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# OUTPOST

North West Region  
Newsletter  
September 2019



**Antoine Hubert 1996 - 2019**

## MUSINGS FROM THE CHAIR

We are reminded sometimes that the hobby we pursue and love does come at a price. As I write this, news of the death of a F2 driver at Spa, Anthoine Hubert, is making the headlines. BMMC has sent its condolences to the family and those who knew Anthoine.

My immediate reaction was to think about the marshals and the rescue units, especially those who were first to the scene. I have no doubt that they did everything they could do, putting their training and experience into practice.

Regretably, some of the press react poorly to this type of situation, choosing to sensationalise it rather than being respectful and empathetic.

We have to remember that we are all volunteers, nobody forces us to stand track side weekend after weekend. However, there are times we have to take a deep breath, remember the training and do what we can to help one another and the drivers. After all, they rely on us totally when things go wrong. Sometimes, a calm reassuring voice is all that is needed. Remember the golden rule, count to ten, assess the situation, then react, keeping a clear head rather than panicking. Above all else, please stay safe.

There has been some press commentary regarding the cancellation of the Citroen C1 24 hour race at Anglesey in September. BMMC including the NW committee will continue to work with circuits and event organisers to provide marshals where we can.

Well the Gold Cup has been and gone and the weather was truly kind to us over the Bank Holiday weekend. Please remember though that we marshal in the North West and have to be prepared for every

eventuality, including hot weather. Take plenty of drink with you, fruit, food, energy bars to sustain you throughout the day and plenty of sun cream!

However, the MGCC on the 31<sup>st</sup> August reminded us all that Mother Nature always has a trick or two up her sleeve. Torrential rain and hot sunny weather, all within the space of an hour. Be prepared, whatever the forecast states!

May I remind all members that use of social media does mean that we have to be responsible for our comments and posts. I realise that we get frustrated, angry or upset about various situations we face. However, when it comes to marshalling, if you find yourself feeling any of the above, tell me, tell a member of the committee. Let's see if we can fix it. Negative social media posts can have a detrimental affect that is far reaching. However, if it's good news or successes, then tell your friends, share the news.

Finally a thought goes to the recent death of Ferdinand Piech. He was truly a giant in the automotive arena, being the father of the Porsche 917, bringing Audi to the forefront of motor sport, reviving the Bugatti name, and putting Bentley back at the top of luxury motoring.

The NW Committee were delighted to award life membership to stalwarts of the Club, Gill and Ray Sumner at the Gold Cup meeting. They richly deserve this award as they both contribute so much to the club and motor sport in the North West.

Enjoy your marshalling and enjoy the camaraderie, remember to wrap up warm, Autumn's coming!

**Mike Broadbent**

## COULD YOU HELP MENTOR THE MARSHALS OF THE FUTURE?

As part of the NW committee's focus on retention and developing new trainee marshals, we have been trialing a mentor scheme.

As we move towards the end of the 2019 season, we are now looking for marshals who would be willing to help this scheme in the 2020 season.

The way the scheme will work is outlined below;

*Mentors will commit to a minimum 8 meetings at OP/Anglesey per annum.*

*Each mentor will be allocated 3-4 new marshals per season. This will be arranged when the "Welcome letters" to new members are sent out. At this point I will also advise the mentor.*

*The mentor's role is defined as:*

- *Being available at sign on to meet trainees.*
- *Track /Experienced Track / IO/ Specialist / Flag grade.*
- *Able to coach / guide new trainees.*
- *Give advice on grading etc.*
- *Be able to advise point of contact for queries if unable to respond.*
- *Be open to share their experiences with the trainee.*
- *Signpost to relevant information and guidance.*
- *Being available post meeting to discuss the day and help address any issues.*

*If a mentor is unavailable at a particular meeting, they may organise with a fellow marshal to deputise for them as a mentor for the day if needed.*

*If you are willing to help us train the marshals of the future, please let me know at [nw.members@marshals.co.uk](mailto:nw.members@marshals.co.uk) or contact me on 07800 587391 - John Edwards*





## IT STARTED AT TY CROES-Part 2

For 2019, Matthew undertook a fairly major career change as he competed with a roof above his head for the first time - aside from his one-off 18<sup>th</sup> birthday outing in the Ginetta GT4 SuperCup -when he took the opportunity to drive an Aston Martin Vantage GT4 prepared by Academy Motorsport.

