



OUTPOST

North West Region Newsletter

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SEPTEMBER 2018

b	BRITISH
r	RALLY
m	MARSHALS
c	CLUB

DON HALL 1926 - 2018 - R.I.P.



JOTTINGS FROM THE CHAIR

SEPTEMBER SAVINGS

Mainly Merseyside news this month....



Don Hall: A friend, a colleague, a gentleman. A true stalwart of marshalling, the BMMC, motorsport. We'll be looking around for him at sign-on for many seasons to come. My last day with Don was at Druids Out. A wonderful day; Don talking, me listening - while trying to concentrate on the racing. Towards the end of day, a car came off, bounced against the tyres and hopped over the fence (landing on its wheels) just next to us. While I was still in WTF mode, I saw Don had his green out to indicate to drivers that they'd passed the incident. A consummate professional.

Red Bull Drifting: My congratulations and thanks to all of you who made this event such a success. My City gained massive credit points for holding the show and, as ever, marshals made it happen. Not knowing that we were marshalling the day, I had arranged to view from friends' apartment on the 6th. Yes, a panoramic view, but I was too far away to identify the gals and guys trackside. I hope that lots of Murkeyside colleagues got first

dib for the gig. A local event for local people.

I have suggested to the City Event Planners that Formula E must be next. Interestingly, they knew what FE is!!

Mixed weather for the Gold Cup, but what an event! Our track season is drawing to a close. A couple of Oultons, an Anglesey weekend and our November day at Anglesey (the sun has cracked the flags for the last 2 years!).

Enjoy, but please be careful out there.

Mike Cadwallader

North West Region Chair

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## More Sad News

Early Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September we bade a sad farewell to our club President Barrie "Whizzo" Williams another legend retired to the big race track in the sky.

He was a regular competitor at the Goodwood Revival meeting where he was always available to drive anything with four wheels. A big loss to us all and a true friend to all marshals. RIP.



## NOTICE OF THE BMMC NW REGION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

The AGM of the North West Region of the British Motorsports Marshals' Club Ltd. will be held at the Blue Cap Hotel, Sandiway, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 2DR on Saturday 3rd November 2018 at 7:30pm.

#### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM  
(copies available on the night)
3. Chairman's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurers Report
6. Election of Committee Members
7. Members Propositions

In accordance with the Club Rules K.3.3 and K.3.4, the following Committee Members stand down by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

**Eric Ridler**

The following Committee personnel require ratification by the Club members:

**John Edwards**

**Janette Williams**

**Mike Broadbent**

**Paul Newns**

**Dave Smithson**

The Regional AGM is required to consider any resolutions proposed and seconded by fully paid up members and lodged in writing, with the Regional Secretary not less than 14 days prior to the date of the Regional AGM.

**Signed: Paul Newns**

**North West Region Secretary**

Issued: 12th September 2018

## NW REGION SOCIAL EVENING

At the Blue Cap, 520 Chester Road, Sandiway, Northwich, CW8 2DN., on the 3rd November 2018.

The social evening will start following the closure of the AGM, at approximately 8:00 pm. Food will be served 30 minutes later.

Only fully paid up Club members may attend the AGM but guests are welcome to join for the social evening.

Tickets are available at sign-on at Oulton Park from Rob Lee, at a cost of **£5.00** per person.

#### New BMMC Membership Benefit - Airport Parking Discount

We are pleased to announce that Andrew Powell of NW Region has negotiated a new membership benefit in the form of discounts on airport parking, airport lounges and security fast-track available at Manchester, East Midlands and Stanstead.

The discounts are, as follows:

10% off car parks. 20% off Escape lounges and Security FastTrack (all airports).

15% off 1903 lounge at Manchester T3 (booking online gives 2 free FastTrack Tickets).

All booking must be made on the following websites using the code **BMMC2018**.

[www.manchesterairport.co.uk](http://www.manchesterairport.co.uk)

[www.stanstedairport.com](http://www.stanstedairport.com)

[www.eastmidlandsairport.com](http://www.eastmidlandsairport.com)

[www.jetparks.co.uk](http://www.jetparks.co.uk)

Input the promotion code on the payment screen and the discount will be applied.

This benefit is available on bookings made before **31st December 2018** for use before **13th June 2019**. If the take-up is good we hope the operators will extend the benefit. Please use it or we lose it!

This offer is open to all marshals - not just BMMC members.



