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OMIPPOST

North West Region Newsletter

www.marshals.co.uk

JANUARY 2019



AUTOSPORT INTERNATIONAL SHOW 2019

One of the many drivers drivers, sponsors and celebrities to visit our stands was Billy Monger. Fortunately he had a gap in his busy schedule and was able to stay for quite some time. We wish him every success in the forthcoming season.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

By the time you read this, I should be safely ensconced in the role of BMMC North West Chairman. I realise that I have some big shoes to fill and I am sure you will join me in thanking Mike Cadwalader for his sterling efforts over the last 15 years as chair.

So, as my first proper edict to you all the first thing I wanted to tell you was that the training dates for the North West Region have been announced. Bill & his team have been busy sorting out new training modules and trainers. Feedback from the 2018 event was taken on board, so we should all see some great changes. Can I ask you all to log on and let Bill know when you are coming - either the 9th or 10th March 2019 starting promptly at 9am. The training will benefit us all and keep us up to date with new procedures, trends etc. More details will be in Outpost this month.

I have asked the committee to provide you all with a brief overview of who they are and more importantly, where you can find them at a race meeting! For far too long now, the committee has been rather incognito and it is important that you all know how to & where you can contact us. You can find them easier so rather than playing 'Where's Wally', it's more a case of 'There's Wally!' If anyone has concerns, issues, challenges or even wants to pay a compliment, do please tell us. I would much rather address concerns personally as opposed to having to deal with in the arena of social media.

With regard to social media, some of you

will have seen the announcement at Autospot International 10th Jan 2019 that Ginetta Cars has joined us as a sponsor of marshals' overalls. This is fantastic news as the National Committee has worked hard to ensure that the cost of overalls is now covered by our generous sponsors. So, if you are due a new set, or the Christmas elves have somehow shrunk your existing ones, do please check out the relevant pages on the website.

Dates for events are being added to the Oulton Park calendar for 2019, so please do continue to log on & check. Please do not forget Anglesey though. There are some great events coming to Trac Mon in 2019, including HSCC, CSCC, 750 MC, Fun Cup (two day events) along with a 24Hour Citroen C1 race. Judging by the success when BARC ran a similar event in 2018 at Rockingham, it should be an interesting event. One for the night owls!

There is also a plethora of other motor-sport events in the Northwest in 2019, including rallies, sprints, hillclimbs, auto-tests etc. The organising clubs of these events are always looking for marshals. If we can help these clubs with experienced, knowledgeable and enthusiastic marshals the better it will be for them and for you. What better way to get your 'fix.' Bill Gray is your point of contact with regards to speed events. For more details search ANWCC for information. As the year progresses, I will provide a digest of events happening locally for you. More information regarding recruitment

and retention will be following as the year progresses. However, if you have any ideas, suggestions or groups we can look at, please let me know. There will be lots to talk about in 2019 so more information will follow in February's Outpost. Some of you will know me as a bit of an anorak when it comes to motorsport facts & trivia. I will pose three questions per month, just to see how good your knowledge is. It's just for fun, no prizes just kudos!

So let's start with some easy ones!

Where & when was the last F1 Grand Prix win for a V12 engined car?

Name the first Grand Prix car which was designed & built in the USA?

Who was the last WRC Rally champion whose name was not Sebastian?

Answers next month

I shall look forward to seeing you all at the training weekend if not before. Until then, look after yourselves and each other. Stay fit & healthy and get ready for the 2019 season!

Mike Broadbent - Chairman

NW REGION TRAINING WEEKEND

You should all be aware that this year's training weekend, will be held on the **9th** and **10th** March at Oulton Park circuit, near Tarporley in Cheshire.

As in previous years, Saturday's training will be held mainly under cover in the Fogarty Moss Centre and will cover training for Post Chiefs, Flag marshals, Senior Specialist marshals and Track marshals.

The training on the Sunday will be for new and Cadet marshals, Track and Experienced marshals, Incident Officers and Specialist marshals, and it will be partly inside and partly out.

Fire practical training will be available on both days. Due to the environmental protection guidance from Motorsport UK, live fire training will be limited to those marshals who require this signature for upgrade this year, or who have not done live fire training in the last 2 years.

Please apply for the training by **Monday 25th February 2019**. You can apply in several ways; firstly, if you wish to apply electronically there is a link on the form which will take you to the on-line application form.

You can e-mail me all the relevant details (name, first line of address and post code, e-mail address, which training session you want and any lunch requirements).

