



JOTTINGS FROM THE CHAIR

I never thought I would say this - however, motor sport in 2020 is a bit like waiting for a bus. Nothing happens for ages and all of a sudden, there is a rush of them all at the same time. So which one to choose....

MSUK have been providing regular bulletins and the best place to get up to date information is on the Q&A pages. You will be able to find lots of details there, but not circuit specific. Margaret Simpson and I have issued a separate document within these pages which will set out some of the rationale.

Our National Chairman has also issued her June blog on-line. Please read it through, especially her plea with regards to volunteering. Our Chief Marshal will have the task of sorting out allocations and co-ordinate with the organising clubs with regards to numbers etc. Please help us make this as seamless as possible.

On a more sombre note, I am sorry to advise our members that John Wood passed away last weekend. John was one of the founding members of BMMC with the membership number of 29, so had been marshalling for over fifty years. His presence, knowledge and expertise will be missed by us all. I do not have any details with regards to funeral arrangements (especially with regards to social distancing, gatherings etc) but will advise if details are released by the family. I am sure that you will join me in sending our condolences to John's family.

Finally, I have sent out a quiz - just for fun. No doubt some of you will have been

on the MSUK quiz nights on Monday and Autosport's quiz on Friday night, testing your knowledge. Now it's time for the Chairman's Challenge.

First one to send back to me all the correct answers can win either a signed copy of Jason Plato's autobiography, or a BMMC cap. I will publish the answers in next month's Outpost.

Hope you find it interesting to find the answers as I did - so enjoy!

Fingers, toes and flags crossed, we will be back marshalling very soon – in the meantime, stay safe and stay sane!

Mike Broadbent

NW Region Chairman

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## TONY SUGDEN

Veteran saloon car racer Tony Sugden has recently launched a book about his career. Highly recommended read:

http://lancsautoclub.com/?p=3519

## Funeral for John Wood

There will be a short outdoor service at Wells Green Methodist church, Wistaston, Crewe at 10-00 am on Monday 15th June.

The cortege will leave the church at about 10-10 and proceed along Brooklands Ave, Park Drive and Broughton Lane to allow those who do not wish to attend the service to show their respects by standing along this route. The Minister is trying to arrange for parking at local business premises to leave Brooklands Avenue as clear as possible of parked cars.

## <u>Joint Statement from Chief Marshal – Margaret Simpson</u> and BMMC NW Chair – Michael Broadbent

Firstly, we hope that you and your families are keeping well in these difficult times and staying safe.

As you may have seen from recent guidelines published by MSUK, there are plans in place to re-introduce motorsport at UK venues from the beginning of July 2020, provided that government restrictions allow it. Any plans are subject to change though.

BMMC NW and the organising clubs have been working together to come up with suitable strategies, allowing us to have safe race days. This involves meeting all the necessary guidelines including social distancing, current Covid 19 regulations and health and safety for all volunteers.

Due to various restrictions and your own personal situation, you may decide that you do not want to marshal at events this year. We fully understand this and respect your decision.

If you wish to attend, the BMMC website has been updated with the proposed calendar of events for the rest of 2020. You can now select events in the normal manner via the website ONLY!

We should point out that numbers of marshals for events may have to be restricted due to the guidelines and that you will be notified if you are allowed to attend. Some of you may wish to attend events but ultimately, we may need to restrict numbers, which we can assure you will mean difficult decisions for us.

We must reiterate though that this remains a temporary situation. As and when government restrictions allow, it is hoped that motorsport will return to a manner and fashion that we are used to. It is a question, of cutting the cloth according to the current legislation which is designed to keep us all as safe as possible. No-one should attend a motorsport venue without specific instructions to do so, until further notice.

Further information regarding dates and events, how to sign on and allocations will be managed and our marshals guide will be published on the website, on Social Media and if required – by post.

# Finally can you ensure to volunteer via the online system and please do not contact Margaret Simpson directly with your selection. She is already inundated with enquires and requests.

