

The Outpost

January 2024 edition

Feature - Rally marshalling

Taking a look at why some marshals head out to rallies.

Under scrutineering

We get to know a flag marshal, who is retiring.

Regional news

We bring you up to speed on all things BMMC in the north west.





A Look Inside

Welcome to the January edition of the Outpost. We bring you up to speed on the latest news as we look ahead to the 2024 season. This edition's feature will give you an insight on what it is like to be a rally marshal, and how you can get involved.

In this edition, we share with you information about our new car sharing scheme, a couple of regular faces moving on from the region and we already have some award winners. We hope you enjoy.

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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

HAPPY New Year, I hope you all had a well-earned rest over Christmas. As we set our sights on the new season, I can confirm that the dates for training have now been announced and will take place on Saturday 10th, and Sunday 11th February.

So, what will 2024 bring us? More racing, I hope to start with! The training weekend is always a great place to start the season, allowing us to meet up with colleagues again, make acquaintance with the new marshals, remind ourselves how to use the radios correctly, deal with incidents, use fire extinguishers properly, and treat everyone with respect. We are all volunteers, irrespective of our different backgrounds, and we should embrace the diverse community we all come together in.

Oh, and don't forget regalia. The 2024 range is now available to you all, and I encourage you to treat yourself (and others) to the great new range now available. We continue building our brand as the premier marshals club in the UK. Watch out for more bulletins from MSUK. They are continuing to develop and introduce more innovative ways to be involved.

A look back to 2023

The season opener at Oulton Park was challenging in many quarters, with close racing from the various Caterham series. Unfortunately, the event was curtailed due to an accident at Island. However, all was well due to the swift action of the marshals and the rescue teams. Moments like that make you realise the benefit of training, teamwork, and being responsible for yourselves, fellow marshals, and competitors. Cars can be fixed – not so easy for volunteers or drivers.

The season moved on at pace with visiting clubs, including CSCC, MSVR, BRSCC, BARC (HQ and NW Centres), HSCC, Equipe GTS, 750MC and MGCC. High-profile events such as British GTs, BTCC, and Gold Cup continue to attract large crowds. Will we see them all again in 2024? Let's hope so. Unfortunately, MGCC has ceased organising circuit racing after 70 years. However, other clubs will look after their race series so we can continue to see the red octagon at Oulton Park and Anglesey.

Events at Oulton Park saw the introduction of new lights to complement and support flags. Despite a shaky start (and collective holding of breath at the BTCC event), they have been well received as they are clearer and faster than the old systems. Like anything else new, it will take time to bed in fully, so if you get the chance, have a go. They will not bite you and, despite the rumours, will not replace you – they are there to support and assist. The technology will allow information to be passed to drivers instantly (in some series) and help the clerks with any judicial decisions. So, don't feel threatened; just embrace them as additional support.

So, what were your memories of 2023?

Probably more exciting than me! Some of you travelled abroad to marshal, including Daytona, Las Vegas, Austin, Miami, and many more. Don't forget to share your travels and experiences with us. It could feature in this very magazine.

This year's weather was similar to Vivaldi's Four Seasons at Oulton Park and Anglesey. Yes, we have had some sunshine along with some cold and wet weather where even a hot Bovril barely touched the sides. However, we kept our

spirits up with some excellent racing, exotic machinery, and welcoming new marshals into the fold. It is always heartening to see a group of new marshals being taken around the circuit and then join us on post in the afternoon. I am pleased to see how you embraced them and showed them the ropes. All marshals start the same way: wide-eyed, excited and with no expectations. I am proud of how you all take the 'newbies' under your collective wings and encourage and support them.

I would like to publicly thank the Northwest committee for their input, support, and commitment to improving all aspects of marshalling in the Northwest region. They give up their time to make sure everything you see at Oulton Park and Anglesey can continue to happen smoothly.

I am very proud to be part of the BMMC Northwest marshals. You all show camaraderie, compassion, and a spirit of fellowship, which other visiting marshals, clubs, and competitors recognise. I hear, from people, two things – 'Great circuit, great people.' That's down to you, yes you.

