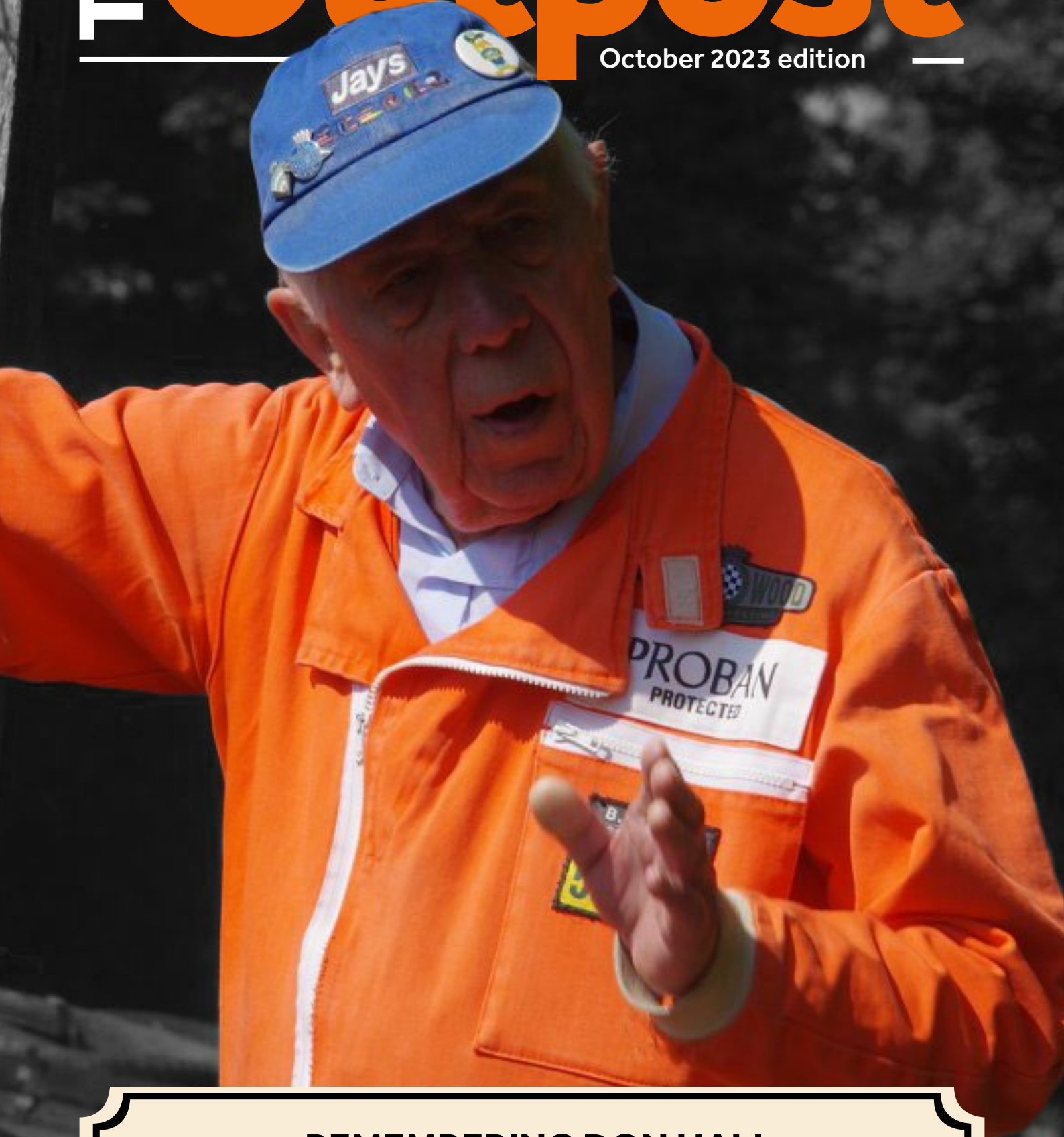


The Outpost

October 2023 edition



REMEMBERING DON HALL

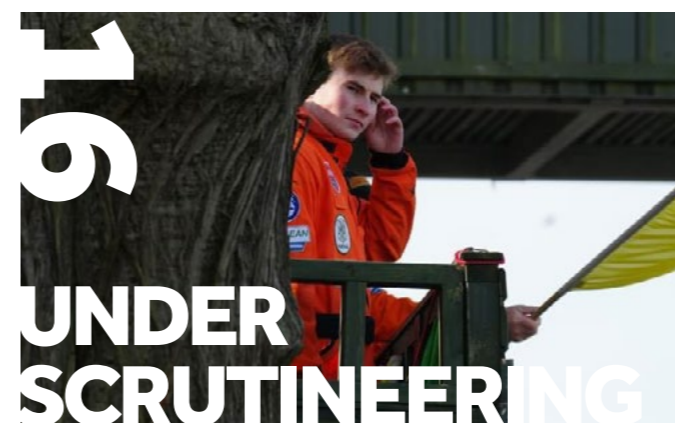
1926 - 2018



A Look Inside

Welcome to the October edition of the Outpost. We bring you up to speed on the latest news as we move towards the end of the season. This edition is a special edition that takes a brief stroll down memory lane, as we remember our beloved Don Hall.

In this edition, we share with you information about our AGM, marshals who are racing at Oulton Park in a Fun Cup car, and the latest Net Zero initiative. We hope you enjoy.



We would like to pass on our thanks to PS Images and Paul Williams for their continued support of the stunning imagery that is seen throughout the magazine and on our social media channels.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

WHERE has our summer gone then? I seem to remember getting quite wet at Oulton Park and Anglesey this year and I am concerned that rust has set in on my knees and other parts. However, we should not complain too much as there is still quite a lot of racing to look forward to as the season starts to draw to a close. If you still need that fix, or scratch that itch, then make sure you volunteer in plenty of time.

Don't forget that on 28th October, thanks to the generous support of the Fun Cup, a team of marshals – yes that's right, marshals will be racing in the season closer at Oulton Park! The participants have been chosen carefully and with no previous race experience it promises to be an interesting race. Two marshals will also be acting as pit crew, so come and support them.

Traditionally, the close season means AGMs both Regional and National, along with preparing for 2024 and the training events. It also means that the NW region would like to be able to present awards to well deserving marshals. So, we would like your suggestions as to whom you think would be worthy recipients of the following trophies:

- **Stewart Ashford** - Awarded to the most outstanding Junior/Cadet
- **Cliff Hammond** - Awarded to the Best Newcomer with less than 2 years membership
- **Don Hall** - Awarded to a Flag Marshal exhibiting outstanding qualities
- **Bellini** - Awarded for outstanding contribution to marshalling and the North West Region
- **Veterans** - Awarded to a Senior marshal for long standing contribution to motor sport and the North West Region