In the meantime, thank you for your patience and co-operation.

## Margaret Simpson – Chief Marshal

Michael Broadbent – BMMC NW Chairman.

## BEN FOR PRESIDENT



Last December the BMMC appointed a new President in the shape of Channel 4 Formula 1 commentator and occasional club racer, Ben Edwards.

The post had been vacant since Barrie "Whizzo" Williams passed away in September 2018. As it is such a key role, the BMMC Committee deliberately took their time to decide upon a replacement before selecting Edwards as their target because he is both a high-profile TV commentator and a grass roots competitor, who races his Van Diemen RF92 when broadcasting commitments permit.

It was last August when Ben was competing in the Northern Formula Ford 1600 Championship at Anglesey that BMMC Chair, Nadine Lewis, approached him to find out whether he would be interested in becoming President. The opportunity arose after Nadine's husband Ian, who was Clerk for the FF1600s that day, had done the Drivers' Briefing.

Ben says, "It was a big surprise when Nadine approached me at Anglesey about becoming President. I only race two or three times per year, what with the extent of the F1 calendar, and I was focussing on preparing my Formula Ford with a friend of mine when she came along and talked about the idea. It was certainly out of the blue, and I thought about it quite a bit on the long drive back from North Wales to East Anglia. I have a deep passion for club motorsport and it seemed like a good way of being involved in another aspect of the whole package that makes British motor racing such a special entity.

"Fulfilling the role is a bit daunting, and I did question myself as to whether I would have the time and space to be able to be useful. But I went along to Snetterton at the start of the year for a Marshal's training day and spoke to all sorts of people involved. I hope to be able to use my position as a commentator on the top branch of the sport to be able to spread the message about the values and dedication of marshals and increase awareness of what a fantastic job they do."

This is all very reminiscent of a former BMMC President, Murray Walker, who regular praised those in orange when the BBC covered motorsport events.

Edwards is certainly every bit as much of a petrol head as his legendary predecessor from the Beeb. This could be due to





genetics as a distant relative was Reid Railton - one of the foremost racing car and land speed record car designers of the 1930s. Ben's family owned a Railton when he was a child and used it to take him to Brands Hatch for the first time where he was bitten by the racing bug.

It was at the Kent circuit that Edwards first took to the track when he was 15 thanks to the Brands Hatch Racing School. Ben had already spent lots of time behind the wheel of various vehicles as, having grown up on a farm, he had started driving tractors and then cars from an early age.

That perennial problem for racing drivers, a lack of funds, limited early attempts to go racing to grass-tracking a Mini which failed at the first hurdle.

After working for a local Formula Ford team as a 'gofer'/mechanic and being a minor part in the team winning three consecutive Champion of Brands titles for Andy Ackerley, Karl Jones and Chris Ringrose, his first full season as a competitor was in 1987 when he won the inaugural Formula First Championship. The series was covered by BBC's Top Gear and at the end of that season Ben recorded his first ever TV commentary alongside Tiff Needell. He went on to race across Europe in the Formula Vauxhall Lotus championship, up against the likes of Mika Hakkinen, Allan McNish and David Coulthard. In 1992 he won the Caterham Vauxhall title but by this time his career as a commentator was beginning to develop.

Ben's work behind the microphone really began in the commentary box at Brands Hatch where he learned from the legendary Brian Jones. Edwards recalls, "Brian really encouraged me. I started out by giving some assistance to him on series that I knew well from being involved in them, but he was the one who said to me 'You have some good ability for commentating; you should take it further.' That encouragement from someone I respected hugely for his abilities to inform and entertain made a big difference."

However, TV opportunities were scarce until 1991 when, thanks to Eurosport, he started on a path that would lead to his big break: in 1995 he was selected to become lead English language commentator on Eurosport's F1 coverage alongside John Watson. When Eurosport lost the F1 rights in 1997 he covered Champ Car racing in the States and then 10 years of the British Touring Car Championship for ITV.

