

2-522 British Motorsport Marshals Club



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BMMC MAGAZINE

South Midlands Region
March 2020



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Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the BMMC, the Region or the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions for length or clarity.

The Chairman's Chatter....

Chris Whitlock - South Midlands Chairman....



Welcome to the Newsletter for the South Midlands Region

George Copeland reports that the South Mids Noggin & Natter with Hugh Chambers (CEO Motorsport UK) in February "was enlightening". The first part was his life story so far. For us, the good news is that we have a motorsport enthusiast and experienced businessman as CEO of MSUK.

Hugh took questions in the second part. Nothing was out of bounds. George was especially impressed by the interest he showed in all questions and quite prepared to admit, "I didn't know that" He has since offered Alan Crook a return visit in due course to report progress.

Unfortunately, I had to leave at the half way point and missed the Q&A debate, but I will catch up with Hugh at the ABMRC meeting in March. I was impressed by Hugh's assertion that MSUK belongs to its members, i.e. the competition licence holders, the volunteers (marshals/officials) and the spectators, it is not primarily a rule maker and enforcer as was the MSA.

On Sunday 23rd February we held our regional training day at Bedford Autodrome. In many respects the weather was kind to us in that it did not rain, but there was a strong cold wind which necessitated moving the practical fire training away from the practical incident handling to a more sheltered area. It was a good move because most of the incident area was inches deep in water but it required moving between locations. The theory training was split between two buildings that were further apart than originally intended as one building we were going to use had storm damage and its replacement was the other end of the site. About 50 marshals of different grades and degrees of experience took part. I was kept busy delivering two flag training modules and three report writing modules. All in all, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and took an active part. Congratulations Matt on organising your first solo Training Day and for producing enough chocolate brownies for everyone.

MAINTAINING COMMUNICATIONS

Your email address is our primary means of communicating with you. We use a mailing service called MailChimp to block send messages to you but some members have expressed dissatisfaction with the number of messages they receive from the club and have unsubscribed from MailChimp. That will stop us communicating with you! Because of data protection regulations we cannot reinstate you MailChimp you have to opt into receiving the messages. If you feel you are receiving too many unwanted communications from us just delete them, its only one click away!

Our IT people are aware of this issue and are attempting to find solutions. They have produced the new circular "#Orange Family Matters" to encapsulate a number of news items in one place. They are also developing a list of communication types so you can set your own preferences for the types of messages you receive. Watch out for information on how you can manage your preferences.

PLEASE DO NOT UNSUBSCRIBE

Chris
Chris Whitlock
South Midlands Chairman
British Motorsport Marshal's Club

p.s. It is with sadness that I have to report that Lesley Harris is seriously ill so I have removed her contract details for the time being to allow her time to recover in peace. If anyone has any queries please contact myself.

2020 SMids Events in the next Three Months

Date	Organiser	Type	Location	Title
Apr 4th	750 MC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	
Apr 5th	750 MC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	
Apr 5th	Sutton & Cheam MC	Sprint	Dalton Barracks	Abingdon
Apr 17th	SKC	Karting	Shenington	
Apr 18th	VSCC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	Formula Vintage
Apr 18th	SKC	Karting	Shenington	
Apr 18th	VSCC	Autosolo	Silverstone	
Apr 18th	BRSCC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	Caterham
Apr 18th	Fueltopia	Autotest	Santa Pod	Formula G - Now 10th Oct
Apr 19th	VSCC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	Formula Vintage
Apr 19th	BRSCC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	Caterham
Apr 19th	SKC	Karting	Shenington	
Apr 19th	Falcon MC	Trial	Ivinghoe	Spring Trial - Cancelled
Apr 25th	BARC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	BTCC
Apr 25th	SKC	Karting	Shenington	
Apr 25th	WMKC	Karting	Whilton Mill	
Apr 26th	BARC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	BTCC
Apr 26th	SKC	Karting	Shenington	
Apr 26th	WMKC	Karting	Whilton Mill	
May 8th	MSVR	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	GT World Championships
May 9th	MSVR	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	GT World Championships
May 10th	MSVR	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	GT World Championships
May 11th	BMMC	Committee Meeting	Tiffield, Towcester	Virtual
May 16th	HSCC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	International Trophy
May 16th	SKC	Karting	Shenington	
May 17th	HSCC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	International Trophy
May 17th	SKC	Karting	Shenington	
May 22nd	BARC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	C1 24 Hour
May 23rd	BARC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	C1 24 Hour
May 23rd	WMKC	Karting	Whilton Mill	
May 24th	BARC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	C1 24 Hour
May 24th	WMKC	Karting	Whilton Mill	
May 28th	SKC	Karting	Shenington	
Jun 6th	BRSCC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	British GT
Jun 6th	Sutton & Cheam MC	Sprint	Dalton Barracks	Abingdon Car Nival
Jun 7th	BRSCC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	British GT
Jun 13th	SKC	Karting	Shenington	Club 100
Jun 13th	MGCC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	MG Live
Jun 14th	SKC	Karting	Shenington	Club 100
Jun 14th	MGCC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	MG Live
Jun 20th	MSVR	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	
Jun 20th	SKC	Karting	Shenington	
Jun 21st	MSVR	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	
Jun 21st	SKC	Karting	Shenington	
Jun 27th	BARC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	McLaren
Jun 27th	WMKC	Karting	Whilton Mill	
Jun 28th	BARC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	McLaren
Jun 28th	WMKC	Karting	Whilton Mill	