This year you can just text me the same details; if you apply by e-mail or text I will send you a reply to confirm your application. A postal application is also fine, though I cannot send a confirmation reply.

Bill Gray

NW.Training@marshals.co.uk



A HAT-TRICK ACROSS THREE DECADES FOR 'POD'



This season Alaric "Pod" Gordon returned to the Avon Tyres Northern Formula Ford 1600 Championship and, driving a Swift SC97, he regained the crown he previously won in 1999 and 2001 meaning he has taken the title in each of the last 3 decades.

He only decided to return to the region's single-seater category in the latter part of 2017 when he stumbled across the Swift chassis while visiting Hugh Williams of Blackdog Racing as the team had been helping Pod prepare some Sports 2000 cars that he had been driving. "The Swift hadn't been raced for over 10 years," Alaric explains, "and had been rebuilt by Hugh so he was looking for a buyer.

"When I saw the car, it tugged at the heart strings in a 'back to my roots' kind of way and I hatched a plan with my co-conspirator and accomplice, Ivor Hewitt, to buy it for a return to the Northern Championship."

Switching back to wingless single-seaters from the high down force and slicks of the Sports 2000 category was some-

thing of a culture shock for Gordon. He hadn't driven a treaded tyre-shod Formula Ford 1600 since 2003 aside from a one-off Classic Championship appearance in Peter Hackett's PRS last year. He had to come to terms with the fact that going faster didn't increase grip (up to a point) and having to manage slides through each corner.

Alaric's championship aspirations at the start of this season were non-existent. "Bearing in mind I am now in my 50s," he explains, "the plan for 2018 was to simply to enjoy myself and get back into the swing of FF1600 with a view to seeing where we were at the end of the campaign and perhaps setting ourselves a realistic target for next year. And even for 2019, we thought we'd be lucky if we scraped into the top 5. To win the title was a total and utter surprise but all the sweeter for it."

The championship started very badly with much of the planned pre-season testing being lost due to a major leak and electrical problems. The latter arose from the battery shorting after being relocated from the cockpit to side pod to accommodate Pod's 6 feet 5inch frame. Then during the first qualifying session of the year at Oulton Park his brake bias adjuster was operating in the opposite direction to that which he thought- far from ideal in the wet conditions - and in round 1 later that day a dropped valve holed a piston which put him out of the second encounter.

After this nightmare start, in which Pod used up his 2 dropped scores, he had a



100% finishing record in the remaining 12 rounds of the season despite getting distracted when fitting the caps on his brake reservoirs following scrutineering for Anglesey's second meeting of the season. The unsecured lids soon fell off and the vital fluid they were supposed to contain dispersed the first time he hit the anchors in qualifying depriving him of retardation.

He bounced back to take an outright victory in race 2 of the weekend. From then on, reliability rather than speed was the key to success as this was his only visit to the top step of the overall podium although his 1997 car was unbeaten in Class B for chassis built from 1st January 1990 until 31st December 1998.

Gordon always enjoys his racing and his local track of Oulton Park will always be his favourite but a highlight of last season was the trip to Mallory Park in September. "Surprisingly, for someone who has been racing for 30 years, it was my first time racing there." Pod explains, "I enjoyed the circuit immensely despite its simplicity and had 2 full on, proper old style FF races. For the first time, I felt I was starting to get back to my old

form. I beat some of the front runners - even the weather was fab! I came away buzzing!"

Growing up it was impossible for Alaric to avoid getting the bug for motor racing. He used to travel to the race tracks up and down the country when his step-father competed in a Mazda RX3 in Production Saloon racing in the late '70s. The car was part of the Demon Tweaks stable - owner Alan Minshaw was a family friend.

Gordon recalls, "I was hanging around when Alan was winning in Touring cars in his Golf GTI and subsequently running in Thundersports (in a Chevron I think) and other classic/historic sports car racing, mainly with a Lotus 23. When I was 11, we moved to a village a mile away from Oulton so I would often cycle down to watch, hide my bike in a field and climb over the wall near Knickerbrook where there was no broken glass embedded in the top."

At this time, Alaric was already known by his "Pod" nickname which was given to him by his family before he could even walk or talk although when his interest in the opposite sex developed he used to tell the girls that it was an acronym for Prince Of Darkness!

Pod found himself behind the wheel of a





single-seater after his sister married Dave Mellor who had raced a Crossle 45F against the likes of Wally Warwick, Richard Peacock, Malcolm Barfoot, Brolly and Butcher Booth plus the Ecclestone brothers. When Dave had to stop racing to concentrate on managing his farm the car was sitting around doing nothing so he suggested that his brother-in-law have a go in it.