In 2002 he spent another year commentating on F1 for the Sky+ Digital service, once again with John Watson and when



that was closed down he went on to work on A1GP, GT World Championship, Le Mans and Superleague Formula, while also voicing the highlights of British F3 and GT for several years on Channel 4. In 2012 he became the BBC's F1 commentator alongside David Coulthard and switched to Channel 4 when they won the rights to show the pinnacle of motorsport in 2016.



"Working with David Coulthard is a real pleasure," says Ben of his F1 cocommentator,"We first met when we were both aspiring racers; he was just beginning to be a star in Formula Ford and we ended up racing each other in Formula Vauxhall Lotus, but he did a lot better than me! When I started commentating on F1 with Eurosport in the mid 90s he was beginning to establish himself in the top echelon and now we get to work together in the commentary booth.

"I actually don't see much of him over a Grand Prix weekend because he is always busy, with many different roles in the F1 environment, but when we get together in the booth, it just clicks into place and we do our thing. Then at the end of the race he vanishes until the next time..."

Aside from F1, Edwards has covered a diverse range of motorsport during his career. He told us what his highlights have been..."I thoroughly enjoyed doing Champ Car (now IndyCar) in the late 1990s with the likes of Alex Zanardi and Juan Pablo Montoya on the grid. A1 GP was an intriguing mix of characters and venues and I still keep in touch with some of the people involved in running it at the time. But I also thoroughly enjoyed commentating on the World Speedway Championship in the early 2000s even though it took me out of my normal four wheeled environment."

Following a visit to a friend in New Zealand, Ben discovered another category of powered sport that he would love to commentate on - jet boat racing. "Looks amazing!" he says. However at the time of writing, just like the rest of us, Edwards was in lockdown and has been doing some writing for GP Magazine and working on the his Van Diemen - although he feels he should have done more work on his racing car!

Chair Nadine has also been keeping Edwards informed about any developments within UK Motorsport while Ben has put her in touch with PR expert Jennie Gow who has offered some comments about volunteering. The BMMC intends to ask Ben for more advice and support once racing resumes and, given Ben's enthusiasm for his new post, no doubt he will be happy to provide it.

## **Dave Williams**



## BMMC NW REGION COMMITTEE

Your North West Regional Committee met on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 via Skype.

In attendance were:

John Edwards; Dave Smithson; Ian Briggs; Rob Wood; Gordon Knight; Mark Noble; Mike Broadbent; Paul Newns; Rob Mugurian; Bill Gray

Apologies were received from:

Sam Collinson; Mike Thomason; Janette Williams; Eric Ridler

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted, with no matters arising from them.

Topics discussed were:

General Data Protection Regulations

The resumption of marshalling with COVID19 restrictions, including MSUK's recently issued document, and a practical approach for Oulton Park.

The meeting ended at 20:45.

If there are any issues you wish to have raised please contact a Committee member. Unless we are aware of a problem we can't do anything about it. Social media is not an appropriate forum to raise issues and will not see them resolved.

The details of all Committee members can be found on our website: (https://www.marshals.co.uk/northwest /committee/) and on the last page of the Outpost.

Paul Newns

NW Region Secretary

## GRADING REPORT 20TH MAY 2020

<u>Upgrades</u> Post Chief to Examining Post Chief Paul Levitt Chris Wade

Exp. Specialist to Exm Specialist

**Paul Aspin** Trainee to Track

**Robert Norman** 

RobMugurian NW Region Grading Officer BMMC National Grading Officer



NEW! NEW! NEW!

Just arrived a new addition to our range of Regalia and clothing items is a BMMC badged SNOOD/SCARF.

Although this is not a recognised form of PPE it will nevertheless keep what's yours your own.

Made from a polyester microfibre it is only available from the National Regalia Officer, Eric Ridler at the moment.

Cost £3.50

Contact Eric at nat.regalia@marshals.co.uk

To order these and any other items

## A MEMBER'S TALE

Our lovely regional Chairman has been badgering me to tell my marshalling story since the middle of last season - it's only taken a global pandemic shutting down the world as we knew it for me to get around to it!