BMMC Volunteering System

Unfortunately, as we all now know the start of the racing season has moved back to 1st July at the earliest, all subject to development of the Coronavirus, which at present is very difficult to predict. The decisions made by our governing bodies and in turn from our UK government are for the benefit of our nation and should be strictly adhered to.

On the other hand, the delay to the start of the season could give us all a headache later in the year if all the organisers try to cram in all the postponed events into a three or four month period at the end of the year. So, my guidance now is to enjoy your rest whilst you can, as you could well be busy marshalling later in the year, but do stay safe and healthy.

The list above details all events in our region originally planned for the next three months with postponed events in purple. An update on events scheduled for July onwards will be published in our May newsletter, with all being well something positive to report. Do also keep an eye on our volunteering web page for updates on rescheduled meetings, as I will do my best to update this web page as soon as confirmed dates are available.

Do please continue to use our volunteering web page to either volunteer or just tick the box 'volunteered with organising club' your use of our system helps enormously when it comes to purchasing insurance cover etc.

Whichever way you choose to volunteer for any motorsport event please ensure you volunteer with one organisation only as this will ensure the event Chief Marshal has an accurate list of marshals volunteered.

Also particularly for our newer members, when our volunteering web page shows the event registration closed, you can still volunteer for the event by emailing the Chief Marshal or organising club direct, although if possible please allow a minimum of two weeks for the CM to arrange access to the venue, post out tickets etc. It's a very rare occurrence if you are rejected from attending an event you have volunteered for.

Finally, if you spot any errors in the events I have listed or you know of an event that I have missed do drop me an email and I will do my best to sort it.

Glynn Ellis
South Midlands Volunteering Co-ordinator and
Temporary Recruitment Organiser
British Motorsport Marshals' Club

Marshal Recruitment

In 2020 your regional committee have chosen to provide recruitment stands at various events within the region, although most are at our largest venue, Silverstone. So far, the events include:

Silverstone BTCC 24th & 25th April – **event postponed**.

Silverstone MG Live 13th & 14th June – **event postponed**

Silverstone Classic 31st July, .1st & 2nd August

Kop Hill Climb 19th & 20th September

Silverstone Motorsport Days Live 20th & 21st November.

To ensure these recruitment events achieve the maximum take up we need help from you, our members, be it BMMC or SMT working together to add to the orange family. Recruitment stand members can be of any grade or experience as there will be an experienced BMMC member in attendance to help with any unusual questions. So, if you have a day or half day free at any one of the dates above just drop me an email and I will arrange your attendance.

Enjoy your marshalling and stay safe

Glynn Ellis
South Midlands Volunteering Co-ordinator and
Temporary Recruitment Organiser
British Motorsport Marshals' Club

Grading Gripes

Collecting Signatures

With the 2020 season now underway; having recently attended a training day, many of you will be collecting signatures for attendance and upgrade. Here are a few reminders for what you need to do to ensure your upgrade goes smoothly:

- ❖ When collecting signatures, please do not utilise pages meant for other grades. Instead use a continuation sheet which is available from the BMMC website: click-on the “Need to Know” dropdown. Remember to fill in details for: your name; membership number; and Motorsport UK registration number on the continuation sheet which should be securely attach it to the PRC.
- ❖ Ensure that you have the correct signatures, assessments, training day modules, and paperwork - PRC and Motorsport UK Form (MRF) in place, before sending off to the Regional Grading Officer. Remember to retain scanned copies of the PRC and MRF documents, just in case the originals fail to reach their intended destination!
- ❖ When signing-off an attendance signature for a colleague, ensure you write an appropriate comment on the PRC (good or developmental) to assist with future upgrading decision making.
- ❖ If you require an upgrade assessment; in advance, let it be known to the Chief Marshal of the circuit or next event, so that they can try and accommodate your request within the post or duty allocations.

