BMMC MAGAZINE

South Midlands Region March 2017

1 PE	
BRITISH RALLY	
MARSHALS CLUB	Page

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3 – Chairman's Chatter	12 – Karting - Wombwell
5 – Membership Matters	13 – BMMC Regalia Order Form
6 – Marshals wanted for two separate events	14 – 50 yrs of Marshalling
<mark>8 –</mark> South Midlands Club Nights with Guest Speakers	16 – SMids Region Members
<mark>9 –</mark> BMMC South Mids – Club Nights	17 – National Directors
11 – Volunteering	

The Chairman's Chatter....

Paul Harris – South Midlands Chairman



Welcome to the Newsletter for the

South Midlands Region

As you will all remember, at the end of January the region held its Annual Training weekend at Rockingham, and I am very pleased to report that it was a fantastic success. The number of attendees during the weekend surpassed any we have had for a number of years. The organisation from Elaine Brice and her team was superb and I believe the vast majority of those who filled out the MSA's questionnaires felt the same.

We did, however, have some minor hiccups but nothing to spoil the days. These as usual will be dealt with ready for next year. As we did last year, we organised a mini race programme for the afternoons and with the help of about 15 drivers and their cars, various scenarios were put together to give everyone a chance to get in some practical training on incidents that happen on race days, but in a controlled and relatively safe environment.

We had a number of marshals there from Santa Pod for the first time and although they marshal slightly different to us from the comments they made to me they found it very interesting and would like to come back next year.

As I reported in the last newsletter, we were unable to provide practical fire training at Rockingham as they do not have a "bunded" area, we were very fortunate however that along with the marshals from Santa Pod, their Chief Marshal was in attendance and during the course of the weekend they offered us practical fire training at Santa Pod towards the end of February/March. We took them up on their offer and a very good day was arranged with a number of marshals taking up the offer.

My thanks go to all the organisers, helpers, trainers, drivers and to Rockingham for all the help they gave. We are hoping to organise an event for later on in the year to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the club. We are hoping to put on a Hog roast at a venue near Silverstone later in the year. Details will be published later.

Sarah Hatch is organising our recruitment stands for the year, at the moment they will be at the Silverstone Classic and Kophill and if anyone would like to give some of their time to help out on the stands Sarah, will I know, be pleased to hear from you. The other two recruitment stands we help out at are at the BTCC meetings at Silverstone and Rockingham, again if you can help please contact Sarah. Her contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

I know I keep on about this next item, but it is really important, please hand your PRC's into your Post Chief/Specialist Chief for attendance signatures. These are becoming more important than ever this year, as the MSA are asking to see more of them from disciplines other than examining ones. It will save you a lot of time and money if you keep them up to date.

Finally, I have to inform you all that it is my intention to stand down from the position of Chairman and from the committee at the AGM in October. By then I will have been on the committee continuously for 21 years and Chairman for 9 years. I have already passed my 3 score years and 10 and now feel it is time for me to hand over the reins to someone possibly younger than myself. Whoever takes over from me will have a very hard working and dedicated committee to help them. When I took over from Chris Whitlock I was dubious as to whether I had the connections within the marshalling world and in particular with the MSA, but I soon realised that connections are

not really needed and most of the time they are more of a hindrance than a help. So please if you would like to help on the committee in any form please let Lesley Harris know or, in fact anyone on the committee of your interest.

It is not my intention to give up marshalling altogether and have already committed to 50 days this year and will probably do more as the year goes on. I would like thank you all for the support you have given me over the years and for the enjoyment I have had from being on the committee.

See you on the bank sometime.

Paul Harris Chairman South Mids Region British Motorsport Marshals' Club

P.S. I have been asked to advise you of the event below:

I am contacting you to see if you would be interested in our Cruz Cymru event?

The Fire & Rescue Service across Wales are hosting this event at the Royal Welsh Showground.

Following on from our successful road safety event held in Llantrisant in 2015 <u>https://youtu.be/VLn_Yf2O5Ug</u>, this event will take place on the 3rd June 2017.

The proposed event is being led by Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue with the support of both South Wales and North Wales Fire & Rescue. We also have the support of the Welsh government, local authority road safety teams, go safe, the police, ambulance service, motorcycle groups, from across Wales.

