

# OUTPOST

The North West Region Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020



**PRESENTATION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO OUR LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF OVER 50 YEARS AND RESIDENT OULTON PARK COMMENTATOR - MIKE COOKSON**

## CHRISTMAS JOTTINGS FROM THE CHAIR

As the winter draws in and motorsport slowly falls back into hibernation we have to look at some of the positives this year has brought us and how we can capitalise on them.

So, where to begin. I'm sure some of you will have honed gardening and decorating skills this year. Projects around the house completed which would have normally been postponed, exercise every day, fighting off the Covid kilos and using technology such as Zoom and Teams to keep in touch with friends and loved ones. These were just some of the ways we had to adjust.

Our NHS service has truly delivered some remarkable results. They have had to adjust quickly, be agile in decision making and stepped up to the mark in helping save lives. These are also the three keys to marshalling. To all the marshals who work in the health sector and those who are key workers - thank you and you should be proud of your achievements.

As I have mentioned before, we were very lucky to have motorsport in the Northwest and we have been treated to some great racing, full grids, changing weather conditions and the opportunity to renew friendships with our marshal colleagues. Sad that Anglesey was not able to join the party though, so let's hope that they open their doors next year. We will be back!

We must also acknowledge Lewis Hamilton's relentless charge in 2020. Seven world championships, 95 GP wins 98 pole positions is truly amazing. I've always thought that records were created to be challenged and beaten. Lewis has thrashed everything before him. A truly gifted driver and person without a 'winning at all costs' mentality.

BTCC also saw an exciting season. Ash Sutton showing us again that he is a class act beating off strong works competition from Honda and BMW to take the touring car crown. With

different winners, close racing and good quality support races, BARC can be proud of their achievements this year.

We must not forget our very own Jamie Goode who had his first season in JSCC. He managed to score points and uphold the NW marshals honour circuit-side. Well done Jamie!

Romain Grosjeans' first lap accident in Bahrain is a sobering reminder that what we do as a hobby can be very dangerous and potentially life threatening. The training we receive here in the Northwest is some of the finest globally and I would like to think that we handle any incident professionally, efficiently and most of all safely. Training is vital as was expressed by the Medical Car team on Sunday.

MSV has continued to maintain high standards in terms of circuit presentation. Oulton Park has looked amazing this year and even though various cars have tried to demolish barriers and generally trash the circuit the staff and management have worked tirelessly to make sure that the venue was fit for purpose. Thank you.

I am sure that journalists will be digging out their book of cliches to sum up 2020 in various forms. Whether or not you enjoy a retrospective glance to the past, you will all take something from 2020 and use it to build positives on. As the late Frank Gardner (1960's/70's saloon racer) once said: 'Looking over your shoulder only gives you neck ache!'

Me, well for the first time in a long time, I found myself agreeing with Autosport. Their article - who is the greatest, tried to make sense of 70 years of F1. Their conclusion was that Jackie Stewart is the greatest F1 driver. He won in multiple constructors, rarely made mistakes and changed the sport for the better. I think that's the right answer. You may of course have your own thoughts on this!!!!!!

I've learned plenty that is new this year and I have also gained a deeper appreciation of what I thought I already knew.

There is plenty of new literature coming out as well - including a new book about Tom Pryce. Don't tell Brigitte that mine is on order!! Some newish magazines are available, Road Rat, Magneto, Automobil Sport etc. All are putting a different angle to motoring and motorsport. So, plenty to occupy ourselves with during the close season.

It has been a challenging year though for us all and as your chairman, I have tried to do three things a leader should do:

Create Clarity - being clear and concise

Focus on Strengths - you are an amazing team of volunteers who care about the sport and your hobby

Demonstrate Integrity - This will always be my foundation on which trust can be built on.

I'm sure that we are all looking forward to when we can close the door on 2020, throw away the key and look forward to a positive and optimistic 2021. Although 2021 will throw more challenges at us, I am sure that we will be prepared for action, motivated to be the best we can, and show that Northwest BMMC marshals are the best!

Just after I had written this came the sad news that Gordon Knight, a stalwart of the club and NW committee, passed away late on Thursday night. Gordon had been a steady hand on the committee during my time as chairman and I was truly grateful for his wisdom and views on certain subjects. His knowledge in all manners of motorsport and the machinations of the BMMC were unrivalled and his presence will be missed by us all. I admit to being rather overwhelmed by the outpouring of messages on social media when the news came through. Farewell Gordon, now at peace. I will keep members informed with regards to the families arrangements which will be in early January.

In closing, thank you all for your support this year. Brigitte and I would like you wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas and no matter where you are in 2021, that you remain safe, healthy and positive.

**Mike Broadbent**

**NW Region Chair**



### **GORDON KNIGHT 1941-2020 R.I.P.**

Gordon joined the Club in the late 1980's and achieved Post Chief status in 2015 although his preference was always flagging. His years of service as a merchant marine engineer was what gave him the ability to notice the finer details of handling track incidents.