With the help of Colin "Moose" Benn, Pod made his debut in a round of the 1988 Formula E Championship in the Crossle (a series for FF1600 cars that didn't have the recently introduced push-rod suspension). Gordon recalls it was an inauspicious start to his career but this didn't prevent motor racing from becoming a big part of his life. He has taken part in at least one race in each of the 30 seasons since then and has no intention of stopping!

Around the turn of the Century, Alaric had developed his skills to the point where he was a title contender for 3 seasons in a row in the Northern Formula Ford 1600 series - or the North West FF1600 Championship as it was known at the time - winning it 1999 and 2001 while he was runner-up in the year 2000. In

the first of those years he was particularly dominant with a record of 9 wins, 2 seconds and one retirement whilst leading on last lap!

However by 2003, Pod's focus had begun to slip away from motor racing as he had become a father and started his own business. Furthermore, his good friend and mentor, Colin Benn, passed away the year before which meant spending time at the track just wasn't as much fun anymore. For a time, he only did the odd race here and there before sharing a Sports 2000 car with Brian Mullarkey rekindled his enthusiasm. He remained a stalwart in that category until he was lured back to Formula Ford 1600 this season.

Over the years Gordon has passed his knowledge and wisdom to newcomers to the sport by becoming an instructor. "I did a little instructing back in the 90's at Oulton," Alaric recalls, "but only got properly involved when I sold my business in 2013 and started helping Richard Peacock out at the Performance Driving Centre at Anglesey. I'm now an A grade ARDS instructor splitting my time between a couple of consultancy roles related to my 'old' day job and instructing."

Reflecting on his hat-trick clinching 2018





title success Pod muses, "In truth, I have to acknowledge that I am a long way from my pace and capabilities of 15 to 20 years ago and it was definitely a victory of consistency over absolute pace. The quick, young guns didn't appear at all the rounds and some of the guys in the Pre90 classes deserve big respect for the pace they manage to squeeze out of their older machines but of course they're not scoring against me, so a lot of things fell in my favour."

Pod's final thoughts concerning the season refer to those who paved the way to his championship success. He says, "Every driver has people they're indebted to. This season for me, it's been Ivor Hewitt and Hugh Williams, without whom my achievements would not have been possible. Ivor handles the basic preparation and race day running with a little help from me while Hugh stores the car at his Blackdog Racing premises and handles any jobs that are too big for Ivor and I. "I'd also like to mention Ray Burgum who does absolutely sod all in a practical sense but supports with his presence, beer, company, and encouragement at every meeting and is a core member of the 'team'!

"This seems like a good opportunity to say a big thanks to all the marshals out there who turn up come rain or shine to make sure we drivers can race. I know that every time I'm on circuit I am conscious that we couldn't be there without you all and that as racers, we are privileged to have the most professional and dedicated marshals in the world to look after us. I always try and make sure I give you guys a wave on the slowing down lap..... please know it's a genuine wave of thanks everytime!"

Hopefully, Alaric will be entertaining marshals in the Northern Region and they will be acknowledging his wave of appreciation for many years to come.

Dave (Fasttoes) Williams



Photos: Rachel Bourne Photographic

NEW BMMC OVERALLS SPONSOR

We have great pleasure in welcoming **GINETTA** as the latest sponsor of the BMMC marshals' overalls. This closely guarded secret was formally announced at the Autosport Show on Thursday 9th January.

This has meant some re-arranging of the other logos so the new overalls will now-

North West Region Committee Profiles



CHAIRMAN

Name: **Michael Broadbent**

Occupation: Semi-retired from banking. Business Coach

BMMC Grade: Post Chief

Where to find me at a race meetings: Race Control @ Oulton Park at the beginning & end of day. On the bank as post chief.

How to contact me: nw.chair@marshals.co.uk

SECRETARY

Name: **Paul News**

Grade: Post Chief (but mainly flag)

Committee Role: Secretary

Mainly found at Oulton & Anglesey, on post or the pit wall.

Contact me: nw.secretary@marshals.co.uk



DEPUTY CHAIRMAN & NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Name: **Eric Ridler**

Occupation: Retired

BMMC Grade: Post Chief (Non active)

Served on committee since 1978

Editor of the 'Outpost' and also the National Regalia Officer

Contact me: nw.news@marshals.co.uk

Or for Regalia : nat.regalia@marshals.co.uk

North West Region Committee Profiles



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Name ; **John Edwards**

Grade ; Experienced Track

Committee role ; Membership Secretary

John is your point of contact for all membership enquiries for the club - please do not hesitate to contact him at:

nw.members@marshals.co.uk

GRADING OFFICER

Name: **Rob Mugurian.**

My current grade is Incident Officer.

