

OUTPOST

The North West Region Newsletter

OCTOBER 2020



JOTTINGS FROM THE CHAIR

With the clocks going back last weekend and the final meeting at Oulton Park on Halloween, it will soon be time to settle down for the winter, reflect on the year and start to plan for 2021. Whatever happens, the club will always be here to help, advise and support all its members.

It has been an eventful year, with lots of positives as well as negatives. I'm not going into detail now, as I will do a summary towards the end of the year. However, it was deeply shocking to hear that Phil Bunn, another of our marshals passed away 24th October.

There have been some glowing tributes on social media already and no doubt there will be more to follow. Phil was a great marshal, good company and a true friend to many of the North West marshal family. He will be missed by us all. Good night Bunny.

With the season ending, it will soon be time for both the Regional and National AGM's. These are opportunities for you all to raise any points you have and help steer the club into potentially uncharted waters in 2021.

Please put the dates in your diary - Regional AGM 16th November 2020 at 7.30pm and the National, Sunday 6th December at 3pm.

Contact either Paul Newns to register your attendance for the regional and Paul Wiltshire for the national.

The committee has been busy with all sorts of planning in the background, looking at recruitment opportunities and the

training weekend and how potentially they can be delivered.

There is fortunately some motorsport for us to enjoy between now and the end of the year and I keep reminding myself how lucky I have been in being able to enjoy my hobby. The Goodwood Speedweek was a unique event and I was privileged to be part of it. No doubt I will put an article together recounting those three days.

Finally, the answers to the quiz are [here](#) for you (see separate Pdf.) Not a great deal of take up on this - probably something to do with the prizes on offer. I shall try harder next time!!

In the meantime, please stay safe, look after each other and Hands, Face, Space!!

Mike Broadbent

NW Region Chairman



MARSHALLING DESPITE COVID-19

Every time I get myself involved in anything to do with organizing an event it seems to take up all my time for months.

I don't have enough hours in a day to do everything that needs doing. I worry that I might have forgotten to do something that was vitally important and when everything seems to be sorted some problem crops up throwing everything into disarray.

Three days before the Pennine Targa & Classic Rally, I got really wound up when one or two marshals contacted me to say they didn't like the test that they had been allocated to and wanted to go to some other test that they had heard about. If you allow that to happen and let them get away with that then you probably finish up with just a couple of tests done ten times each because you don't have sufficient marshals for all the planned tests. We all like to marshal at a good spot but if you are really offering to marshal you have to take the rough with the smooth.

I really must thank those marshals who did those all important but less enjoyable tasks at Main Time Controls and at Gates along the route. Proper marshals not spectators with tabards. A couple of those gates were important because they were on a nice bit of road that gets frequently used on Road Rallies. One of the farmers always gives PR crews who visit him a hard time. This Farmer happened to stop and have a natter with the marshal at one of his gates and finished up staying to watch the cars through. That Marshal was Henry Carr who is Clerk of Course for the Ilkley Jubilee and I would like to think that his knowledge and pleasant manner explaining who was who and what was what might make it easier for the next PR crew to knock on that door. Thanks Henry

Signing on remotely 138 marshals & officials was not without its problems and at times I did wonder about the intelligence of some 'marshals' that posted on Social Media telling

all and sundry where they were going to marshal - just encouraging spectators when we were not allowed them under the terms of the permit.

When its all over and done within a week I have far too much time on my hands and suddenly I am bored and it starts over again - I want to get involved in organizing something new. Stupid or what?

Maurice Ellison

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## THE DETERMINATION CONTINUES

Since June when events started to go ahead again I have managed to attend in various capacities 14 club events, I am still a trainee for race so I have not bothered to try and volunteer for them. As it works out I am extremely happy to marshal club events and to this end I have. Since June attended 7 PCA/Autotests. 4 Sprint meetings 2 Grass trials and 1 Targa.

During this lockdown period I have had no problem with wearing a mask when I am in close proximity to others. There are still more club events to volunteer for and most of them involve travelling up to and over 100 miles, but wherever I go I am made to feel most welcome by the other marshals who are braving the dangers of COVID-19.