Do you have someone in mind whom you think would be a worthy recipient?

Think about what that person has done:

- Going above and beyond
- Leadership skills
- Making a difference
- Overcoming challenges
- Personal development
- Teamwork

If you do, please let the NW Secretary or myself know by the end of October 2023. We hope to be able to present the awards at training weekend next year. Contact details are at the back of Outpost.

Light installations. The Oulton Park team are reviewing the new lights and I will be discussing their locations during the close season in a bid to improve their visibility and how they can be best used in conjunction with flags. The controller locations will also be looked at so that they are more accessible. Coupled with the fact that some debris fencing will also be replaced is a positive indicator that there is considerable investment being made to the circuit to secure its long-term future.

Environment & car sharing. The club asked its members to complete a survey recently and one of the comments regarding attending events was down to increased costs along with cost of living. So, the NW region will be setting up a central point to provide information on marshals living near you, and/or on your route to the circuit. It will then be down to you to make contact and make arrangements to car share. Some of you are doing this already and it is proving to be helpful. More information on this will be sent separately, including a GDPR statement.

Other points in the survey regarding reducing volunteer days included clash of meetings, quality of meetings, family commitments and health reasons. (There were others as well).

The survey results were quite revealing and thank you to all who completed it. We will prepare a presentation ready for training weekend in early 2024. Rest assured, your opinions count, and the club is committed to improving the marshalling experience as best we can.

We are collating data for the club to calculate its carbon footprint for 2023 and I will be able to present the information at the December 2023 National Council meeting.

BMMC held an EGM recently to introduce the new rules for the club. These have been adopted with immediate effect and the information is available on the BMMC website – members – essential reading. Please take some time to have a look through as they are there for you all.