I've been into motorsport for as long as I can remember courtesy of my Dad and I always wanted to be involved, but didn't know how to without making a career out of it. As time passed that route became increasingly unlikely, (there's not much use for bean-counters in our sport!) a former colleague who marshalled in his youth suggested that I give it a try.

Worried about a lack of physical strength, I was very interested to hear his descriptions of the varied jobs that marshals do away from the incident side of things that you principally see on the TV, given that at the time I didn't think that would be a role I was capable of.

So at the start of the 2012 season, (where did those years go?)! I signed up, attended the training session at the start of the year and was encouraged to give incident a go before committing to another role. For some reason, after my first meeting, a freezing, dull day in March at Cascades with not a single incident, I was hooked!

After several years, rumours of my growing interest in flagging made their way back to Colin and at sign on for one short-staffed Time Attack event, I was handed a set of flags and sent to Shell In. Not only did I manage to survive a day on my own, but I loved the extra level of involvement in a race that you get with flagging (plus I had an easy time that day with the blue flags as they put their lights on for hot laps!)

Eventually I couldn't resist the call of the flags any longer and three years ago I switched to the role full time. Thank you to everyone who has spent meetings paired with me passing on their knowledge and putting in time and effort to train me.

Looking back on how I thought I couldn't be a marshal because I wasn't Superwoman, I know now that our Orange Family welcomes everyone, and in our team, one person's weaknesses are another person's strengths.

## Sarah Reilly



## \*\*NEW\*\* NEW\*\*

BMMC Team Umbrella Elegant automatic umbrella made of pongee with comfortable soft grip. Colours: Black/orange Club Logo printed on 2 panels. Price - f.10 00

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## CHAIRMAN'S QUIZ 2020

So, you think you know your motor sport? Well, here is your chance to pit your knowledge against your chairman.

Simply answer all the questions below correctly, send them back to me (<u>nw.chair@marshals.co.uk</u>)

First one back with ALL the correct answers wins either a signed copy of Jason Plato's autobiography or a BMMC cap.

Enjoy - and NO CHEATING!!!!

## First and last corners (as they were at the end of 2019)

- 1. Cadwell Park:
- 2. Thruxton:
- 3. Snetterton:
- 4. Kyalami:
- 5. Suzuka:
- 6. Interlagos:
- 7. Monza:
- 8. Spa Francorchamps:
- 9. Castle Combe:
- 10. Paul Ricard:

## Quotes Who quoted the following:

- 'There are only three sports, bullfighting, mountain climbing and motor racing. All the rest are games.'
- 'Motor racing is life. Everything else is just waiting.'
- 3. 'There is no terrible way to win. There is only winning.'
- 'To achieve anything in this game, you must be prepared to dabble in the boundary of disaster.'
- 5. 'Each driver has his limits. My limit is a bit further than others.'

- 6. 'Aerodynamics are for people who cannot build engines.'
- 'Winning is everything. The only ones who remember you coming second are your wife and your dog.'
- 8. 'Let's stop the startwatch.'
- 'Money is how we keep score in motor racing today.'
- 'If everything seems to be under control, you're not going fast enough.'

## Formula One

- 1. A Grand Prix car was named after a beetle. What was it called?
- 2. Five drivers won their first Grand Prix in Canada. Name three.
- 3. In what year was DRS introduced?
- 4. What was unique about qualifying for the 1997 Spanish Grand Prix at Jerez?
- 5. Who did Lewis Hamilton pass on the last lap of the Brazilian GP to win his first world title in 2008?
- 6. In which year was a bonus point given for fastest lap reintroduced?
- 7. The Brabham fan car won the Swedish Grand Prix in which year?
- 8. Who did Brawn GP sell to in at the end of 2009?
- 9. Where and when was Tyrrells last Grand Prix race?
- 10. Which future world champion used to enter races as A N Other to prevent his mother from finding out what he was up to?
- 11. Which letter of the alphabet has the most F1 world champions (surname)?