In closing, my messages to you are simple: keep doing what you are doing now, and look after yourselves and each other.

Thank you.

NEWS - NORTH WEST

NORTH WEST TRAINING DAYS

ARE you joining us for our annual training sessions at Oulton Park? Our training sessions will occur on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th February.

What's on each day?

Saturday: Prospective/new marshals, On Track - Grade 2 (Incident), On Track - Grade 2 (Flag), Off Track - Grade 2, and Cadet.

Sunday - On Track - Grade 1 (more than three days), Off Track - Grade 1 (more than three days), On Track - Grade 3, and Off Track - Grade 3.

If you are under 18, your parent/guardian must complete an Indemnity Form before the event (we will send these out in January). A responsible adult must accompany you on the day.

Over the training weekend MSV will sell hot food in the Chequers restaurant at lunchtime; this will be at your own cost, £6.75 for a hot meal and a glass of squash.

If you want to purchase one of these meals, please email nw.recruiting@marshals.co.uk ASAP, indicating which day you are attending.

Hot drinks will also be available during the day – please bring a mug/cup to reduce the number of disposable items used.

Please note: If you are attending the New And Prospective Marshal (RM1) session on Saturday, you must bring a packed lunch, as you will have a lunchtime activity.



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.

KEITH KEHOE RETIRES

After 32 years, Keith Kehoe is hanging up his flags to retire from marshalling.

Keith started marshalling in 1991 and was a stalwart of the Northwest whether it was sunny, raining or snowing.

One of his most memorable moments as a marshal was when an MG (or two) destroyed the box at Lakeside; however, Keith was still on hand to wave his yellow flags and remained on station throughout the rest of the day.

Following his retirement, Keith said on social media, "I'm going to miss all my friends in the Orange Family. I can keep up with what you all get up to through Facebook. Thank you to everyone I have ever been on post with and for putting up with me."

"I've had many trainees with me over the years, many of whom are now fully fledged flaggies (try saying that when you've had a few), and a couple are now Post Chiefs. I hope to pop in on training day to say hello, and I will see some of you at a



couple of meetings next season, but I will be on the spectator side of the fence. Anyway, enjoy your marshalling next season, take care and stay safe."

We would like to thank Keith for his service over the years and wish him the best in his retirement. He will be greatly missed on the bank. We wish him the best.

JOHN EDWARDS WINS DOWNFORCE RADIO AWARD

Our regional Membership Coordinator and National secretary, John Edwards, has won Downforce Radio 2023 Marshal of the Year.

Downforce Radio wrote: "Not only is he a fantastic marshal in his own right, but he is famous within the club for having all the time in the world for other people."

"His supportive and guiding nature has meant his skills and knowledge have been passed on to many others, ensuring that the sport is maintained and protected by the Orange Army present and future."

Congratulations, John. It's a thoroughly deserved win.



AU REVOIR TO COLIN BARNES

At the end of last season, we said goodbye to our long-standing Chief Flag Marshal, Colin Barnes.

As some of you may know, Colin Barnes has served as the club's Chief Flag Marshal at Oulton Park for many years, during which he also spent a good time looking after Northwest Region's finances. But a few months back, Colin stood down as he relocated to Bristol – Sean Herbert has now taken on the Chief Flag Marshal role.

Some years ago, Colin established a small Chief Flag Marshal's team, which not only develops and delivers flag marshal training, but some of the team also take on the role of Chief and Deputy at individual meetings.

Colin has been a good friend, coach, mentor and organiser for the team and the broader group of OP flag marshals. The team and a couple of VIP guests (Margaret Simpson and Mike Cadwallader) wanted to mark this and met up with Colin for lunch in Chester at the beginning of December.

The lunch also created the opportunity to present Colin with a memento in the form of a portrait on canvas that the team commissioned from Steve Jones, who did a fantastic job. Many thanks to Steve and Shirley Woodall and able assistant in shorts, Mr Rainford, for sneakily getting some reference photos so that Steve could capture Colin's likeness well.