## DON HALL: 1926 - 2018



The North West lost a legendary marshal when Don Hall passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> August following a short illness.

Two things that Don will be remembered for are his skill and expertise at flag marshalling along with his attire - usually a pair of shorts! He executed his tasks most professionally but with a "jovial façade" as our Regional Chairman, Mike Cadwallader, described it which no doubt indicated how much he was enjoying his time on the bank.

For Don, flagging was the nearest he could get to taking part in a race - especially when he first took up that role when our sport was an endeavour far more raw than today. He could stand right at the edge of the track enabling him to make eye contact with the drivers. Had he been any closer to the action he would have been in the cockpit!

His actions, indeed those of any flag marshal, could directly affect the outcome of an event - especially when using the blue flag, the correct deployment of which Don felt represented 50% of the art of "flagging".

This was particularly the case during qualifying when flag marshals have to ensure that the progress of the quickest cars remains unimpeded by those in the hands of drivers who may be new to the circuit, running-in engines, bedding in brakes or just enduring mechanical problems. These sessions are

when the flaggers really must be on their game and Don always kept his eyes peeled on the initial green flag lap to identify where his intervention was mostly likely to be needed.

As the most dangerous point in the sport is when a car overtakes another, the blue flag is a safety tool. Not only does it warn the slower driver that he is being passed but, if all goes to plan, the person following will also know that the car ahead is aware that they are there. In comparison, the other flags are used mainly as the result of an accident.

Even if Don was alone on post, he would concentrate on the blue flag rather than the yellow. While repeatedly glancing "downstream" to check whether a problem had developed - or asking an incident marshal to act as his look out if one was available - Don would always watch on-coming action ready to assist with the process of overtaking. This also complied with the first rule of marshalling which is "DON'T STAND WITH YOUR BACK TO THE TRAFFIC!"

"Close observation of Don in action was a training session in itself," recalls Cadwallader, "always at full attention, quiet moments were filled with fascinating anecdotes about his marshalling exploits and his 'other professional life' as an engineer. Oh, and the tales of his choir! A day with Don was one to remember!"





When Cadwallader undertook the role of Chief Flag Marshal, if he was ever starting to get anxious about the lack of troops available to allocate to the required posts, he recalls "Don would appear with two minutes to spare, all set - shorts and all - and raring to go. Allocation complete! I should have remembered that Don would be there, he was always there, if only just in time!"

When the grading system was introduced in 1972, Don was in no hurry to obtain the required credentials to become an observer although he eventually took up that role in 1980. However, five years later he was back signing on as a flag marshal. "It wasn't because I couldn't carry out the duties required of an observer or that didn't like it," Don explained in an article published in *Outpost* during 2011, "I just decided that observing was too remote from the action. I wanted to be involved in the racing and as a flag marshal I am." Marshalling was his hobby, so he chose the duty that he enjoyed the most.

He was always very keen to pass on his knowledge and experience to others. One of those who benefited from his wisdom was Gordon Knight who says, "Flagging is the only job in marshalling that is mainly proactive, communicating directly to the drivers through the medium of the flags. This was a skill that Don was always ready to nurture and pass on. Over the years Don has mentored countless numbers of aspiring 'flaggies' - myself included." Given his dedication to this specific discipline

within the orange army, it was most appropriate that his passing was marked by a minute's flag waving at the recent Gold Cup meeting during the course of which Don would have reached the age of 92. It is remarkable that he was able to continue to carry out the role he loved until very nearly the end of his life and performing it better than many people who were more than half his age! He even got a mention on ITV4 by Paul O'Neil during the Bank Holiday weekend's BTCC coverage.

The Gold Cup was probably the highlight of Don's season at Oulton Park with it harking back to the Golden Era of Motorsport. He used to regularly talk enthusiastically to his colleagues on the bank about the racing in the 1950s and '60s so much so that Paul Levitt realised he would really enjoy the Goodwood Revival meeting which celebrates those fantastic years of pure noise, smell and the wonder of speed.

Through Margaret Simpson, Levitt contacted BARC who were honoured to include Don on their roster of flag marshals for this iconic historic festival which takes place on the edge of the South Downs.

Paul remembers Don's face lit up like a small boy's when he told him what had been arranged. Before they made the trip down south, the appropriate attire had to be ar-





ranged because post chiefs and flag marshals are allowed to wear period dress at Goodwood therefore the two men headed East to Huddersfield where there is a large costume hire shop.