Another partner in the event is The Severn Valley Stages who are holding a Rally event on the same day. <u>www.severnvalleystages.co.uk</u> Their competitors will be using the Showground as a scrutineering and service point. They anticipate 120 rally cars and up to 600 spectators to attend.

Looking to expand on the success of the previous South Wales event, the current list of proposed activities on the day are:

- Car Cruize competition.
- Classic car competition.
- Car cutting demonstrations.
- Y van competition / engagement.
- Formula 1 car display.
- Aerial appliance rides (for charity).
- Driving simulators.
- Trade stands.
- Road safety stands

We have secured the use of the buildings on site for exhibitors & competitors & there will be space for trade and other stands, and all the vehicles attending will be on hard standing. Parking for the public will be on the existing grassed car parks within the Showground.

The purpose of the event is to engage with as many target road users as possible, showcase road safety messages and initiatives, and promote road safety.

The event will be free to the public & competitors (car clubs, bike clubs etc).

I would really love to see all as many of your members attend this. I would also appreciate your assistance with inviting groups, competitors etc. to this event.

Neil Evans Group Manager Head of Operational response (Powys) Rheolwr Grŵp Pennaeth Ymateb Gweithredol (Powys). DMewnol / Internal: Ext.1101 D Allanol / External: 01792705001 D Symudol / Mobile: 07882634605 D Post / Mail n.evans@mawwfire.gov.uk Wefan / Website: www.mawwfire.gov.uk

Membership Matters

Renewals

Have you renewed your membership yet, you can pay online by credit/debit card.

Members not renewing by the 30th April, will have their records archived and you would need to reapply to join the club.

This is the 60th Anniversary for our club and to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee all members renewing by 31st March will receive a 'Goody Box'. So, don't miss out **renew now**.

Change of Details

Have you changed your home or email address, if so, you can update via the members area of our website or by emailing me. nat.members@marshals.co.uk

Dave Reed Regional Members Secretary British Motorsport Marshals' Club

Marshals Wanted for two different events!

CHuMP Ltd. (Clarkson, Hammond and May)



Unlike last year I can be more open this time round. We have again been asked to provide the safety cover (marshals) for the filming of Grand Tour at their test track near Swindon. I do not have any definitive dates yet, but.....

- Each day is very different! We normally sign on at 07:30 or 8:00 and are there until 18:00, but each day's timing varies slightly.
- We get breakfast (normally bacon, egg and sausage butties etc.)
- Lunch is provided (normally a hot main course and pudding)
- Tea and coffee all day
- £45.00 towards expenses
- Filming days are very variable all are mid-week

Filming depends on the weather and there are times when a good book is very valuable – but then you get to see some very exotic cars being thrashed round the circuit. Those who did it last year thoroughly enjoyed their days at the track (and at the studio session as well).

All accepted volunteers will need to sign a non-disclosure agreement before marshalling.

I publish a list of the planned filming dates to all volunteers, then try to select 8 for each day, giving everyone as equal a chance as possible. Very often we will get a last minute change of date, so flexibility is essential.

If you are interested, please let me know by e-mail at <u>Hobson.c@btinternet.com</u> and please head your e-mail Grand Tour.

Kop Hill Climb September 16 & 17





Probably the friendliest, easiest going meeting of the year. Guaranteed lunch breaks, lunch packs and the grateful thanks of all the entrants.

Kop Hill near Princes Risborough Buckinghamshire, has been a speed hill climb for motorcycles and motorcars since 1910, but was closed in 1925 when a student lost control of his Bugatti and went into the crowd, signalling the end of closed roads racing in this country.

On Saturday, 16th and Sunday, 17th September 2017 there will be the ninth revival meeting. The event will not be a timed speed hill climb but rather a commemorative run to recall Kop Hill's glorious past. A sort of mini- Goodwood (as it used to be in the early days!) on closed public roads! Last year we had over 16, 000 spectators over the two days and donated over £100,000 for local charities.

Our plan is for 400 motorcycles and motorcars taking to the hill over the weekend, (about 220 each day), the majority of which will be Veteran or Vintage that could have taken part in the early days of the run, together with a whole host of vehicles up to 1972 plus a class for modern exotics.

I am organising all the marshalling and will be acting as Clerk of the Course. I am again looking for a full team to run the event. Please have a look at the web site or talk to any of those who have marshalled the previous events – I guarantee a great weekend. Details are here:http://www.kophillclimb.org.uk.