The club relies heavily on clear communication and that means from clubs, circuits, members, drivers and spectators. So, if you have any feedback, grumbles, compliments, then tell us, rather than relying on social media. The NW committee is here to help. Any communication is always held in the strictest of confidence.

Finally, a quote from the late great Douglas Adams - "Time is an illusion. Lunchtime doubly so." Never a truer word has been said - especially with some of our meetings!

See you on the bank soon.

2024 MOTORSPORT UK RENEWALS OPEN

MOTORSPORT UK renewals are now open so please ensure you renew at your existing grade if you don't intend to upgrade before the year is out. If an upgrade is imminent that should be processed with 2024 in mind.

You can now renew your registration for 2024 by logging in to the Motorsport UK website. If you know of any Marshals who are unable to renew online, please help them by printing off a 2024 form which you can find on the resource centre, or email marshals@motorsportuk.org and one can be posted one to them.

YOUR UPGRADES

THE deadline has now passed for upgrades to be carried out under the old grading scheme, but if you have any queries, questions or issues, then please do contact us using marshals@motorsportuk.org.

Upgrades will now solely be on the Marshals Pathways scheme.

For upgrades in 2023, event attendance signatures are valid from 2018 onwards. Training module signatures are valid from 2019 onwards and both in person training and online training delivered by Motorsport UK Trainers counts.



NORTH WEST LAUNCHES CAR SHARING INITIATIVE

A NEW way to save money, and to make a positive contribution to the environment.

How do you get to your local race circuit or motorsport venue? Do you drive, take public transport, or get a lift with someone?

Would you find it easier to attend more meetings if you did not have to drive every time?

Do you want to save money on fuel?

Then you should join our car sharing scheme!

As part of BMMC's new environmental policy, we are starting a new car share scheme. It will help in many ways such as CO2 emissions reduction and cost saving, and it will provide opportunity for fellowship with your colleagues.

All you need to do is provide us with a few details - name, postcode (we will not need full address), contact details (email address preferred), maximum additional mileage and your usual circuit or venue.

We will then try to match you up with other marshals either in your area, or who live on or near your predicted route.

Once a match is found, we will send you contact details of your fellow marshals so you can decide between you how your car sharing could work.

This will initially be a trial for Oulton Park and Anglesey only, and we will be asking for feedback about its usefulness. If the pilot is deemed a success, we will look at rolling it out for other circuits.

Let's help to make a positive contribution to the environment whilst continuing to enjoy our hobby.

Contact nw.carshare@marshals.co.uk for more information, or to register your details.

Please note that your data will be held in accordance with current GDPR regulations and will be held for a maximum of two years, or until such time as you request its removal.



F1 VOLUNTEERING

As we head towards the end of the 2023 season, many of you will be starting to get your 2024 seasons in check.

The British Grand Prix is an event that marshals like to target in the year. Often seen as the reward for a year of hard marshalling. If you are a new marshal or have never been a marshal at the Grand Prix, you may be wondering how you go about volunteering. Don't worry we have you covered.

The British GP can't be accessed through the BMMC Volunteering System, and has a certain set of parameters set to it. These include:

- Being a minimum of a Grade One marshal (after passing your first assessment)
- Marshalled a certain number of days (currently 12) in the year at the Grade One level. It is usually advised that you complete 12 days in the discipline (i.e. flag, pits, incident) that you wish to volunteer for.

Finally, you will need to complete the application process, which is usually released in November. Keep your eyes on the BMMC NW social media groups and pages for the latest information.

Whilst, we are a few weeks away from the application process being open, now is a good chance to take stock of what days you have done, and whether you need to get a couple of more days in to make you eligible.

If you are successful in applying for the F1 you will join a group of over a thousand volunteers, of which a large number will be north west representatives.

Should you have any questions about the F1 application or preparing for an application this year or next, please contact a member of the committee who can assist you through the process.

Committee details can be found on page 19.

We would like to wish anyone applying, or reapplying for the British GP the best of luck.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THIS year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Thursday 9th November, at the Blue Cap Hotel.

The AGM will continue running in its dual format of both in-person and via Zoom. If you wish to attend either in-person or electronically, please inform the Secretary, nw.secretary@marshals.co.uk, no later than Thursday 2nd November.

Anyone interested in joining the Committee is invited to contact the Regional Secretary no less than fourteen days before the date of the meeting. A nomination form will then be sent, which will also give the date by which it must be

returned to the Secretary.