They made a bee-line for the Second World War military uniforms as Don claimed to be the original "Private Pike" because he joined the Home Guard at the tender age of 14 thanks to his father subtracting a couple of years from his date of birth to make him appear 16. Imagine parents doing that sort of thing nowadays!

With a uniform very similar to the one he wore as a teenager except for a couple of missing Home Guard badges, the pair headed down to Goodwood with the caravan which would be their home for this never to be forgotten weekend in tow.

On the Friday, Don was allocated to Post 2 where either white overalls or period costume are required to be worn and he decided to take the former option. A highlight of the day was when the last two remaining Avro Lancasters performed a fly-past (see photo where Don is one of the white-clad marshals). He had been an apprentice at the factory where they were built during his time in the Home Guard.

The following day was Don's big moment as he put on his uniform. To his joy, Paul had acquired the missing Home Guard badges via the

internet and sewn them on while Don had found his original cap from that period. With a vintage rifle in his hand, Don rolled back the years as he stood to attention with a glint in his eye.

On post, Don enjoyed some fabulous banter with the crowd as he told them he would use his marksman skills to shoot the tyres of any driver who failed to adhere to his flag waving! During this, and a subsequent second trip to Goodwood, Paul had the pleasure of really getting to know Don. He recalls, "He was a proud, passionate man who lived his life to the full but by no way beyond his means."

In recent years, Don even ventured to Anglesey where Mike Cadwallader tells us, "He slept in his car initially, until adopted by our regulars in Wales and inducted into the old Med Centre. With a chat and a wee dram being the pre-bed routine!" Don is reported to have said that he made some true friends during these weekends.



The fact that Don still wore his shorts at Anglesey is a testimony to his stamina something he honed before developing an interest in motorsport when he was a keen cyclist. Don often competed in time trials which would either last for 12 or 24 hours, or a distance trial of 25, 50 or 100 miles.

Don was the consummate professional and the ultimate flag marshal.

**Dave Williams**



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2018

### RACE MEETINGS

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Sep 29 BRSCC NW        | Oulton   |
| Oct 20 BARC NW         | Oulton   |
| Nov 09 BARC HQ - R.o.R | Anglesey |
| Nov 10 BARC HQ - R.o.R | Anglesey |
| Nov 11 BARC HQ - R.o.R | Anglesey |

(R.o.R.= Race of Remembrance)

### HILLCLIMB MEETINGS

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Sep 22 Hagley & DLC | Loton Park |
| Sep 23 Hagley & DLC | Loton Park |

### SPRINT MEETINGS

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Oct 06 Longton & DMC | Anglesey |
| Oct 07 Longton & DMC | Anglesey |

### KARTING MEETINGS

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Sep 23 M&BKC           | Three Sisters |
| Sep 29 Superkarting-UK | Oulton        |
| Oct 14 Cumbria KRC     | Rowrah        |

### NW REGION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

15<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 -AGM & Social**  
Blue Cap Hotel, Sandiway, CW8 2DN

### NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018 @ 1100hrs  
Jurys Inn, Midsomer Blvd. Milton Keynes

### NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018 @ 1500hrs**  
Jurys Inn, Midsomer Blvd. Milton Keynes

### NEXT NEWSLETTER

Next Copy Date - 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Publishing Date - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018

## REGALIA PRICE LIST

| Description                                    | Price  |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 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 ORANGE 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 |

Catalogue 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: [01233 638 498](tel:01233638498) quoting BMMC membership number

For all other enquiries contact the Regional Regalia Officer, or:

The National Regalia Officer - Eric Ridler  
Email: [Nat.Regalia@marshals.co.uk](mailto:Nat.Regalia@marshals.co.uk)

## 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.

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Morgan Ellis    | Benlech    |
| Natalie Parry   | Altrincham |
| Brian Wragg     | Wallasey   |
| Sharon Bishop   | Padgate    |
| Robert Norman   | Shrewsbury |
| Kristofor Brown | Liverpool  |
| Paul Carroll    | Overchurch |
| Matthew Edwards | Middleton  |



## Committee Members Information

### Chairman

Mike Cadwallader  
Apt.20 Tower Building  
22 Water Street  
LIVERPOOL; L3 1BH  
Tel: 07855 268 635

Email: [NW.Chair\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:NW.Chair(at)marshals.co.uk)