If Wales ever opens up to car events again then I will happily volunteer to attend rallies as well. As I am now a widower I have only myself, at home, to worry about and I think that COVID-19, in the field, is not as big a concern as some would have us believe.

What ever happens it is important that we keep events on calendar in order to keep Clubs and motor sport alive and well for the future. I regularly post on FB pics of cars that I come across that are old or unusual.

**Brian L Wragg**

**RADIO Gemini 64**



## A "FABBYULOUS" BMMC AMBASSADOR

This year an exciting up-and-coming local driver has joined the ever-growing ranks of high-profile BMMC Ambassadors. His name is Jack Fabby who, when he is not piloting rapid sportscars, has a dream job as the workshop manager at Tiga Race Cars Limited.

Given that Jack's boss at Tiga is BMMC Vice-President, Mike Newton, he was probably more aware than most youngsters out on-track of the crucial role that those in orange play in motorsport. Thus, when Mike introduced him to our National Chair, Nadine Lewis, at the 2020 Autosport Show it wasn't long before he became an ambassador of the club.

Jack says, "I have always wanted to support the BMMC and the many volunteers that keep the show running and I thought it would be a great idea to take up this role."

His exposure to various forms of racing began at an early age as both of his parents were competitors with his mum being something of a trail blazer for women in the sport. "I have massive respect for my mother," Fabby proudly explains, "as she competed against some of the best drivers in the world and didn't shy away."

Fabby also inherited a rather unusual surname which has its origins in Italy where it was "Fabbi" before it became Anglicised as it passed down his ancestors in the UK.

By the time he was 9, Jack was donning a helmet himself as he climbed behind the wheel of a kart. Into his teens, when a competitive budget for karting became astronom-

ical, he switched to car racing in the shape of the Junior Saloon Car Championship - the thrilling series for youngsters in Citroen Saxos.

This turned out to be an excellent move as he progressed from the JSCC to the Michelin



Clio Cup where he won the Road Class in 2016. This opened up quite a few possibilities although funding was still a problem.

For 2017, thanks to support from a fan in The Netherlands, Jack and his family managed to put together the finance for him to take part in the Silverstone 24 Hours in a Honda Civic fielded by Area Motorsport. He would be the youngest British driver to compete in the Hankook 24h series.

The race was completely different from the 20 minute events Jack had been used to in the Clio championship. In preparation, he headed to the gym to get himself fit for the





numerous 2-hour stints that he would drive in the twice-round-the-clock race. Furthermore, he had to re-programme his brain to always be aware of the wear and tear that was being inflicted on the car which meant, along with focussing on the track action around him, Jack also had to remember to keep an eye on things like the oil pressure gauge.

Clearly Fabby had no problems handling all these extra demands as he finished on the podium which earned recognition from the FIA who classed him as a Silver Graded driver. This is quite an accolade for his CV where it is joined by "Motorsport UK Squad member" and "International B licence holder".

By this time Jack was already able to contribute to his racing budget thanks to getting a job with Tiga Race Cars Limited straight from school. "I've always wanted to work and earn my own money," explains Fabby, "I felt like the best way to contribute to my racing was by getting stuck in (to a career) straightaway. I already knew Mike and my dad asked for me to do a week's work experience. I basically



never left!"

The Silverstone 24 Hours whetted Jack's appetite for endurance racing and led to him setting his sights very high - his goal is to win Le Mans! Therefore, in the past few years Fabby has focussed on racing sportscars.

Starting in 2018 he competed in the BRSCC's OSS Championship for 2 years behind the wheel of a Tiga CN12B before getting a big break at the end of 2019 when a successful test in a Praga led to him making his debut with the VR Motorsport team at Oulton Park's final round of the Britcar series just over 12 months ago.

He immediately felt at home both with the car - which had a carbon fibre chassis pow-



ered a Formula Renault engine - and with the crew. The feeling was clearly mutual as Fabby was offered a drive for the 2020 season in an upgraded version of the Praga which had a turbo-charged engine. This boosted power from 240 bhp to 380!

