for many more years.

With warmest wishes,

Margaret.



A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MARSHALS

WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new members below. We sincerely wish you a happy and safe future.

Neil Sellers Glossop Hayfield Gareth Parsons Malcolm Watson Ystrad Meuria Russell McAdam Allerton Deborah Aindow Wigan William Jones Sandbach Alan Logan Salford Andrew Batchelor Ulverston David Trafford Stockport Christopher Wilson Northwich Frances Wilson Northwich Elis Wilson Northwich

REGALIA PRICE LIST	
Description	<u>Price</u>
BMMC CLOTH BADGES, LAPEL BADGES & STICKERS	£2.00
UNION FLAG CLOTH BADGE c/w WEBSITE	£2.00
BMMC GRADING BADGES	£1.00
'HEROES' CLOTH BADGES, LAPEL BADGES & STICKERS	£2.00
LEATHER WELDERS GLOVES	£4.00
HI-VIS WATERPROOF GLOVES	£4.50
WOOLLEN SKI HATS - BLACK or ORANGE	£4.50
BASEBALL CAPS - BLACK or ORANGE	£7.00
OUTBACK SUN HATS SP50	£15.00

Catalogues and Order forms can be downloaded from the club website or from Eric Ridler, BMMC NRO

New Overalls are only available from AWS RACEWEAR -Tel: <u>01233 638 498</u> quoting BMMC membership number

For all other enquiries contact the Regional Regalia Officer, The National Regalia Officer - Eric Ridler Email: Nat.Regalia@marshals.co.uk



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