### Secretary

Paul Newns  
9 Cefn Blodwel  
OSWESTRY  
SY10 9EH  
Tel: 07855 544779

Email: [NW.secretary\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:NW.secretary(at)marshals.co.uk)

### Vice Chair & Newsletter Editor

Eric Ridler  
41 Norwood Drive  
TIMPERLEY  
WA15 7LD  
Tel: 0161 904 9724

Email: [NW.News\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:NW.News(at)marshals.co.uk)

### Membership Secretary

John Edwards  
5 Chiltern Close  
GWERSYLLT  
LL11 4XE  
Mobile: 07800 587391

Email: [NW.Members\(at\)marshals.co.ukk](mailto:NW.Members(at)marshals.co.ukk)

### Grading Officer

Rob Mugurian  
15 Nesfield Drive  
SANDBACH  
CW11 4NT  
Tel: 01270 211414

Email: [NW.Grading\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:NW.Grading(at)marshals.co.uk)

### Volunteering & Social Media

Rob Lee  
1a Tarnside  
ORRELL, WN5 8RN  
Mobile: 07305 770835  
Email: [NW.Volco\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:NW.Volco(at)marshals.co.uk)  
[NW.Media\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:NW.Media(at)marshals.co.uk)

### Training Coordinator

Bill Gray  
2 Oakford Close  
BANKS  
PR9 8BP  
Tel: 01704 220839

Email: [NW.Training\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:NW.Training(at)marshals.co.uk)

### Regalia Sales

Dave Smithson  
34 Edgewell Lane  
Eaton, Tarporley  
CW69AD  
Mobile: 07776 187005

Email: [NW.regalia\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:NW.regalia(at)marshals.co.uk)

### Marshal Liaison

Mark Noble  
11 Bransdale Close  
Great Sankey, WARRINGTON  
WA5 3FW  
Mobile: 07580 504411  
Email: [NW.Liaison\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:NW.Liaison(at)marshals.co.uk)

### Recruitment Officer

Rob Wood  
80 Geneva Way  
Biddulph; Staffs  
ST8 7FE  
Mobile: 07515 537209

Email: [NW.Recruiting\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:NW.Recruiting(at)marshals.co.uk)

### Rally Representative

Ian Briggs  
12 Kilburn Close  
HEALD GREEN  
SK8 3LP  
Tel: 0161 436 5071

Email: [north\(at\)brmc.org.uk](mailto:north(at)brmc.org.uk)

### Speed Representative

Bill Gray  
2 Oakford Close  
BANKS  
PR9 8BP  
Tel: 01704 220839  
Email: [NW.Speed\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:NW.Speed(at)marshals.co.uk)

### Committee Member

Gordon Knight  
1 Brackley Road  
MONTON  
M30 9LG  
Tel: 0161 707 4833

### Committee Member

Mike Broadbent  
184 Crewe Road  
HASLINGTON  
CW1 5RT  
Mobile: 07548 258546

### Committee Member

Janette Williams  
3 Chesterfield Close  
WINSFORD  
CW7 2UX  
Mobile: 07739 166149

## National Officers Information

### National Chairman

Nadine Lewis  
'Catalina'. 2 The Nursery  
Beach Road  
HARTFORD; CW8 4UH  
Email:

[Bmmc.Chair\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:Bmmc.Chair(at)marshals.co.uk)

### National Secretary

Steve Woolfe  
88 Scholes Lane  
PRESTWICH  
M25 0AU  
Email:

[Nat.Secretary\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:Nat.Secretary(at)marshals.co.uk)

### National Treasurer

Colin Barnes  
24 Tewkesbury Close  
Poynton, Cheshire  
SK12 1QJ  
Email:

[Nat.Treasurer\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:Nat.Treasurer(at)marshals.co.uk)

### National Membership Secretary

Dave Reed  
The Berries, 26 Little London  
SILVERSTONE  
NN12 8UP  
Email:

[Nat.Members\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:Nat.Members(at)marshals.co.uk)

### National Grading Officer

Steve Malec  
14 Osborn Close  
Ipplepen  
TQ12 5XB  
Email:

[Nat.Grading\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:Nat.Grading(at)marshals.co.uk)

### National P.R.O.

Paul Sutcliffe  
7 Fourth Ave  
LIMESIDE  
OL8 3RU  
Email:

[Nat.Pro\(at\)marshals.co.uk](mailto:Nat.Pro(at)marshals.co.uk)

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