In 2007 he was persuaded to join the committee and took over the role of Secretary from Nadine Lewis. He kept a steady hand on the committee until after several bouts of ill health decided to step down in 2018.

During this period Gordon worked as marshal for MSV during weekday activities which endeared him to many teams and drivers.

Most recently Gordon acted as a Judge and Club Steward for BRSCC NW.

Personally he was a good friend and we had kept each other sane during the recent lockdown isolation. I will miss him dearly as I am sure will many of friends and members.

Stay safe mate! Carry on sailing!

**Eric Ridler - Outpost Editor.**

## DALY'S DAILY DOSE OF MOTORSPORT!

It has been quite a year for Peter Daly, the winner of the Avon Tyres Formula Ford 1600 Super Classic series, which runs in conjunction with the Northern Championship, as he is also the Chairman of the BRSCC - a role which leads to his daily involvement in motorsport.



Peter's winning ways continued after the regular championship season ended when he won the Historic section of the Formula Ford Festival.

Aside from being a weekend racer, Chair of one of the country's leading motorsport event organising clubs and running his own communication business, Daly is also Race Director of the British GT Championship. He rarely has a spare weekend!

With the first Covid lockdown preventing any motor racing from taking place in the UK until July, Peter wondered whether he would even get chance to compete in his Van Diemen RF88 this year however the dates of the rounds of the British GT and Formula Ford 1600 Championships fell on separate weekends and so Daly decided to "put some effort" towards claiming the Super Classic title. He had a great chassis, engine and set up to aid him in his quest.

In these unusual times, the Northern & Super Classic contenders took part in the same races as the National Championship runners. Also, because of the compressed time-frame, they had only 3 meetings instead of the usual 7 or 8 and just one of these was in the North

- the Oulton Park opener in July, with the others taking place at Brands Hatch and Silverstone after Anglesey had to be cancelled due to local Covid restrictions.

In his non-executive role as Chairman of the BRSCC, Peter provides guidance and accountability to the club's members. This Spring, he and his team had a "Great Challenge" due to a season's worth of racing having to be squeezed into half a year. Daly says "We started working on the revised calendar in April with a view that we needed to understand our budgets and likely customer take up as early as possible. We reset our entry number targets and shared this with the coordinators."

Oulton Park had the honour of hosting the BRSCC's first meeting of 2020 - who would have believed at the Marshal's Training Weekend, which always signals the end of our Winter hibernation, that the Orange Army would not be on duty until 18<sup>th</sup> July?

Peter made a perfect start to the delayed season taking the Super Classic pole followed by a brace of wins with fastest lap in both races - all in wet conditions.

He was quickest in qualifying at Brands Hatch in September although in this Triple Header weekend Daly only added one more win to his tally as he had to give best to Samuel Harrison in the other two contests.

The races in Kent took place on a dry track but the rain returned for October's final meeting of this abridged Super Classic Championship at Silverstone. A couple of second places behind George McDonald were enough



Van Diemen RF88

to seal the title for Daly.

Peter completed his 2020 trophy collection back at Brands in the Formula Ford Festival where he won the Final for Pre-98 cars. This was another race that was staged on a slippery, wet track and Daly had to fend off two very accomplished drivers in the shape of Ryan Campbell and Tom McArthur.

There was an early Safety Car interlude during this event to retrieve Lorna Vickers' car from the Paddock Hill Bend gravel trap - Lorna is Peter's "other half". The couple met through their shared interest in motorsport at Donington Park when Daly was competing in the 2003 Star of Midlands series and they have been together since the last race of that season.

Lorna passed her ARDS test 3 years later to join her partner out on track. There is not very much rivalry between the pair although they do have a photograph in their dining room of Lorna zooming past as Peter pushes his car - which was missing a wheel - to safety!

That fateful Donington encounter with Lorna was during Daly's third season as a racing driver. He grew up very close to Mallory Park - his parents' house backed on to the car park which is next to All Saints' Church. His mum and dad used to regularly complain about the noise but Peter loved the racing especially when the Shell Sport European Formula 5000 and Aurora AFX Formula 1 Championships visited Leicestershire. He also enjoyed all the saloon car categories from that era but his absolute favourite were the action-packed

Formula Ford 1600 races.

From that early age, Daly always wanted to compete in cars and, after he had set up his business, he was invited to a corporate day at Donington Park in the late 1990s. He then enrolled at the Jim Russell and Silverstone Racing Schools at the turn of the Millennium before entering the BRSCC's Star of Midlands from 2001 onwards.

Indeed, he enjoyed the championship so much, he sponsored the series from 2002 to 2004 before providing the BRSCC with more practical help by joining the Midland Centre's Committee. He then took over as Chairman from the late, great Don Truman and was invited to join the main board a few years later.

He continued racing until he broke his neck and back in a nasty road car accident during 2011. While he was recuperating, he was encouraged to take up Clerking. He enrolled on the MSA Probationary Clerk of the Course programme and from 2012 was assisting those who officiated the Caterham series. This introduction must have gone well as he took over as Championship Clerk in 2013.

