# BMMC MAGAZINE

South Midlands Region May 2017

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The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, Regional Committee or the BMMC Council

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## The Chairman's Chatter.... Paul Harris - South Midlands Chairman....



## Welcome to the Newsletter for

## the South Midlands Region

You may remember that in the last newsletter, I reported that at the next Regional AGM in October, I would be retiring. I can now inform you all that my successor subject to approval at the AGM will be David Read. I could not have been happier when his name was put forward, if approved he will be an extremely competent and knowledgeable Chairman and he has my full and complete support. I wish him well.

David has gained a good working knowledge of the National Council as he has been on Council as National Membership Secretary for a number of years, a position he will be continuing with after October.

As you will be aware this year is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the club, and as such, to mark this occasion your committee are in the process of organising a bar-b-que on the 19<sup>th</sup> August at the Silverstone Social Club in the centre of the village. Please put this date in your diary as further details will be announced in the next few weeks.

Membership numbers for the region over the last few years have been fairly static, as a committee we would like to try and increase these numbers particularly for new young members. As with all organisations such as ours we are losing more experienced people and on the whole not replacing them with anywhere near the level of members to sustain the membership at current levels. We try our best to attract new members by our efforts at recruitment stands at meetings throughout the year.

This has been very successful over the years but is now showing its age in as much that not as many people are signing up as they have in the past, this is one of the reasons we decided not to continue with the stand at Race Retro. What we need to try and do is to retain our newer members, as a lot of them drop out in the first 2 years when they realise what the hobby of marshalling entails.

Tell us how we can reverse this situation.

One way of replacing the experienced marshals is to encourage members to upgrade, but for some reason not enough members are upgrading. We in this region had less than a dozen upgrades in the whole of last year this is really not enough to counter the drain of members from the top. If you are in a position to upgrade then please do so and help us to provide the quality of marshals that this country is internationally renowned for.

Paul Harris Chairman South Mids Region British Motorsport Marshals' Club

#### Roger Emery – Long Service Member

Just before I gave up control of the Club's "Sporran", we spent quite a large sum of money on reestablishing the BMMC Database of members' information. I am told it is considerably improved but a basic flaw remains, insomuch as there is no accurate record of joining dates for many of our older members. We could not re-create what was not already there.

Hence, when long-serving members decide to retire, we have to rely upon other, older memories to record years of service. Some regions are better than others in this respect, and make appropriate awards to those who have served the Club for long periods.

One such casualty of this flaw in our records was Roger Emery of South Mids region. He retired in 2016, after 53 years - without note.

I cannot remember the exact year I joined South Mids, but I know Roger was on the strength then. He is, I believe, the only SM member with a lower membership number than June and me. So, if it is not 53 years it is damn close!!

I remember Roger mainly for his St John's ambulance duties but he was also a founder member of the Silverstone Emergency Team when set up under the BMRMC banner, by fondlyremembered Phil Morom. Roger turned out regularly for the ES Team, wearing as so many did, the "woolly pully" jerseys hand-knitted by Rita Dickens (and others) who made up the ES Family in those early days. Who knows what would have become of S Mids region without the input from Phil Morom, ably assisted by the Dickens and Huffer families, who even inter-married, to complete the ES Team "dynasty". Roger was very much part of that early team.

Later, when June became a local magistrate, among the first to congratulate her was Roger Emery, already a Milton Keynes magistrate. June retired after 20+ years when she reached the age at which all magistrates are required to do so (a pity this does not apply to some of our Judges, who go on into their dotage!!). Roger reached that same age recently, roughly coinciding with his retirement from marshalling. In his retirement notice in the local magistrates' publication, he paid tribute to his long association with the BMMC.

So, he remembered us but we seem to have forgotten him.

Although it was not something I necessarily supported in my years on Council, most members of 50 years' service and more, received some sort of award, generally Life Membership. Roger slipped through this net, it seems...... but it is not too late to do something retrospectively, is it?

George Copeland

#### **Membership Matters**

#### **New Members**

I would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the club and our region this year, as usual, if you cross their path at a meeting, please extend a hand of welcome.

Dario Lourenco – Stamford Andrew Thrower – Wisbech Trudie Thrower – Wisbech Emma Young – Milton Keynes Matthew Newton – Newmarket Paul Fletcher-Dyer – Holyport

#### **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 at: <a href="mailto:nat.members@marshals.co.uk">nat.members@marshals.co.uk</a>

*Dave Reed* Regional Members Secretary British Motorsport Marshals' Club

## **BMMC South Mids Regalia Sales Order Form**

For British Rally Marshals Club Regalia-please contact

Derek Murphy-Mobile:07768202236 - Email: regalia@brmc.org.uk

#### For all other Oub regalia - please see our latest on-line Catalogue-<u>www.maishals.co.u.k</u>

Or send an A5 size SAE to - Eric Ridler, 41 Norwood Dive, Timperley, WA157LD

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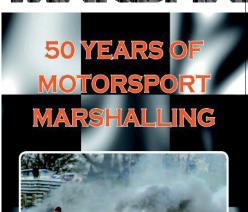
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Cheques should be made payable to - BMMC Limited Please send this order form with payment to:- Adrian Cashmore, 9 Church Street, Weedon, Northants, NN7 4PL-Email: <u>sm.regalia@marshals.co.uk</u>







#### By George Copeland

This book is an attempt to record the history of motorsport marshalling in the UK and the British Motorsport Marshals' Club (BMMC) in particular. The history is not well documented and it took two years of fairly intensive "digging" to extract enough information to form a reasonably accurate record.

Since 1957 the Marshals' Club has been at the heart of every major marshalling initiative. It's training has been widely copied around the world with Marshals' Club training and grading notes slated into many different languages including three different Chinese dialects. Most importantly, the Club is a collection of quite disparate characters. They come from all walks of life and give their time freely to the sport, in return for the enjoyment they get from doing so, their enthusiasm for the sport and the camaraderie that exists in marshalling ranks. They are a talented bunch and despite the voluntary nature of their duties they are generally considered to be among the best in the world for the professionalism they bring to motorsport safety.

All profits from the sale of this book will go to the Marshals' Club funds.

#### SPECIAL DISCOUNT PRICE FOR BRITISH MOTORSPORT MARSHALS' CLUB

RALLY

The book contains 288 pages including a 16 page colour plate section. It is hardbacked, full colour and measures 234 x 156 mm.

**George Copeland** 

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The Book is now Free of Charge Plus £2.80 for Postage

#### HOWTOORDER

Please quote your BMMC membership number to receive the discount.
1) By phone:0161 904 9724
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