Also presented was a chequered flag with every white space signed by a host of regulars at Oulton Park and a case of something to lubricate the passing of days during the closed season.

It is 'au revoir' because we will stay in contact with Colin and see him from time to time. He has already volunteered at one meeting at Castle Combe (now his nearest circuit). Still, at only eight meetings per year, the circuit will undoubtedly not satisfy his flag marshalling appetite.

We wish Colin and his family all the very best for their new life in the southwest and wait with interest as to how long it will take them to understand the local accent and become used to being addressed everywhere as 'my lovely'.



PAUL LEVITT WINS BRSCC CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY

Paul Levitt is the first-ever recipient of the new award. The BRSCC introduced a new trophy at this year's annual awards – the inaugural BRSCC Chairman's Trophy. This accolade, like those awarded in previous years, is and will be presented annually to the club member who has done the most to promote the name and interests of the Club.

Paul began volunteering in motorsport in 2011. Over the years, he has been awarded a selection of Marshal of the Year and Newcomer of the Year awards, and in recent years, he was recognised by Motorsport UK as one of the top volunteers in UK motorsport.

More recently, his efforts as a clerk of the course for the BRSCC have stood out for the Club, working tirelessly with three of its most competitive championships to improve driving standards across the board and ensure they stay consistent.

Paul also worked hard to provide exceptional service to manufacturer-owned championships this season. It is felt that the contribution and involvement of this year's winner, and that of all the others who played their parts too, was one of the key factors that eventually led to the BRSCC securing an agreement with Ginetta as the manufacturer's organising club from 2024 onwards.

To quote directly from those who nominated him for the award this year, Paul is quite simply "BRSCC through and through." His passion for supporting the club is unmeasurable, and the time he gives up freely away from his personal life and his business often goes without credit. It is clear that this year's inaugural winner of the trophy is not involved with the club for what they can get out of it; instead, he takes enjoyment from seeing the BRSCC succeeding as we continue to move forward.



A YEAR IN NUMBERS

A look back over 2023.

5 TASTER DAYS

83 ATTENDEES ON TASTER DAYS

81 NORTH WEST MARSHALLING DAYS

45 CIRCUIT RACE DAYS

34 UPGRADES

27 AT OULTON PARK

73

18 AT ANGLESEY CIRCUIT

NEW MARSHALS

36 SPEED DAYS

NEW!

14 SPRINTS

22 HILL CLIMBS

FEATURE - RALLYING



While some marshals hibernate for the winter, others take their cars and find the nearest forest, woodland area, beach, closed road, or any strip of dirt available to continue getting their motorsport fix.

In essence, rally marshalling is one of the purest forms of marshalling. While it may be similar to circuit races, marshals are more spread out and rely on instinct.

For those who want to try rally marshalling, [visit the BRMC website](#). You should also contact your local representative (you can find information on our committee section page) and do the MSUK-accredited marshal course, which is the same for rallies and races.

A calendar is available on the BRMC website to determine what events are in the Northwest. If you want to volunteer for an event, use the BRMC website or let your rep suggest one local. The Rep will then buddy you up with someone who will be in attendance; there is generally a BRMC presence

at any given rally, and we will be running a stage on a lot of them.

A bit more to it

Firstly, and importantly, Rally Marshalling is more than just motorsport. To get the most out of it,

“It’s a world away from circuit racing. It can be rough and ready, where you might have to be totally self-sufficient for hours at a time.”

you need a holistic view. It’s the whole day, and generally, you go to interesting places that no one else gets to visit. Somewhere rather picturesque, unless it’s Clifton sewage works, but even then, you have a story to tell.

said: “It’s a world away from circuit racing. It can be rough and ready, where you might have to be self-sufficient for hours. One hundred plus cars being sent into a forest or up and down some mountains, loose surfaces, trees, cliffs, boulders, plus the occasional cyclist or dog-walker to add to the fun.

