

OUTPOST

The North West Region Newsletter

MAY 2021



BMMC AMBASSADOR JACK FABBY IN PRE-SEASON TESTING AT OULTON PARK. BELOW THE PRAGA IN 2021 COLOURS FOR THE BRIT ENDURANCE SERIES.



JOTTINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Well, Oulton Park has seen three very different meetings so far this year, with plenty of action with races from MSV, CSCC and BARC NW. Was there a common theme? Caterhams to start with. I had no idea there were so many! With full grids, slipstreaming battles and close finishes, they certainly were the tonic we were looking for after what seemed to be an eternity during lockdown. They were the mainstay of all three meetings. So, will they be there at the MGCC meeting in May? Clue is in the name - but some may sneak in!

I would like to thank all the marshals, competitors and officials for our/their efforts so far. We have had to deal with race stoppages, safety car periods, multiple recoveries, alongside all sorts of weather thrown at us during the CSCC meeting. I'm sure Vivaldi didn't write the Four Seasons with marshals in mind!

With some NW marshals venturing further afield to Donington, Cadwell Park, Croft and Silverstone, it is encouraging to see that the passion for our hobby has not diminished over the winter season. Hopefully, some of you may be able to travel overseas to get your fix of marshalling. The lockdown measures have been restrictive - so let's hope we are getting somewhere near the end now. However, the watch-words - are as always, Social Distancing, Masks and Hygiene. We will continue to look out for updates from MSUK regarding trainees, taster days and even some recruiting in 2021. It is our intention to get some taster days booked in for 2021 and will continue to work with the Chief Marshals and organising clubs to facilitate this.

In other news:

Congratulations to our award winners. We will be able to get the trophies to you in the next month or so. Announcing them via Outpost was a different way of doing this and I'm sure you will join me in congratulating them!

Committee News. After many years of being on the NW Committee, Eric Ridler has decided to step down from the role of Vice Chairman. He will continue to be the National Regalia Officer for BMMC and will act as an advisor for the committee. On behalf of the

club and NW Region, thank you Eric for your sterling and loyal support, helping drive the club forwards and keeping the region at the forefront of positive change.

A few words from Bill Gray and Mike Cadwallader - who worked with Eric for longer than I did on the committee.

Bill Gray: Eric has been a marshal for over 50 years, his BMMC membership number is 130, and has been a member of the North West Committee for many years in a number of roles. (I checked with John and the membership records don't go back far enough to confirm his joining date) (Ed: 1973)

He was Regional Treasurer until the role was centralised into a National role, he remained on the Committee as Vice Chairman for over 15 years, his wealth of knowledge of the Club, its history and members is encyclopaedic. A great resource during meetings.

Whilst his health prevents him from making regular attendance at Oulton Park he remains the Regional editor of the Outpost, National Regalia Officer and Web Administrator as well as a Council member of the Club.

Mike Cadwallader: Well, I never thought I would see this day. The day when Eric Ridler stood down from one of his roles in the BMMC. I have worked with Eric for 30-odd years, He was an active Observer when I started in Orange. His advice and guidance was invaluable. And so, our relationship has continued to this day. When I joined NW Committee, back in the 90's, there he was as Treasurer & Regalia.

As time went on, club finances were centralised, and Eric focused on his Regional and National Regalia Officer roles. To superb effect, I might add. From little labels and things in the early days, through to logo'd Covid masks lately, Eric has always found the right items, at the right price, from the right supplier for the ultimate benefit of the club and our members.

For so many years, during my NW Chairmanship, Eric and I did the NW business and attended National Council meetings. There

was never a dull moment, but Eric was always there with a steady hand on the tiller.

When Chairmanship passed over to Mike Broadbent, Eric's support continued unabated. In his last role as Deputy NW Chair, Eric has helped to ensure a smooth hand-over and successful settling-in.

As a stalwart of the BMMC, both nationally and regionally, Eric's words of wisdom will certainly be missed by both National and North West Chairs. Although he is standing down as NW Deputy, Eric will continue as Editor of our esteemed Outpost. Nice words - could not have put it better myself.

We have lost a few of our colleagues recently, including Ken Bostock and Paul Mackrell.

Motor sport also bade farewell to Murray Walker OBE, Sabine Schmitz and John Colum Crichton-Stuart, 7th Marquess of Bute, better known to us as Johnny Dumfries. No doubt some of you will have personal memories of them.

The NW Region is now on Instagram and we are continuing to refresh the BMMC NW and BMMC North West Marshals pages on Facebook with up-to-date information, news, details of sign on etc. It is consistently the most effective method of communicating with our North West members in the quickest manner. Other pages including Oulton Park Marshals are public pages so information on here will be generic and can be seen by anyone.

Motorsport UK are continually issuing bulletins regarding the Covid situation and how they are managing it. For more information check the website - www.motorsportuk.org

Finally, if any of you have any questions, concerns or challenges regarding marshalling, do please tell us. The current situation we are all in means that we have to be fluid and dynamic in how we address issues and sometimes, things change at the last minute. However, with care, diligence and thoughtfulness we can get through this and get back to normal (whatever that is now!!)