"We had been thinking about next steps part way through 2018," Cowley explains, "and GT4 was one of the options. We were talking with Graham Brunton at the Walter Hayes and he suggested we contact Rachel, his daughter, who is the Sales and Marketing Manager for Aston Martin Racing. With the brand of Aston Martin, the new car and the AMR Academy Driver programme we decided this was the route to go.

"Two teams were kind enough to give me the opportunity to have a test session in the new car at Oulton Park in November. I got on well and really enjoyed not only driving the Aston but also the experience and the teams' input. The decision was then the tough one of who to drive with, and whether to do British GT or European GT- the latter is part of the Blancpain series. We chose to do European as the GT4 cars run in their own stand alone races and, with large grids, we could pit ourselves against a wide range of drivers while racing on some great circuits across the continent."

Compared to a Formula Ford 1600, Matthew has to make much greater use of his peripheral awareness when driving the mighty Aston as it is so much larger. Despite this, the sports car handles really well for a big car and has quite a pointy front-end like a single-seater although the additional weight means corner speed has to be judged accurately.

These were some of the attributes that Cowley had to focus on during the three pre-season test days- two at Silverstone and one at Donington. They were quite a journey into the unknown, not only because of Matthew's lack of experience with this type of racing but also due to the Vantage being a brand new for model for 2019 and the Academy Motorsport team were running the first example to be built. They didn't know how close to the pace they were until they arrived at Monza's opening round.

One new dimension that competing in sports cars introduces is sharing the car with a co-driver. "In Formula Ford 1600s you win or lose according to your own performance once you are in the car," reflects Matthew, "With a team mate you have to consider what you have to do to allow them to take-over the car at the pit stop in a good position and set to get to the end. You can't punish the tyres in your stint as they still have a further half race distance to do, you also don't want to have contact with any one as that will affect the performance and handling, so unlike the Formula Ford, which you push to its limit for the whole race, we run the Aston at about





95% for the first stint. If you are the second driver out, you can push harder.”

Because Academy Motorsport is a much larger operation and Cowley lives at home in Manchester while the team is based in Worcester, he has a less hands-on involvement from an engineering point of view compared to when he was with Team Pelfrey. Nonetheless, he does take an interest in what's happening with the cars at the track and how they are set up so that he can provide feedback to the engineers. He is also on hand during set up and dismantling at the track to provide assistance.

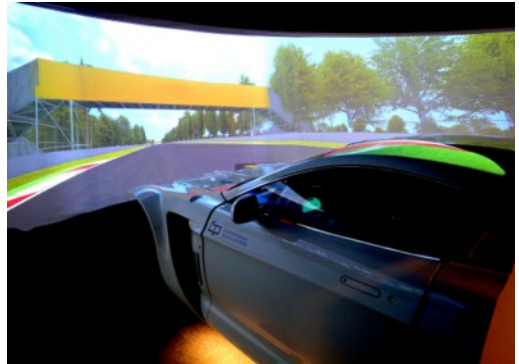
In the meantime, Matthew continues to build his understanding of technology via a distance course for a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering which fits well with the nomadic life of a racing driver.

As well as developing his knowledge, Cowley also works on all the attributes that are required when he is behind the wheel. Since 2016 he has been part of three-time World Touring Car Champion Andy Priaulx's 'Young

Driver Development Programme' and regularly attends the iZone "boot camp", which Priaulx co-founded, where he is coached on the simulator by John Pratt and Enzo Mucci- with fellow rising star Jordan Albert the guy he usually goes head to head with.

Away from this structured training Matthew has formed friendly rivalries on the digital circuits of iZone with the Maini brothers - Kush and Arjun - who are Indian nationals that race in Formula Renault Eurocup and F2/LMP2 respectively.

The programme is one element of a multi-pronged scheme Cowley is undertaking to maximise his potential. Another aspect is the training he is undertaking at Darren Turner's Base Performance, where Turner's fellow Aston Martin factory driver, Jonny Adam, is coaching him on the simulator and fitness coach, John Camilleri, undertakes a benchmarking process now that Matthew has been selected for the AMR Academy Driver programme. He has also been working with Greg Searle, a gold medal winner in Olympic and World Championship rowing, on mindfulness and preparation.