The application must be proposed and seconded by two fully paid-up members of the British Motorsport Marshals Club from the North West region and the nominee must confirm that they are willing to serve if appointed.

If there are more candidates for membership than there are vacancies, an election will be held under Rules K3.12 and K3.13. The election will close the day before the AGM and the results announced at the meeting.

Should an election be necessary, candidates will be asked to submit a statement prior to the election for members to consider. You will be contacted if this is necessary

THE DETAILS



Thursday 9th November



7:30pm start



Blue Cap, 520 Chester Road, Sandiway, Northwich, CW8 2DR



NW MARSHAL TO RACE IN FUN CUP

THREE marshals have won the opportunity to race in the final round of the Fun Cup Championship at Oulton Park on Saturday 28th October.

Joe Smith, a regular marshal at Oulton Park and Anglesey, is one of the drivers who will be piloting the number 97 car in the Fun Cup.

Speaking about the drive, Joe said: "I'm quite excited to be honest, I don't think it's really going to sink in until I get sat in the car on Friday for testing!"

Joe will join fellow marshals, Tyler James and Tom Pledger as the starting trio, with Craig Ballantyne as the reserve driver.

All four drivers have completed their ARDS test and complete their final preparations for the racing.

It's not just the drivers seat that will be occupied by marshals at the Fun Cup race. Dan Lloyd and Joshua Lee have also been selected to support the GT Radial Team as members of the pit crew.

We would like to wish all the drivers the best of the luck for the race, and we hope that you will all be giving Joe a huge cheer as he goes by.

After it was announced that Joe would be taking part in the racing, we had a quick chat with him to find out more and how he was introduced to motorsport and the marshalling world.



BMMC NW SETS OUT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

THE BMMC has a commitment to bettering marshalling for everyone involved each year. The North West committee has been working closely together to set out its aims and objectives for next year and the beyond.

The NW aims and objectives are:

- Reach, and be more proactive in, all disciplines and regional areas of motorsport for marshals to increase and maintain members.
- Support members with regards their wellbeing, welfare, training, volunteering and development in marshalling.
- Promote and develop closer working with other motorsport clubs and groups in the NW region.
- Treat everyone with respect, regardless of their gender, ethnic or social background, language, religious or other beliefs, disability, sexual status, or other personal status—we marshal as one.

As a member of the North West region, it is important that you are included in this process and are given the opportunity to have a voice.

If you wish to feedback on any of the aims or objectives, or would like to discuss further with our committee, contact details can be found on page 19.



1926 - 2018

REMEMBERING DON HALL

IN 1953 Oulton Park held its first ever race meeting. A young Don Hall spectated the event and met another Motorsport legend, Tom Dooley, who convinced him to get involved.

Before Don passed away in 2018, I got the opportunity to talk to him about his time as a motorsport marshal. A time that spanned over seven decades, seeing some of the true motorsports greats come and go.

As we sat in his humble bungalow in Maghull, Liverpool, he spoke fondly of his time in the early days as a marshal. With a chuckle, he asked me if I remembered the trees that used to line the 'Avenue' at Oulton Park.

I confessed I didn't, and he proceeded to tell me of the incredible time a Jaguar had run wide and weaved between the five trees, before rejoining the race, having only lost one position.

I sat there amazed at this being his opening story. I simply needed to know more about him and his time in motorsport. I simply asked; "What else happened?"

As the clock ticked on, he told one story after another after another, and I was thankful I had taken shorthand at university. He looked at me and said; "I remember one day, a race meeting was postponed because of snow." I was not surprised but just waited on his next word.

He continued; "Oh yes, I was a flag marshal at Old Hall, I looked down the pit lane and thought it was funny that I could no longer see the bridge over the start/finish straight. In fact the more I watched the pitlane itself disappeared.

"Before I knew it the snow was upon me and I thought to myself, I best get the green flag out ready for the session to start."

Perhaps this is where Don's all round weather attitude came from, often you would see him at the side of the circuit in his pale blue shirt and beige shorts. Occasionally, he popped a jacket on in the afternoon at Anglesey to keep the chill off his back.

"The stewards after reading the Observer's report and listening to Mr Senna's statement have fined him £250 and endorsed his license for dangerous driving"

A famous racing driver once said; "If you no longer go for a gap, then you are no longer a racing driver." Unfortunately, even someone who is regarded as the greatest Formula One driver of all time can't escape Don.