OK, ramble over now - back to racing please!!!

Mike Broadbent - NW Chairman

NW REGION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Your North West Regional Committee met via Zoom on 30th March, 2021 at 19:30

In attendance were:

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

Apologies were received from:

Eric Ridler; Dave Smithson; and Mark Noble

Reports were received from:

Mike Broadbent - Chair

Duncan Fitzgibbons - Recruitment Officer

John Edwards - Membership Officer

These were accepted by Committee.

Other Committee members presented their reports verbally.

Additional topics discussed were:

The appointment of Bill Gray as Vice Chair. This was approved unanimously.

The training webinars that had been given

Other training related matters

Recruitment issues and Grading matters

Rallying and Speed events

Social media platforms and opportunities

Concerns raised by marshals since the last meeting

The meeting ended at 21:05.

The next meeting will be held on 25th May, 2021, once again 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 Outpost.

Paul Newns - NW Secretary

THE PLACE WHERE SPEEDWORKS!

Many people dream of turning their love of motorsport into their profession but through their hard work husband and wife team, Christian and Amy Dick, have turned their hopes into reality as they run a thriving BTCC & GT team - Speedworks Motorsport.

Their base in Great Budworth on the outskirts of Northwich is just down the road from Oulton Park in a corner of Cheshire that is a real hot-bed of racing as Mike Newton's Tiga factory at Antrobus is close by.

Christian's love of motorsport was embedded in him from an early age as his step-father raced and it wasn't long before he too acquired a competition licence.

After many years of track action, as well as fielding cars for others, in 2005 Christian, in conjunction with Amy, decided to set up Speedworks Motorsport - a name which was dreamt up by the latter.

Becoming a team principal didn't prevent Christian from continuing to get behind the wheel and the following season he finished second in the Mazda MAX5 Championship, just a couple of points adrift of Martin Byford. Success quickly followed as Dick and Speedworks moved up into higher profile series. They took the Team's title in the Ginetta G50 Cup while Christian won the G4 Class of the 2010 British GT Championship in the same make of car with Jamie Stanley as his co-driver.



British GT Class Champion 2010 -
Photo www.motorsportimages.com

For 2011, Speedworks entered the UK series with the highest profile of all - the BTCC,

with a Toyota Avensis that had been built to the newly introduced NGTC regulations. Tony Hughes was their driver during this maiden season.



Debut BTCC season - Photo Speedworks

As Speedworks progressed along a steep learning curve, they switched to a two-car entry for 2012. Hughes continued with the team although he handed his car over to ITV pundit, Paul O'Neill, for a couple of rounds at Croft and Knockhill. The other entry was driven throughout the year by Adam Morgan who joined after claiming the Ginetta Supercup title and has since become a household name in Touring Cars.

The following season Speedworks fielded experienced hands Dave Newsham and Ollie Jackson before switching back to a single car entry for Tom Ingram in 2014 although they also supported Handy Motorsport's entry for Simon Belcher as that team made their debut in the series.

Ingram was a promising youngster - a BRDC Rising Star who, like Morgan, came into the BTCC with Speedworks as the reigning Ginetta Supercup Champion.

This year also saw the team return to their sports car roots as they fielded a Ginetta G50 in the 24HR series. They took a class win in Dubai but the campaign ended early when, with Christian at the wheel, the car was involved in a sizeable accident at Zandvoort. The shunt caused Dick to break two ribs, his sternum, and left fibia, as well as puncturing a lung.

The team bounced back in emphatic style in 2015 as their cars finished 1 and 2 in the SP3 Class of the 24HR Series which had become

an FIA-approved Championship. John Gilbert and Devon Modell were joint winners with an Aston Martin while Tony Hughes ran with Speedworks once more and finished as runner-up in a Ginetta.



First BTCC win - Photo Toyota UK Magazine

Meanwhile, on the domestic scene, a major step forwards was taken in the BTCC with Ingram securing a couple of second places during the course of the season at Rockingham and Brands Hatch then, back at the Kent track for the first round of the 2016 series, he went one better with a lights-to-flag maiden victory for himself and the team. The continuity of retaining Tom as their driver enabled Speedworks to build and bring in new sponsors.

The momentum continued throughout 2017 and 2018 as the Northwich-based squad became established as front-runners. In these two seasons, Tom Ingram and Speedworks claimed the Independent BTCC Drivers' and Teams' titles - the first time both had won championships at this level. Indeed, in the latter of these two years, Ingram came close to winning the overall crown, finishing second to Colin Turkington.

Throughout Speedwork's involvement in the BTCC, they had always fielded Toyotas. This marque loyalty, and their constantly improving on-track performance, was rewarded in the final year of the 20-teens when they received manufacturer backing from Toyota GB and ran as Team Toyota GB with the all new NGTC Corolla.

This association brought many benefits. These included increased financial support, a

huge amount of prestige and unrivalled media support. For 2020, the team came under the umbrella of Toyota Gazoo Racing - a great honour as this is the Japanese giant's motor-sport and performance car brand which also oversees its involvement in the WEC and WRC.