## **Sportscars**

- 1. Which sportscar manufacturer is named after a road marking?
- 2. Which missile manufacturer entered the sportscar championship in the 1960's?
- 3. Which manufacturer has the most Le-Mans wins?
- 4. Who was the last British driver to win at LeMans?
- 5. Who are the official timekeepers of the 2019/2020 WEC championship?
- 6. Name as many F1 constructors who also built cars for racing in Can-Am in the 1960's and 70's.
- 7. Which company has been responsible for building all the Aston Martin GT cars?
- Which ice-cream manufacturer has been a long-term sponsor of an Aston Martin GT3 in British GT's?
- 9. Which twins were long time supporters and entrants of the British GT championship?
- 10. Which manufacturer was citied as the first to enter a petrol-electric hybrid at Le Mans?

#### World Rally Championship

- Who was Tony Jardine co driver in Wales Rally GB 2016?
- 2. Who was Italy's last WRC champion?
- 3. Who was the last Group B winner in 1986?
- 4. Which airline sponsored the works Lancia Stratos?
- 5. Which year did Subaru last win the WRC?
- 6. Which former gymnast went on to be a successful rally driver?
- 7. Which Spanish WRC driver has a son in

F1?

- 8. Which Japanese manufacturer was disqualified from WRC in the 1990's for blatant cheating on air restrictors?
- 9. What nationality is the 2019 WRC champion?
- 10. Who was the last driver to win the WRC world title in a two-wheel drive car?

#### <u>BTCC</u>

- 1. Which year did Colin Turkington take his first BTCC title?
- 2. John Cleland raced for Vauxhall throughout his BTCC career. But what franchise car dealership does he run?
- 3. Which tyre manufacturer has taken over tyre supply in 2020 from Dunlop to BTCC?
- 4. Who will be Jason Plato's teammate be in 2020?
- 5. Which Far East car manufacturer will make its BTCC debut in 2020?
- 6. In which car and what year did Stirling Moss make his BTCC debut?
- 7. Which team raced an LPG powered car in BTCC?
- 8. Which BTCC team used to run Ayrton Senna in F3 in 1983?
- 9. Which team did the 2019 Strictly Come Dancing winner make his BTCC debut in 2016?
- 10. Which BTCC driver shares his name with part of a house?

#### <u>General Knowledge</u>

- 1. Who was Arthur Jefferson?
- 2. What is the only mammal that cannot jump?

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- How many times in a day (24 hours) does the hour and minute hands of a standard clock overlap?
- 4. Kale is a fantastic source of what?
- 5. What colour eyes do most humans have?
- 6. What does artisan mean?
- 7. What is the smallest ocean in the world?
- How many authorised James Bond films have been made (including the current unreleased No Time To Die)?
- Which musical is based on a 19<sup>th</sup> century French ghost story and who was the lyricist?
- 10. How did Tesco stores get its name?

If you wish to download a printable copy of this quiz please click on one of the following links:

## MS Word format

**PDF** format

## **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                                                              | £4.50  |
| BASEBALL CAPS - BLACK or ORANGE                                                                 | £7.00  |
| OUTBACK SUN HATS SP50                                                                           | £14.50 |
| BMMC UMBRELLAS                                                                                  | £10.00 |
| BMMC SNOOD (new)                                                                                | £3.50  |
| Catalogue and Order forms can be downloaded from the club website or from Eric Ridler, BMMC NRO |        |
| Foundatella of DMMC an analysis of a second                                                     |        |

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: <u>Nat.Regalia@marshals.co.uk</u>

## 2020 FORTHCOMING EVENTS?

Please consult the volunteering database for a list of available events.

## 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 marshalling future.

Gavin Hughes Michael Peers Wrexham Llanfair PG





Shhhh! We're trying to hear the F1 cars

#### **Committee Members Information**

#### Chairman

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#### Membership Secretary

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#### **Recruitment Officer**

TBA

#### Secretary

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