During my time talking to him, he recited that Nicola Foulston said marshals are only there for their five minutes of glory. So, in his own words this is Don's.

"My five minutes of glory is when I was Observer at Fosters, at Oulton Park. I was an Observer at that post when Senna and Brundell came together.

"I had got another senior official in the box, Dick Fraiser, who I thought was in charge, but he said: 'No, carry on.'

"Anyways, to cut a long story short, Senna was having a look down the inside each every time he passed us and eventually he tried to get past and their wheels got stuck.

"His car sat up, and sat on the rollover bar of Brundell's car, with his front wheels on the deck,

and then they did three, 360 degree spins and parked on the bit of grass between the bend and the top straight, so they 10/10 for parking and we didn't have to stop the race.

"I looked at Dick and said, 'Are you going to write the report out?' He said: 'You write your report out.' So, I did and wrote it out and he had written his out, and I had written word for word what he had written, not just in sense, but in word.

"I put on the bottom, it was number one's car's line through the corner. About an hour later I got a sheet of paper that said, 'The stewards after reading the Observer's report and listening to Mr Senna's statement have fined him £250 and endorsed his license for dangerous driving.

"So, that for me is my five minutes of glory."

SAME LOVE, NEW FRIENDS

Towards the latter days of his marshalling career, Don decided that he would turn his hand back to flagging. A part of motorsport that he has always enjoyed, due to it being the only part of the sport where you are directly in communication with the driver whilst they are racing.

Don paused, you could see that he was trying to catalogue over 60 plus years of the sport. He broke the silence, saying: "For the turning point for me was meeting Paul Levitt.

"I knew people when I arrived on circuit, and would say 'Hello, hello, hello' to people, but I didn't know then except for exchanging greetings with them.

"But, since I met Paul and particularly going to Anglesey I had a whole family of friends. It was totally different.

"It rekindled my enjoyment of marshalling and I was able to pass on stories and share my time with like minded people."

As the evening drew to it's conclusion I asked Don, one final question. What would you change about marshalling, and is there anything you miss?

His eyes dance, and a smile and laugh came to him, "Yes, I would like to be nearer the track.

"And I will tell you why." Before I had even a chance to ask this question he was already keen to answer it.

"Why? Because I believe that a flag marshal should be in the eye line of the driver.

"And at Avenue, we stood on the edge track on the grass. We did and you could hit the car as they came past with the flag.

"I think it was Jim Clark I once caught on the head with my yellow flag, but there was no doubt that he saw it."

The interview concluded and I looked forward to seeing him the next time we were marshalling together, as there was always going to be another story that he was excited to tell me about.

Sadly, Don passed away just two days short of his 92nd birthday in 2018. However, his legacy and his love for flag marshalling lives on today.



Both through a physical trophy for the 'Flag Marshal of the Year' and to those who are learning the art of flagging today, your teacher or mentor was probably taught by Don.

Even though the original interview was recorded in 2016, listening back to it now brings back happy memories and sage old advice from Don.

His parting note in the interview was: "I miss that, being nearer the track." Perhaps that is something we can all take as the best advice.

"I miss that, being nearer the track."

UNDER SCRUTINEERING

In this section we get to know some of the people that share the same love of Motorsport as us.

This edition we get to know Joe Smith, Oulton Park and Anglesey marshal and soon to be Fun Cup racer.

Joe started in marshalling in 2021, after he was brought to the race track by his dad, Andy Smith.

Starting as an under 18 marshal, Joe has taken his time to learn the art of flagging before getting into incident marshalling after his 18th birthday. Since getting involved in incident marshalling, Joe has seen his fair share of incidents, most recently a rather scary Ferrari crash during the BritCar weekend at Oulton Park.

Let's get stuck in and get to know Joe a bit better.

What is your first memory of Motorsport?

My first memory is probably Oulton Park at a very young age, I would come along with my dad to watch all sorts of racing.

How did you get into marshalling?

My dad. Ha! My dad, Andy Smith, has been marshalling for over 30 years. I have always wanted to get involved, so after Covid-19 I thought it would be best to get stuck in, and I was just old enough to get out onto the bank.

What is your favourite memory of motorsport marshalling?

British GT's at the very beginning of my marshalling career. The cars are very fast, and



there is always exciting action. It is a great race to watch and a better one to marshal.