Newly Registered Marshals

Your first step on the grading ladder will be to Marshal level. You need to complete the attendance and training requirements, and the Upgrade Assessment(s). However, there is no minimum or maximum time limit in which you can upgrade. For further information, go to the BMMC website www.marshals.co.uk, click on the “Need to Know” dropdown where you will find grading scheme guidance notes; training and assessment requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Malcolm, your Regional Grading Officer.

Upgrading with Another Club

If you upgrade with Another Club, we will not know unless you tell us!

Once you have received your updated registration card from Motorsport UK; please email a scan of the card to Rob Mugurian, National Grading Officer, nat.grading@marshals.co.uk Rob will update your BMMC database record and send you the BMMC badges for your new grade.

Malcolm Flippance
South Midlands Grading Officer
British Motorsports Marshals' Club

2019 Marshal of The Year Bob Sketchley Q&A Session

On the front page of our last newsletter you would have seen a photo of Bob Sketchley being presented with the national marshal of the year trophy by Nadine. This was richly deserved.

He has been marshalling for over 50 years and a fervent supporter of grass roots motorsport. His passion, enthusiasm and knowledge for the sport is well known. Indeed, anyone who has had the pleasure of being on post with Bob will vouch for this. In fact, his knowledge of all things motor sport led to him being barred from entering the end of season quiz in Motoring News.

For those who get Motor Sport magazine the plan was to meet up with Bob and do a 'Lunch with...' or a least 'A few beers with...'. But the current situation precluded this. So, I sent Bob some questions and he responded with interesting and pertinent answers.

Bob Sketchley Q&A

What are your first memories of watching motor racing?

Back in the late 50's Dad would take me to Silverstone on Saturday afternoons to watch club racing, we entered the circuit not by the main gate but via the lane we use for camping at today's GP's. There was no gate or perimeter fence so you could walk in for free. Dad used to meet one of his work colleagues & his son there. We would walk in, over the bridge and into the paddock to look at the cars. When racing started, we would go onto the pit balcony to watch and look down on the pit visitors, you could also look over the paddock and see the cars going to the "assembly area". After that we would go into the grandstands. If we were lucky the "seats" were in place. These were strips of canvas fitted over pieces of scaffold tube! Between races spectators would use their flasks of Tea and Coffee. Brian & I would watch for this and when the moment was right, we would jump up and as the tension on the seat transferred, they would drop with a jolt and spill their tea. Great fun at the time! Brian & I are still friends today.

How did you get into marshalling?

This would have been through Dad, he had marshalled at the early Silverstone events in the 40,s and in 1966 I started by manning the paddock entry gate which was on the Grand Prix circuit as there was no bridge then. The CoC would come out of the paddock after each practice session or race and let us know when we could open the gate and let people into or out of the paddock. In 68 I joined the Marshals Club and the ES team.

Who is or was the most inspirational person in your life?

It would be difficult to name one, but the 3 most influential would be Lynne, my wife, who encouraged me to progress onto Observing and to compete in Stage Rallies, my Dad for creating the interest in Motorsport as he was a reasonably successful rally driver in the 50,s & 60's as well as a marshal and his navigator, my Uncle, who taught me how to read an ordnance survey map and how to keep time, I did stand in for him when I was ten. I did go on to compete in International events at home and in Belgium.

Do you have a claim to fame?

Not sure if it is a claim to fame but Fangio had my picture on his lounge wall, on one of his last racing visits to Silverstone I was photographed while getting his autograph, later this picture appeared in a book about him. Later, at The Gunnar Nielsen memorial meeting at Donington Park, I managed to get that picture signed after his demonstration laps in a Mercedes GP Car. Through his interpreter he asked if it was me and told me he had this picture on his wall but much larger. The picture now hangs in my hall.