After Ingram finished fourth in last season's Covid shortened BTCC, Christian is raring to go to build on that and see his team challenge for the overall title in 2021. He will be fielding 2 cars with Rory Butcher and Sam Smelt as his drivers.

The former is switching across from the Motorbase Ford Focus and will be taking part in his fifth season in the BTCC. He usually goes well in qualifying and has 6 wins in the series. Dick believes he is more than ready for a shot at the title and anticipates that he will be at the sharp end of the field from the outset. Rory will have a better idea than many as to how to put together a successful challenge as his brother-in-law is multiple BTCC title winner, Gordon Sheddon.

Meanwhile, Smelt is moving across into Touring Cars from Speedworks' GT team where he impressed Christian with both his speed and his attitude. He knows what to expect from the BTCC as he raced in the series in 2018. The team expect Sam to surprise a few people this year.



Tom Ingram - Photo Speedworks

It is expected to be a particularly busy year for Speedworks, as aside from their touring car commitments, they are returning to sportscars once more by running a Toyota



Toyota Gazoo Racing Supra - Photo Speedworks

Gazoo Racing Supra in the British GT Championship.

For many teams, this would be a logistical nightmare but Christian and Amy have everything in hand although they are grateful that there aren't any date clashes between the country's premier Touring Car and Sportscar series this season.

As the team has developed over the years, the number of people they employ has increased. Christian says, "We use a combination of full-time staff and contractors to get the job done as efficiently as possible. We only have a small number of permanent employees (seven) but in the build up to events and at race meetings, the team swells to around 30.

"We can't use the same people for both of the major projects that we are involved in (Touring Cars and GTs), even though there are no clashing race meetings this season. The time required for preparation before and after each event makes it impossible - and that's before you consider any testing or 'worse case scenarios' like major repairs following accident damage."



The Speedworks Simulator - Photo Speedworks

Due to Covid-19 the contact with Toyota is remote at the moment and takes place online via Teams/Zoom meetings however this has proved to be a really efficient way of working and is unlikely to change.

The other impact of the coronavirus on the team has been the closure of their state-of-the-art simulator as it requires at least two people to be in the room to operate it. Christian plans to re-open the facility at the appropriate time.

The simulator can replicate any car from BTCC to Ginetta Junior, LMP3 to F3. This includes changes to the seating position to match each type of car. These adjustments are electronic and can be made in a matter of seconds. Speedworks hire out their virtual racing world in hour-long slots and usually supply a driver coach although external reputable coaches can accompany their clients by prior arrangement.



BTCC Hybrid development car - Photo www.carmagazine.co.uk

Although the simulator may be unavailable, Speedworks remain very busy as, in addition to their racing programmes this year, they are also supporting the organisers of the BTCC, TOCA, in the development of the Hybrid power train due to become mandatory for the 2022 season. The package utilises battery technology developed by Cosworth.

Knowledge of this cutting-edge hardware will surely help keep Speedworks at the forefront of Touring Car and GT racing making them a team to watch for some time to come.

Dave Williams

2021 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

RACE MEETINGS

May 22	MGCC	Oulton
Jun 05	MSVR	Oulton
Jun 05	BRSCC NW	Knockhill
Jun 06	BRSCC NW	Knockhill
Jun 12	BARC NW	Oulton
Jun 19	BRSCC NW - Fiesta	Oulton
Jun 19	750MC	Anglesey
Jun 20	750MC	Anglesey
Jul 03	MSVR	Oulton
Jul 10	VSCC	Oulton
Jul 10	BRSCC NW	Anglesey
Jul 11	BRSCC NW	Anglesey
Jul 17	Time Attack	Oulton
Jul 24	MSVR	Oulton

SPRINT MEETINGS

May 29	Longton & DMC	Anglesey
May 30	Longton & DMC	Anglesey
Jun 13	Longton & DMC	Three Sisters
Jun 26	Liverpool MC	Aintree
Jul 25	Longton & DMC	Three Sisters

HILLCLIMB MEETINGS

Jun 12	Liverpool MC	Barbon
Jun 12	Hagley & DLCC	Loton Park
Jun 13	Hagley & DLCC	Loton Park
Jul 03	Liverpool MC	Barbon
Jul 10	Hagley & DLCC	Loton Park
Jul 11	Hagley & DLCC	Loton Park
Jul 18	Mid Ches MRC	Scammonden

RALLYING

TBA

NW REGION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 25 Via Zoom

DUE TO COVID-19 BE AWARE THAT THE ABOVE DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CONFIRM WITH THE RELEVANT CHIEF MARSHAL.

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	£14.50
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

Next Copy Date - 28th June 2021

Publishing Date - 5th July 2021

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.

William Mason	Wistaston
Maria Goode	Holmes Chapel
Adrian Haywood	Frodsham
Peter Jukes	Shrewsbury
Daniel Pearson	Leigh
Kevin Jessop	Southport
John Fairchild	Shrewsbury

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