At Oulton Park I can either be found out on the bank, or on one of the Fire Tenders. I have been the Grading Officer for the region since May 2008.

Contact me at: nw.grading@marshals.co.uk



VOLUNTEERING COORDINATOR & SOCIAL MEDIA

Name: **Rob Lee**

Rob's main role as Volunteering Coordinator is to upload the events which you can volunteer for on the database. He is also the initial point of contact should you have any database queries.

Rob manages the Social Media accounts of the NW region, on the Facebook and Twitter he will post sign-on time, latest news and important dates for your diary.

nw.volco@marshals.co.uk

nw.media@marshals.co.uk



TRAINING COORDINATOR & SPEED REPRESENTATIVE

Name: **Bill Gray,**

Examining Post Chief for Speed events and Race Post Chief.
Motorsport UK Training Instructor.

Committee member for Training & Speed, can be found on post or training events.

Chief Marshal for Liverpool Motor Club at Aintree.

Contact me at: nw.training@marshals.co.uk



North West Region Committee Profiles



REGALIA OFFICER

Name: **Dave Smithson**

Grade: Experienced Marshal

Find me at sign on, at Chequers or on the bank usually flagging!

RECRUITMENT OFFICER

Name: **Rob Wood**

Sales and marketing consultant, based in Staffordshire.

Aim to introduce new people to our hobby via many routes most visibly the recruitment tent.

Contact me at: nw.recruiting@marshals.co.uk



MARSHALS LIAISON OFFICER

Name: **Mark Noble**

Occupation: PE and Sports Teacher

Grade: Incident Officer

Please feel free to hunt me down at the track if you have any questions or queries. I, like your other committee members, would only be too happy to help.

Contact me at: nw.liaison@marshals.co.uk

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Name: **Janette Williams**

Grade: Experienced Specialist and Experienced Track

Note- I have found it most beneficial having grades in both specialisms. I would urge anyone to try something new, you never know where it might take you!



2019 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

RACE MEETINGS

Mar 09	BMMC NW Training	Oulton
Mar 10	BMMC NW Training	Oulton
Mar 23	BARC NW	Oulton
Apr 13	BRSCC NW	Oulton
Apr 20	MSVR - GT/F3	Oulton
Apr 22	MSVR - GT/F3	Oulton
May 11	BRSCC NW - TCR	Oulton
May 18	VSCC	Oulton
May 25	CSCC	Oulton
May 25	BARC NW	Anglesey
May 26	BARC NW	Anglesey
Jun 01	BRSCC NW- Caterhams	Anglesey
Jun 08	BRSCC NW	Anglesey
Jun 09	BRSCC NW	Anglesey

SPRINT MEETINGS

Mar 30	BARC Mids	Three Sisters
Mar 31	BARC Mids	Three Sisters
Apr 06	Longton & DMC	Anglesey
Apr 07	Longton & DMC	Anglesey
Apr 27	Liverpool MC	Aintree
May 04	MGCC NW	Anglesey
May 05	MGCC NW	Anglesey
Jun 15	Longton & DMC	Three Sisters

HILLCLIMB MEETINGS

Mar 30	Hagley & DLCC	Loton Park
Mar 31	Hagley & DLCC	Loton Park
Apr 20	Hagley & DLCC	Loton Park
Apr 21	Hagley & DLCC	Loton Park
May 18	Hagley & DLCC	Loton Park
May 19	Hagley & DLCC	Loton Park
May 19	MGCC NW	Scammonden
Jun 08	Liverpool MC& KLMC	Barbon

NW REGION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Feb 11 Blue Cap, Sandiway, Northwich

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Feb 10 Juries Inn Milton Keynes

Dec 01 Juries Inn Milton Keynes + AGM

REGALIA PRICE LIST

<u>Description</u>	<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	£4.50
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	£14.00

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

For details of BMMC sponsored overalls, go to the Regalia section of the BMMC website.

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

The National Regalia Officer - Eric Ridler
Email: Nat.Regalia@marshals.co.uk

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Next Copy Date - 18th February 2019

Publishing Date - 25th February 2019

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.

Stephen Ball

Cheadle

David Sumnall

Crewe



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National Brand Manager

TBA

Email:

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