Praga is not well-known in the UK but the Czech-based manufacturer was established in 1907. They have built everything from cars, trucks and motorcycles to farm machinery and light aircraft. Their creative endeavours were brought to a halt during the Communist era of the 1960s when central planning meant the Praga factories almost solely produced truck transmissions.

The company was revived in the 1990s when it launched two diverse offerings - moto cross/enduro bikes and all-terrain trucks.

Over the past 20 years they have also got involved with four-wheeled motorsport by manufacturing karts alongside the R1 carbon-monocoqued sports car which also has a road-going version.

Jack couldn't wait for the 2020 Britcar season to begin but, alas, due to COVID-19 for the first part of the year the only racing action he participated in was on his computer screen. Eventually, Fabby got out on track where he was able to display his talents in an abridged 5 round Britcar calendar which began in July and is scheduled to end at the start of November.

A highlight of the season so far was round 3 which took place at his home circuit of Oulton Park in September on the weekend of his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Jack took the opening stint and, despite a Safety Car interruption, was more than half a minute ahead when he handed over to his co-driver, Garry Townsend, setting up an impressive victory.

Driving the Praga around the Cheshire track is quite an experience - "incredible" is the word Jack uses. He says, "We pull around 2.5g through the fast stuff but it's very difficult to comprehend how fast you are going. The car just sticks to the track and you're just propelling yourself from corner to corner."

Aside from Jack's driving talents, VR Motor-

sport were also attracted by his coaching skills which enable him to assist with their driver development programme and provide access to the simulator at Tiga Racing Cars' HQ in Antrobus.

Jack's experience of mentoring those who use the simulator proved invaluable when it came to being assessed on the track at Brands Hatch for an ARDS Race Instructors Licence. Obtaining this qualification was a long-held ambition for Fabby - something he realised in October 2019. He had waited until he had experience of a wide enough range of cars before exploring this avenue. The fact that Jack started where most aspiring racers are beginning helps him to relate to their situation.



For next season, Jack has already been signed by VR Motorsport to contest the 2021 Britcar Championship in which a separate class for Praga sportscars will be introduced. Fabby's co-driver will be the rapid racer and transgender awareness campaigner, Charlie Martin.

He has no other motorsport plans for next year aside from shaking down the LMP2 Tigas that he will be building at the factory. His experience of sportscars from both driving them and constructing them will undoubtedly be of great benefit in realising his dream of winning Le Mans. It is great news that he will be promoting the BMMC as he follows this path.

**Dave (fasttoes) Williams**

Photos courtesy of Jack Fabby



## Committee Meeting Minutes (Abridged)

Your North West Region Committee met via Zoom on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020.

In attendance were:

Mike Broadbent; Paul Newns; Jan Williams; Rob Murgurian; Andrew Pratt-Fryer; Ian Briggs; Duncan Fitzgibbons; John Edwards; Gordon Knight; Mike Thomason; Bill Grey; Sam Collinson; and Dave Smithson

Apologies were received from:

Eric Ridler and Mark Noble

Reports were received from: Mike Broadbent (Chair); Rob Mugurian (Grading); John Edwards (Membership); Duncan Fitzgibbon (Recruitment); Bill Grey (Training); Dave Smithson (Regalia and Branding); Jan Williams (Volunteering and Specialists); and Ian Briggs (Rallying)

These were accepted by Committee.

Additional topics discussed were:

- 1) ***Upgrading to examining post chief***
- 2) ***Training issues for 2021***
- 3) ***Potential for electronic media in future***
- 4) ***Matters relating to COVID at recent meetings***
- 5) ***Award recipients for 2021***
- 6) ***Marshals' welfare in recent wet weather***

The meeting ended at 21:15 .

The next meeting will be the Regional AGM to be held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> November by Zoom.

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.

### NEXT NEWSLETTER

Next Copy Date - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Publishing Date - 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## 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 (Orange or Black)                                                                    | £3.50  |
| BMMC FACE MASKS (Orange or Black)                                                               | £6.30  |
| 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.          |        |



Contact Eric Ridler, National Regalia Officer at [nat.regalia@marshals.co.uk](mailto:nat.regalia@marshals.co.uk) to order these and any other items. Please state the colour of the items and your BMMC membership number.

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