It should be a really good event - if you can help please contact me on <u>Hobson.c@btinternet.com</u>. Please title your e-mail 'Kop Hillclimb' and let me know if you would like to work in the paddock or on the hill. I look forward to a deluge of replies! Those who did the event over the last seven years will tell you just how superb it is.

Chris Chris Hobson

South Midlands Club Nights with Guest Speakers

Just a reminder to all members that South Midlands region organise a club night each month at The White Horse in Silverstone village, usually on a Tuesday evening at 20.00 hrs, but that all depends on the availability of our guest speaker.

Over the last few years our speakers have included Jackie Stewart, John Surtees RIP, Crofty and Anthony Reid. Even the less famous ones tell a good tale of their start in motorsport and some of the escapades they have endured during their career.

The new White Horse landlord has said he will be providing pub food for those who wish to participate.

The club nights are open to all marshals, so if you are interested in adding your name to the circulation list for future dates email Bob Sketchley on <u>bobsketch@btinternet.com</u>

BMMC South Mids – Club Nights

For those who do not attend South Mids Club Nights, a few notes on the most recent meetings might whet a few appetites.

<u>January 2017</u>

January's guest was Derek Johnston, newly crowned GT3 winner for 2016.

Derek and I arrived with the Radical Euro Series at about the same time, he as one of the front runners, I as Series Clerk of the Course. Derek had only just got into racing on four wheels, after some time with bikes, found the Radicals good to drive and was very quick, very soon.

Teamed up with Stuart Moseley, they went on to win two Radical championships and Derek was the first winner of the Sunoco Challenge competition, which earned him a drive in a front-running Daytona Prototype in the Rolex 24-Hours at Daytona in 2010. There followed further wins in the Radicals Euro series and in the Ferrari championship.

Derek was an interesting guest, modest and self-deprecating about his achievements and a great friend of the marshals.

February 2017

Dr Robin Tuluie was our next guest. There is something of the "mad Professor" about Robin, very much into Research and Development, in which role he has headed up R&D with Renault F1, Mercedes F1 and currently with Bentley. If you ever get a chance to hear him speak, ask him about the demon tweak on one of his F1 projects, where they could change the height, front to back, by up to 15 mm – and the difference this could make to performance!

When he got into the real technical stuff, for me, it was like walking into the wrong classroom where all lessons were in a strange, foreign language. But then, as often happens at club nights, one marshal clearly understood the technicalities of what was being discussed; then another marshal joined the discussion; then another. Soon there was this little sub-group discussing engineering technicalities that were way above my pay grade.

On the various MSA activities I have been involved in over many years, my constant message has been, "Don't under-estimate the marshals! They are a very mixed bunch and often very, very talented".

<u>March 2017</u>

Stuart Kestenbaum joined us on the night the pub changed hands! No one was sure what to expect. In fact, the new owners opened up specially for us, organised our room upstairs as a priority and made sure we did not go thirsty. Their reward was one of the best attendances for a while, as marshals turned out to support Alan Crook and Bob Sketchley who search constantly for interesting speakers.

Stuart was another driver, without airs and graces, self-depreciating about his racing career and numerous quite spectacular crashes that Alan reminded him of! He was a late starter, now racing in whatever historic FF race he can enter. He thinks he has won around a dozen championships but what fuels his racing is a very real enthusiasm for Formula Ford.

He considers this the single most important series for anyone aspiring to advance in single-seaters. No wings, no slicks, no grip, marginal power, variety of makes – which leaves only the driver and how well balanced he and the team can get the car. Stuart considers that anyone who can win races in Formula Ford, learns a lot more about driving single-seaters, than in some of the one-make series, with all the bells and whistles.

Then they got on to discuss the famous – or infamous – "Patch" FF engine, that won so many races, including the FF Festival, with a patched block after someone put a piston through it. All sorts of theories exist as to why this was so, most seem to favour some sort of de-stressing of the block following the repair.

Once again, we had input from the floor on the intricacies of stress on metals! It all sounded very learned – and once again an indication of the many and varied skills of our marshals.

List of Guests

March marked the ten-year anniversary of the current run of Club Nights. The list of guest speakers over the years reads like a Who's Who of motorsport. Sir Jackie Stewart, Lord Drayson, Christian Horner, Martin Brundle (both of whom promised us an hour but stayed for three!) and a great night that I missed with John Surtees – so recently lost to us, minus the Knighthood he surely so richly deserved.