With so many drivers competing in the various Caterham categories, usually at the same meeting, Peter's weekends were often very busy! He continued in the role until 2019.

By 2017, Daly's standing at the BRSCC was such that he had been Vice Chairman of the club for a couple of years and took over as Chairman when Bernard Cotterill stepped down due to ill health. Cotterill also handed over to Peter his Race Director responsibilities for British GT. This provided a sharp contrast to the Caterham Championships as the atmosphere is very professional and the relationship between the Clerk of the Course and the drivers far more formal. Nonetheless, Daly hasn't forgotten his roots. He still gets pleasure from seeing the enjoyment amateur racers get from their hobby and tries



to attend as many club meetings as possible. Since becoming BRSCC Chairman, Peter has seen the role evolve. He admits that the time commitment, including the regular visits to the club's headquarters (HQ) in Kent and the daily communications came as something of a surprise. The more he dedicated his time, the more Daly was asked to do and he now spends 4 to 8 hours a week in meetings covering various matters relating to the BRSCC. This is by no means a sacrifice as it is something Peter chose to do. Motor racing is his passion and he wants nothing more than for the club to succeed and grow.

Having been both a competitor and Clerk of the Course, Daly is able to see club motor racing from many angles which helps him not only to guide the BRSCC but also to frame how the policies the club implements are communicated to drivers - both those who spend their own money to compete and those who are employed by teams and sponsors.

Peter spends much of his time managing BRSCC personnel - he supports the staff at HQ and has a very close working relationship with Chief Operations Officer, Paul McErlean. When it comes to judging what is best for the club, he doesn't just rely on his own experiences. Peter goes out of his way to speak to other drivers, officials, marshals and promoters as they all have their own opinions and agenda. He has communicated these diverse points of view to key people at the BRSCC with the result that changes have been made. Furthermore, as a successful businessman, Peter understands how hard it can be to make certain decisions, keep people motivated and deal with customers - be they happy or disgruntled.

He has introduced a business plan and model which everyone at the club is working to. He has also bolstered financial management procedures and reporting. This means the number of race entries and expenditure are

closely monitored while tighter cost controls have been introduced. All the BRSCC's assets, including radios, rescue vehicles and marketing resources, are currently under review.

However, it has not been a one-way process as Peter has taken some lessons he has learnt since he became Chairman of the club and implemented them at his own company.

Daly has only just started on his journey to take the BRSCC forwards. He wants it to be the club of choice for many who wish to be involved in motor racing. He also wants the BRSCC's recruitment campaign to gather momentum and recruit more people (particularly young ones) to become administrators, coordinators, marshals and officials. Ironically, if this aspiration were to be realised, so many people will be dedicating their time to the BRSCC that Peter will make himself redundant!

With regards to his goals out on track, Daly always wanted to drive at no financial expense to himself. During 2006 he stood in for a driver in a situation where the entry fee and car had already been paid for so he has put a tick by that particular ambition but a seat in British GT remains on his bucket list.

Peter has achieved so much in his life that it wouldn't be a surprise to see him competing in a high-end sports car. In the meantime, it will be interesting to see how the BRSCC continues to develop under his stewardship particularly when we get to the post-Covid world.



**Article: Dave (Fasttoes) Williams**

**Photos: BRSCC Website & Peter Daly.**

The 2020 Annual General Meeting of the BMMC North West Region took place on 16th November, 2020 at 19:30 via Zoom

In attendance were: *Paul Newns; Mike Broadbent; Ian Briggs; Colin Barnes; Sam Collinson; John Edwards; Duncan Fitzgibbons; Geoff Cooper; Ian Buckley; Keith Kehoe; Gordon Knight; Rob Murgurian; Nadine Lewis; Andrew Pratt-Fryer; Margaret Simpson; Dave Smithson, Mike Thomason; Jan Williams; and Brigitte Broadbent.*

Apologies were received from *Bill Gray; Eric Ridler; Mark Noble; and Ian Lewis*

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

The Chair, Mike Broadbent, presented his report and overview of the season.

Reports were also submitted by officers of the regional committee before the meeting.

Margaret Simpson and Nadine Lewis addressed the meeting.

Colin Barnes was thanked for his Service as National Treasurer.

The meeting remembered marshals who had sadly passed away during the year.

Club rules require that Committee members stand down by rote and offer themselves for re-election.

This year they were:

*Ian Briggs; Rob Murgurian and Bill Gray*

There being no other nominations, they were duly re-appointed.

Several members that had been co-opted to NW Committee during the past twelve months were ratified unanimously. They are:

*Duncan Fitzgibbons; Sam Collinson; Andrew Pratt-Fryer and Mike Thomason*

The meeting closed at 20:20.

If you would like a full copy of the Minutes, please e-mail the Regional Secretary, Paul Newns, at [nw.secretary@marshals.co.uk](mailto:nw.secretary@marshals.co.uk)

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)	£6.15
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.	

**NEXT NEWSLETTER**

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God I love this country



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