What is your favourite race track to go to?

My favourite track? Easy, it has to be Anglesey as it's so picturesque and the racing is great! I was lucky enough to go over there from the very beginning. Again, my dad had an influence in that.

What is a must do event?

British GTs, it's a must do event there is always great on track action.

What advice would you give to anyone thinking about marshalling?

Give it a go, everyone is very friendly and will always give advice on what to do and when. Just get involved in it, marshalling is a great community.

What circuits or events would you most like to do?

I would like my marshalling carrier to enable me to visit circuits like Spa, Zandvoort, Nurburgring and Le Mans. I was at Le Mans this year, however, I was not marshalling. I'm hoping that I will be next year as I will have passed my grade one test, I just need to complete the application form for Le Mans.

If you would like a chance to be featured in the Outpost spotlight piece, please contact our Media Coordinator, Robert Lee, on nw.media@marshals.co.uk.

Whether you have been marshalling for years, or you have just started out, we would like to hear your story on how you became involved in marshalling, and what drives you to get involved with Motorsport more.



UPCOMING EVENTS



BRSCC NW

Date - Saturday 28 October
Location - Oulton Park

The height of British Motorsport sweeps into Cheshire in a couple of weeks. The annual buzz around the BTCC is felt throughout the entire weekend and is one to experience.

If you've got time, get in contact with the Chief Marshal to get your name down for this one.



Neil Howard Rally

Date - Saturday 4 November
Location - Oulton Park

One last hurrah for the motorsport season at Oulton Park. The Neil Howard rally brings some bang with its bucks (quite literally with a firework display). The Neil Howard rally is a great introduction into the world of rally marshalling.



Race of Remembrance

Date - Friday 10 - Sunday 12 November
Location - Anglesey

What has now become the final race of the season in the North West region, the Race of Remembrance is one of the most iconic on the calendar. The Race of Remembrance is not one to be missed.



2024 Training Day

Date - February 2024
Location - Oulton Park

Get yourself prepared for the 2024 season with our annual training day. Covering everything from 'first marshal on scene,' 'cadet marshal training,' right through to communications and flag training.



The North West Committee

The committee is made up of all grades, and backgrounds of marshals, just like you, and are an approachable group of volunteers who are more than happy to help you. Should you have any issues during your time marshalling, have an incentive that you would like to raise, or you have a general question that you would like answering, you can direct it to one of the following people.

North West Chair

Mike Broadbent
nw.chair@marshals.co.uk
Tel: 07548 258546

Secretary

Paul Newns
nw.secretary@marshals.co.uk
Tel: 01691 829107

Vice Chair & Training Coordinator

Bill Gray
nw.training@marshals.co.uk
Tel: 01704 220839

Membership Coordinator

John Edwards
nw.members@marshals.co.uk
Tel: 07800 587391

Grading Coordinator

Rob Mugurian
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Tel: 07856 090 155

Volunteering Coordinator

Janette Williams
nw.volco@marshals.co.uk
Tel: 07739 166149

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nw.regalia@marshals.co.uk
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Recruitment Coordinator

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Rally Representative

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Speed Representative

Bill Gray
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Tel: 01704 220839

Recruitment Team

Andrew Pratt-Fryer
Tel: 07759 750090

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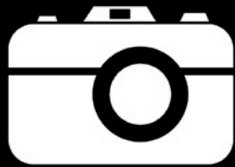
The BMMC NW region is active on social media bringing you information about events, event sign-on, latest news and more. Our North West Marshals group, is the best way to ask questions in an open forum and get open feedback.

-  @BMMCNW (Page)
-  BMMC North West Marshals (Group)
-  @BMMC_NW
-  @BMMC_NW

Check out our pages.



Scan to book a
taster day



Interested in marshalling?

Want to get closer to the action and have the best seat in the house? Want to be involved more with the sport that you love?

Motorsport marshals provide a valuable service to the rest of the motorsport world, a service that without racing simply would not exist.

Marshalling is for anybody who is interested in and wants to be involved in Motorsport. You don't need any special skills or qualifications to start, just common sense and a reasonably developed sense of self-preservation.

The best way to see if marshalling is for you is to try a taster day. Use the QR code above or contact the NW regional recruitment officer, on nw.recruiting@marshals.co.uk.