I hope this has whetted your appetite to come along – or to initiate something similar within your own region.

George Copeland Vice President

Volunteering

Just a reminder from Chief Marshals and organising clubs, it is very important that when you volunteer for an event you only volunteer with one organisation, be it our own BMMC volunteering web site, the organising club, circuit or other web sites.

Volunteering for an event via two or more clubs makes life very difficult for the organisers as they need to cross check all registrations for duplications.

If you volunteer for an event other than on the BMMC web site please also register with our web site ticking the box 'volunteered with organising club', doing so helps our club to reconcile numbers and thus obtain better insurance deals.

Once you have volunteered for an event you will be contacted by the organising club or circuit usually 7 to 10 days prior to the event, if you have not received any communication 5 days prior to the event then email the Chief Marshal, details of which are listed on our volunteering web site.

Also should you find you are unable to make the event you have volunteered for, with our web site it is a simple, click on the event then click 'Cancel', with the organising club send an email and if it's within 24 hrs of the event text the Chief Marshal.

Glynn Ellis SM Volunteering Co-ordinator British Motorsport Marshals' Club

Karting – Wombwell South Yorkshire Kart Club

Fancy a trip up the M1 to see one of the very oldest Kart tracks in the UK?

Wombwell (the locals pronounce it wum – well) was established in at least 1959 and is the only MSA licenced Kart track in the UK to run anti clockwise.

It is only allowed to run between 11-30am & 6pm so you don't need an early start. Politely you'd call it basic, but the people are very friendly.

The track has a disused railway line on one side and an athletics track with a football pitch in the middle on the other.





http://www.sykc.co.uk/

Dave Brice Regional Karting Advisor British Motorsport Marshals' Club

BMMC South Mids Regalia Sales Order Form

For British Rally MarshalsClubregalia–please contact DerekMurphy-Mobile:07768202236-Email:<u>regalia@brmc.org.uk</u>

For all other Oub regalia – please see our latest on-line Catalogue-<u>www.marshals.couk</u>

Or send an A5 size SAE to - Eric Rider,41 Narwood Dive, Timperley, WA157LD

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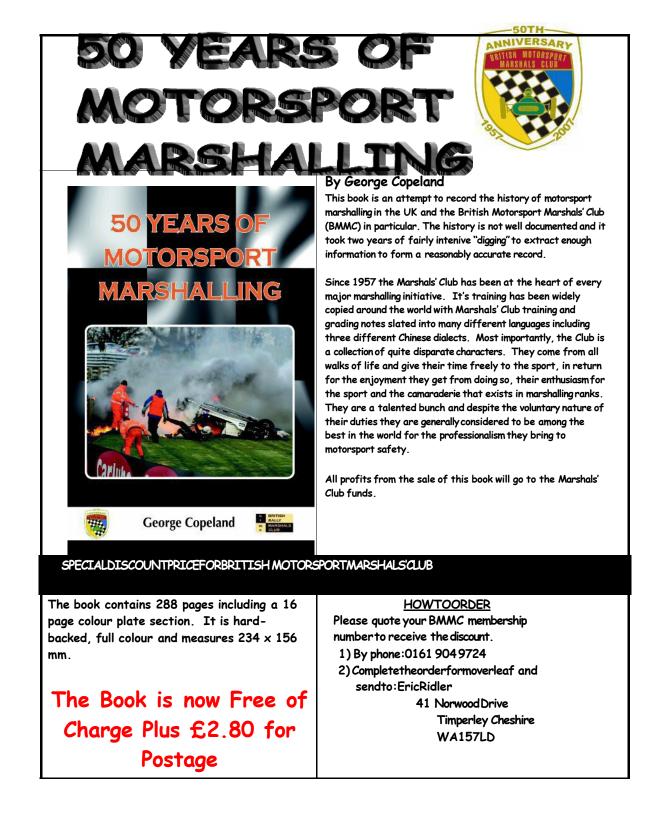
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Cheques should be made payable to - BMMC Limited

Please send this order form with payment to:- Adrian Cashmore, 9 Church Street,

Weedon, Northants, NN74PL-Email: smregalia@marshals.co.uk



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