“It’s not roundy-roundy, so you generally only see all the cars once or twice. Being a point-to-point, marshals need to keep their wits about them and be prepared for situations you wouldn’t get on a circuit, such as a car up a tree or fully submerged in a lake. Rallies can occur in beautiful and/or bizarre places, ranging from the beautiful Lake District and Snowdonia to derelict docklands and army ranges.

“As a rally marshal, there’s a need for a wider skill set that goes way beyond circuit marshalling requirements, such as diplomacy, scene management, timing, providing radio comms over hundreds of square miles and being able to knock up a brew and a bacon barm in any conditions, day or night, out of seemingly nothing. Rally marshals are the Swiss Army Knives of marshalling.”

There are many positives to rally marshalling, and it is well worth getting involved with. If you want more information about rallying, contact our rally coordinator, Ian Briggs, at north@brmc.org.uk.

Upcoming Events

BRMC North Stages:

Malcolm Wilson, near Coniston - Saturday 9th March

North West Stages, Bowland - Saturday - 23rd March.

Trac Mon Rally - Saturday 2nd March

At the end of February, there is the East Riding stages, Beverly, which has a large BRMC presence, and many of the organisers are NW members.

Getting to where you are going may take a bit of navigation, but when you get there, you may have a choice of the best spot to cover your area. Keeping yourself comfy for the day is mainly down to you, and people make an art of kitting themselves and their cars out.

Then there is the marshalling, mostly the same as the circuit for the basics, but the rescue crew can be eight miles away, so being able to deal with whatever presents itself to you whilst waiting is something to consider. We don’t put new people in that situation without company. Interacting with the public and spectators can be a pest, but get them on your side, and you have made new friends.

You have much more autonomy as a rally marshal; it gives you a new, unique life skill. You get a lot closer and personal to the crews when doing timing or if they have an issue close to you.

Talking about rallying and what it is like, Rob Baxandall, a frequent rally and circuit marshal,





CLUB 2024 CHARITY PARTNER IS MISSION MOTORSPORT

The British Motorsports Marshals Club (BMMC) is pleased to announce that its charity partner for 2024 will be Mission Motorsport.

Mission Motorsport, the Forces' Motorsport Charity, whose motto is "Race Retrain Recover", is MoD's competent authority for motorsport as a recovery activity and is a Royal Foundation (the charitable trust of the Prince and Princess of Wales) and Endeavour Fund supported initiative.

The charity's dedicated career managers have placed more than 200 Wounded, Injured and Sick service leavers into employment since the inaugural Invictus Games in September 2014. Over 2000 veterans have found work through the charity's programs.

A Service Charity and a member of the Confederation of Service Charities, Mission Motorsport has an award-winning collaborative model of working with government and other service charities. It is funded by the Government's Positive Pathways program, The Soldiers' Charity (the Army Benevolent Fund), the Forces' Trust and the Greenwich Hospital, and by industry partners and independent fundraising.

Mission Motorsport is the organisation behind the annual Race of Remembrance event, held at Trac Mon, Anglesey. The 12-hour endurance race runs through the night over two days and has grown beyond anybody's wildest imagination with a starting grid double the size of the first event. As the event has evolved, becoming bigger and better, the profoundly moving and poignant Remembrance service remains at its heart. Last year, nearly 150 marshals supported this fantastic event.

BMMC Chair Nadine Lewis said: "BMMC are proud to be supporting Mission Motorsport and look forward to raising funds at events in 2024."

Mission Motorsport Chief Operating Officer Andy Brown said: "As the Forces' Motorsport Charity supporting service leavers, veterans and their families, and their transition into civilian life, we are forever grateful for the support of the wider community and organisations such as the British Motorsports Marshals Club. We simply wouldn't be able to do what we do for our Armed Forces community without it, and we are honoured to be chosen as BMMC's charity of the year."

BMMC APPOINT NEW NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

MIKE Mulder has been appointed as the new BMMC National Membership Coordinator and will assume his post as a member of the National Council in the New Year, taking over from Dave Reed.