Anyone who gets to know Matthew and his family quickly become aware that they have a strong sense of social responsibility. Their first trainee guide dog, Truffle, was a familiar sight in the Formula Ford 1600 paddock a few years ago although he has since become a family pet as, despite being used to the noise



of motorsport, he was still startled by sudden bangs in urban situations and so was deemed unsuitable to assist a blind person.

Following the community spirited example of his parents, Matthew supports the Shaw Mind Foundation mental health charity. The connection arose almost by chance. One of their ambassadors, Marsha Wright, approached Cowley to ask him to promote via his Twitter account their petition to make mental health education compulsory in schools to help them generate enough signatures to ensure the matter was debated in parliament.

Matthew felt he could give them more support than this and so he met their founder, Adam Shaw, and became an ambassador himself. He continues to promote the charity's activities and the publications they produce via Trigger Publishing through logos on his car and his Twitter account.

He has also become involved with the Nordoff Robins Music Therapy Charity, helping to promote their work using music as a therapy for people with life-limiting illnesses, disabilities and feelings of isolation through his social media and logos on the car.

It is encouraging that a local kid from Manchester who showed a keen pair of heels to his friends at a karting party can go on to travel the World enjoying the sport that he loves and has a talent for. No doubt the marshals from our region will be keen to follow his exploits in the future.

**Dave ('Fasttoes') Williams**

## **NOTICE OF THE BMMC NW REGION**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019**

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 Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7:30pm.

#### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM (copies available on the night)
3. Chairman's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's 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.

**Gordon Knight**

**Mark Noble**

**Rob Wood**

**Rob Lee (not seeking re-election)**

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: 9th September 2019

Sometimes we need someone  
to simply be there...  
Not to fix anything or do  
anything in particular, but  
just to let us feel we are  
supported and cared about

## 2019 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### RACE MEETINGS

Sep 14	750MC	Oulton
Sep 21	BARC NW	Anglesey
Sep 22	BARC NW	Anglesey
Oct 05	750MC	Oulton
Oct 12	BRSCC NW	Oulton
Oct 26	BARC NW	Oulton
Nov 08	BARC HQ R-o-R	Anglesey
Nov 09	BARC HQ R-o-R	Anglesey
Nov 10	BARC HQ R-o-R	Anglesey
Nov 17	BRSCC NW	Anglesey

### SPRINT MEETINGS

Oct 05	Longton & DMC	Anglesey
Oct 06	Longton & DMC	Anglesey

### HILL CLIMB MEETINGS

Sep 28	Hagley & DLCC	Loton Park
Sep 29	Hagley & DLCC	Loton Park

### KART RACE MEETINGS

Sep 14	Cheshire KRC (practice)	Hooton Park
Sep 15	Cheshire KRC	Hooton Park
Oct 19	Cheshire KRC (practice)	Hooton Park
Oct 20	Cheshire KRC	Hooton Park
Nov 16	Cheshire KRC (practice)	Hooton Park
Nov 17	Cheshire KRC	Hooton Park

### NW REGION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

19<sup>th</sup> September - Blue Cap, Sandiway

### NW REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

18<sup>th</sup> November - Blue Cap, Sandiway

### NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1<sup>st</sup> December - Jurys Inn, Milton Keynes

## 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	£4.50
HI-VIS ORANGE WATERPROOF GLOVES	£4.50
WOOLLEN SKI HATS - BLACK or ORANGE	£5.50
BASEBALL CAPS - BLACK or ORANGE	£7.00
OUTBACK SUN HATS SP50	£14.50

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](mailto:Nat.Regalia@marshals.co.uk)

### NEXT NEWSLETTER

Next Copy Date - 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Publishing Date - 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019

### WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS

The NW Committee would like to extend a warm welcome to the new members below.

We sincerely wish you a happy and safe future.

Roman Szandrowski      Shrewsbury

Stuart Sutcliffe      Belthorn

Samuel Thacker      Leek

Mark Allen      Stoke-on-Trent

Rebecca Charles      Stoke-on-Trent

Sean Flynn      Kingsley

Brian Graham      Chester

Alexander Richards      Kendal

## Committee Members Information

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### Committee Member

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