What is your proudest moment of your years marshalling?

It has to be becoming the youngest graded Observer, seem to remember I was only 25 at the time. Being given a Life Membership is a very close 2nd.

What are the biggest changes, in marshalling, you have seen during your marshalling career?

It has to be the reduction of the number of marshals, you were never alone, and the increase in the number of multi day race meetings. I think there are far too many race meetings now which has been encouraged by the increase in the number of championships and in particular the number of one-make championships.

Ultra-wide run off area's and the 2 wheels off rule have not done much for marshalling either.

You have marshalled at lot of circuits and hill climbs which is your favourite circuit and hill?

Is or Was? I still enjoy Silverstone even though it has been sanitized for F1 & Moto GP; historically Crystal Palace was amazing, F2 on Whit Monday was a real treat and you have to wonder how we got away with unsilenced screaming 1600cc cars in London.

For Hillclimbing, it has always been Prescott, in my opinion it is the best motorsport venue in the country, a technical but fast hill with some great view points and a very friendly atmosphere. I was looking forward to starting my 51st season there in April.

What has marshalling brought you over the years? (i.e. the friendship, camaraderie, pride etc.)

I like to think I have lots of friends all over this country and abroad. You do get a sense of pride when driving home after a good days marshalling, you do not really need anyone telling you that you have done it wrong you know! It is always satisfying getting things right when it does go wrong. It's great to be able to class many drivers as friends.

You also competed for many years on rallies in the UK and Europe, what was your biggest achievement and your most memorable event or moment during an event?

Finishing The Boucle's de Spa, this was a European Rally Championship round held at Spa in snow and ice in a 3.5 Rover SD1. Being runner up in the Skoda Estelle championship quite good but could have been better if the head gasket had not failed twice in 3 events mid-season. We had a few Class wins in the car as well as the Estelle wins.

I suppose the most memorable event has to be the last one, although I have no memory of the event or accident. I do remember coming round on a spine board in the back of an ambulance having been cut out of the car. But even some of our wins in 12 car events were great fun and will always be in my memory.

If you could sit in the navigator seat on a special stage in any rally car from any era which would it be and why?

Having been fortunate enough to sit alongside Jari-Matti Latvala in a works Ford Focus WRC cuts out the modern era and having used several Escorts, Lotus Cortina's, Mini Cooper S, Skoda Estelle, Cosworth Sierra and Rover SD1. It would have to be a Group B car, a Peugeot 205 T16 or The Lancia Beta S4. They had similar power output to F1 cars with far more drivers capable of winning at the time.

Over the years you have seen a lot of drivers start their careers in the junior formulas, many progressing to Formula One and professional careers. Who was the most complete driver and who was the driver who never achieved success despite their talent behind the wheel?

Two drivers really stick out here, Jacky Ickx for his F1 wins F2 Champion; wins in Saloons, very good in Sports cars with 6 Le Mans wins, and a Paris Dakar win. His safety protest at the start of the 69 Le Mans where he walked over the circuit at the start got in the car and his belts tightened by the team and starting last but coming 1st was the last time this type of start happened at Le Mans. In recent years Sebastian Loeb ticks all of the boxes, 9 WRC wins, a podium at Le Mans, wins in Saloons, GT's, Pikes Peak and has also finished in The Dakar. Just single seaters missing.

Stephen South must be one that never reached the heights he should have done, just 1 GP start to his name before being injured in one of the late Can Am Cars, several drivers reached F1 but soon disappeared and far too many died before their time, Marcel Albers, Bertrand Fabi & Csabar Kesjar were all destined to go to F1 but lost their life to early.

Rallying – similar question to previously who was the best rally driver you saw compete?

The real “Stig” Blomqvist, Markku Alen, Walter Rohrl, Ari Vatanen, Tommi Makinen and Juha Kankkunen all are very near the top but No,1 has to be Sebastian Loeb. His records are incredible but did he have the opposition those above had or was he just that much better, I think it was the latter.

If you were able to go back in time which race or event would you like to attend?

You know I like the history of Motorsport so it would have to be 1938 GP at Donington with Dad, that would have been special. I have been to Brooklands several times in recent years so I would have liked to have seen an outer circuit race. Then again, one of the city to city races in the early days would have been good.

You have seen many famous and rare cars competing, of these which is your favourite?