Responsible for overseeing all matters relating to membership, Mike became a marshal to give something back to the sport after enjoying many hours spent around the country and overseas on track days.

Speaking about his appointment, Mike said: "I'm delighted to be invited to take on the role of NMC and have the opportunity

to support the club while illness prevents me from being as active on track as I would like."

BMMC Chair Nadine Lewis added: "Taking over from Dave, I know Mike has some big shoes to fill, however, we are confident he has the enthusiasm and skills to coordinate our membership data and subscriptions process."

"The directors would like to thank Dave Reed for all his contributions as National Membership Coordinator over the last 10 years and wish him well for the future."



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 Keith Kehoe, retired Oulton Park and Anglesey flag marshal.

Keith started marshalling in 1991, after he was brought to the race track by his dad, Andy Smith.

Over the 32 years of marshalling, a lot has changed at both Oulton Park and the motorsport world. Keith has probably lost count at how many times he has heard the commentator say "they could be a future F1 star," but he could probably find it harder to count how many days he has marshalled and how many times he has waved a flag.

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

What is your favourite memory of Motorsport?

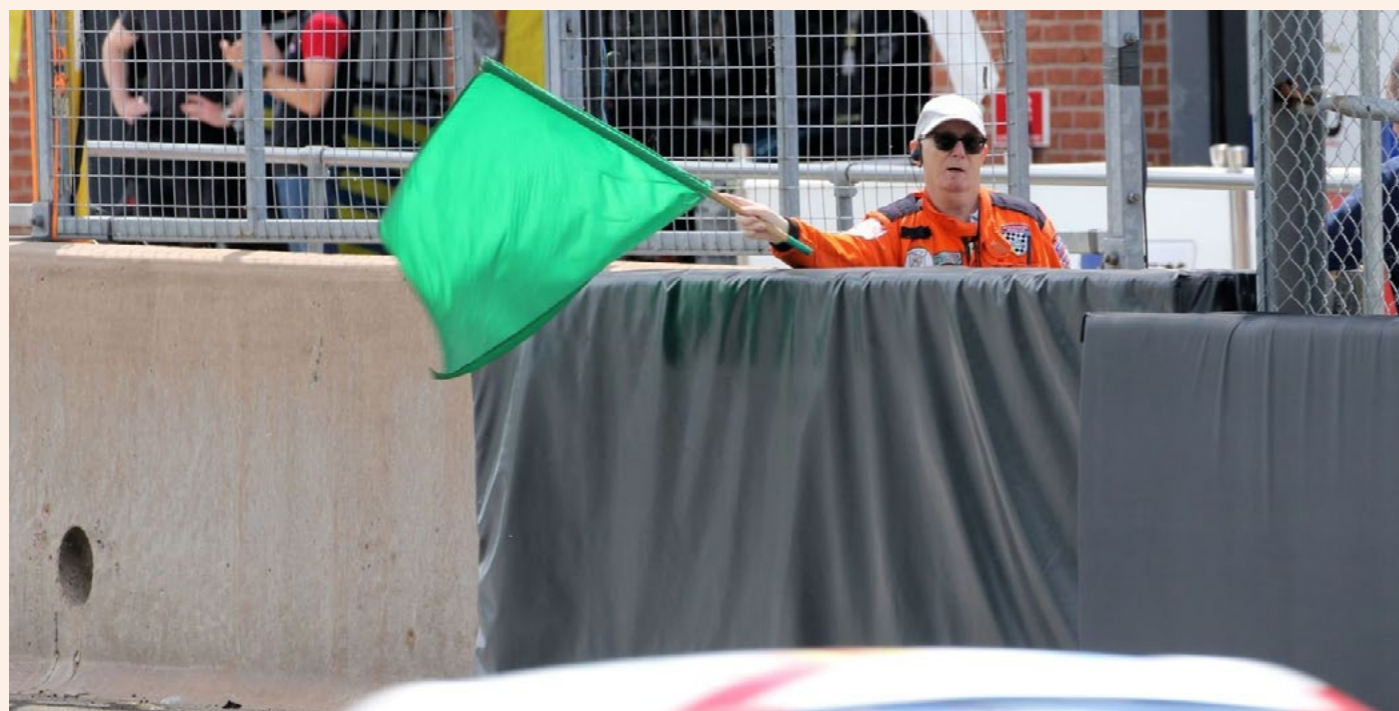
My favourite thing was being close to the action and feeling part of the action. It was great being next to the circuit and being involved so much.

What is your favourite track?

Oulton Park, nice and simple.

Which race series did you enjoy the most?

My favourite series is the CNC Heads because there are so many classes and speed differences. You are always on your toes and busy on the blue flag. There is very little that compares to it.



What has changed in the past 32 years?

Apart from the improvements to the circuits, which there have been a lot of, I think the safety has improved greatly. Always for the better, but you can see huge differences over the last three decades.

If you could change one thing about marshalling, what would it be and why?

I wouldn't change much, unless you can guarantee there would be a decent lunch break. Then I would happily say that, a lunch break.

What are you going to miss most about marshalling?

The thing I will miss the most is the friendly banter with other members of the orange army. I will still pop down to the circuit, but I will be on the other side of the barrier.

What advice would you give to marshals?

My advice would be to be aware and stay safe. Enjoy it as well, it is a hobby at the end of the day.

What is the secret to managing 32 years as a marshal?

There is no secret just wear appropriate clothing when the weather is bad and above all enjoy your self.

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



Training Day

Date - 10th/11th February
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.

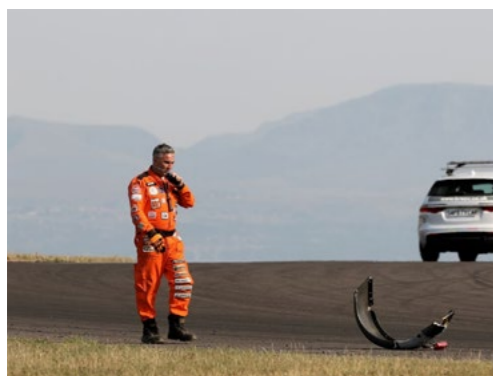


Malcolm Wilson Rally

Date - Saturday 9 March
Location - Nr. Coniston

Ready to lace up the marshalling boots, and don the orange overalls? The Malcolm Wilson rally is a great way to get your motor racing fix.

Not marshalled a rally before? Why not give it a try.



HDLCC - Hill Climb championship

Date - 16th/17th March
Location - Loton Park

Loton Park hill climb is another great fix for your marshalling craving.

Speed events put the drivers against the clock, and keep you on your toes.



British GTs

Date - February 2024
Location - Oulton Park

The British GTs are back, and this time they are kicking off the circuit racing season for us.

One of the highlight fixtures on the racing calendar, this is not to be missed.

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
nw.grading@marshals.co.uk
Tel: 07856 090 155

Volunteering Coordinator

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

Regalia Sales

Dave Smithson
nw.regalia@marshals.co.uk
Tel: 07776 187005

Recruitment Coordinator

Duncan Fitz-Gibbons
nw.recruiting@marshals.co.uk
Tel: 07467 812345

Media Coordinator

Robert Lee
nw.media@marshals.co.uk
Tel: 07305 770835

Rally Representative

Ian Briggs
north@brmc.org.uk
Tel: 0161 436 5071

Speed Representative

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

Committee Member

Andrew Pratt-Fryer
nw.carshare@marshals.co.uk
Tel: 07759 750090

Follow us on Social Media

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.

Check out our pages.



@BMMCNW (Page)



BMMC North West Marshals (Group)



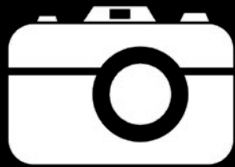
@BMMC_NW



@BMMC_NW



**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.