That's hard, where do you start, Ferrari 250 GTO, 250 SWB, 275LM, Porsche 904, 906, 908, 910, 917, all great cars. Then there are one offs like the Deep Sanderson Martin V8, Jaguar Egal, Chevron B13 Repco, all great to look at but the Ford F3L was stunning in the Red & Gold of Alan Mann.

What is it that makes you continue to marshal?

I still enjoy all forms of motorsport and although I cannot compete now it keeps me involved, although I do more of what I want to see than the events you ought to see, BOC, VSCC & HSCC are usually my 1st choice events, I avoid events like BTCC and British GP as the rest of the day is, or was, made up of one-make races which do bore me.

I get a lot of pleasure from our club nights where we can have a bit of a get together with like-minded folk, although it can be disappointing when people do not come along because they are not sure who the speaker is.

Adrian

Adrian Cashmore

South Midlands Treasurer and Regalia Officer

British Motorsport Marshals' Club

Training Times

Thanks to all those who attended our training at Bedford Autodrome on the 23rd of February (especially those who filled in the feedback). I hope those who attended found it a useful and informative day.



We had some challenges presented to us by the weather with it partially flooding the activity area and the wind meaning we had to move the fire training and use a different suite for the theory.

I have to extend our thanks to our car drivers especially Mike and Garry for answering our call about two weeks before the training day and agreeing to come along. Not forgetting Nina, Tony, Luke and Conor along with John and Dean for bringing two further cars along and instructing as well.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to all the trainers and helpers who came along and helped make the day a success from my point of view.



We had a number of theory sessions throughout the day as well as some practical elements. The fire sim from Trojan Fire Event Services seemed to be particularly enjoyed judging by the feedback I received.

Matt Turner
South Midlands Training Officer
British Motorsport Marshals' Club

Regalia Update

As we enter the month of April, and we all prep ourselves for the forthcoming season ahead, you may find that you require new badges for overalls or a new hat to protect you from the sun and the rain.

In which case please contact me and I will do my best to supply you with these items. Please bear in mind some items are only available from Eric Ridler, our National Regalia Officer.

For all rally marshals you will be aware the club has introduced a new BRMC logo. There are cloth badges available which look rather splendid. The club has also introduced a new line in our stock, umbrella's. Currently I have limited stock should you wish to buy one.

For anyone who wishes to purchase anything, I will also be attending a number of meetings at Silverstone. If you let me know beforehand what you would like, I will bring the items with me to the meeting.

Here is a list of the meetings I am currently planning to attend. I will update this list throughout the season.

April 4 th & 5 th	750MC
April 18 th & 19 th	VSCC
May 16 th & 17 th	HSCC
October 17 th & 18 th	HSCC
October 24 th	750MC (Birkett Relay)
October 31 st / November 1 st	HSCC (Walter Hayes)

Stay Safe

Adrian
Adrian Cashmore
South Midlands Treasurer and Regalia Officer
British Motorsport Marshals' Club

Newsletter Deadlines

All members of the Region are invited to contribute articles to the Newsletter.

Newsletters are published in the following months:

January
March
May July
September
November

If you have any articles that you would like to see published can you please email the Newsletter Editor by the 20th of each publishing month at: sm.news@marshals.co.uk

Regional Committee Meetings

Would you like to attend our Regional Committee Meeting to see how the Committee works for you?

Meetings are held 6 times a year on a Monday at The George, Tiffield, NN12 8AD, 19.45 for 20.00.

Dates for 2020 are:

Committee Meeting	11 th May - Virtual Meeting
Committee Meeting	13 th July
Committee Meeting	14 th September
AGM	24 th October
Committee Meeting	9 th November

BMMC South Mids Regalia Sales Order Form

For British Rally Marshals Club regalia please contact:
 Derek Murphy - Mobile: 07768 202236 - Email: regalia@brmc.org.uk

For all other Club Regalia please see our latest on-line catalogue www.marshals.co.uk

Or send an A5 size SAE to: Adrian Cashmore, 9 Church Street, Weedon, Northants, NN7 4PL

Item	Price		Grade	Qty	Total Cost
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50 Years of Motorsport Marshalling	Free				
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Please send this order form with payment to: Adrian Cashmore, 9 Church Street, Weedon, Northants, NN7 4PL - Email sm.regalia@marshals.co.uk

SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

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