



**Merry Christmas
&
A Happy New Year**

**BMMC
MAGAZINE**
South Midlands Region
November 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

As I sit down to write this on 2 November, MotorSport UK announces that in view of the government's intention to place England in lockdown on 5 November all non-elite motorsport will be suspended until early December. The only Elite motorsport mentioned in the press release is BTCC. What about the GT meeting at Silverstone on 7 & 8 November? I await confirmation that will go ahead as I believe it is an Elite event; but by the time you read this it will have taken place; or not. (it did take place and the three hour GT final was decided on the last lap!) There have been ominous suggestions that the lockdown might be extended beyond the 2 December if there is no improvement in the statistics. Please keep up to date with the latest guidance: [available here](#).

Talking of Elite events, I was the Post Chief at Club for the first Silverstone GP this year and was responsible for reporting the Extinction Rebellion protestors who were trying to display a protest banner over the advertising in front of the Club corner TV camera platform. My Incident Officer was sent to find out what was happening and very shortly we were inundated with F1 Security, Silverstone Security and last but not least virtually every police officer on site (there was nothing else for them to do). The four protestors were arrested and their banner confiscated and my Incident Officer and I missed the start of the race, the accident on the second lap at Club involving Grojean and had to give statements at the end of the day. The protestors were in court in October and pleaded not guilty!! So now we both have to go to court sometime in 2021 to give evidence.

Anticipating the COVID lockdown I started ringing round South Midlands BMMC members to see how they are coping. If I missed you, I'm sorry but you are free to call me any time before 9pm and I'll be happy to talk to you. I'm pleased that you all seem to welcome me trying to keep in touch and you all seem to be coping remarkably well. I'm also surprised and pleased at the number of days marshalling you are putting in.

We had our AGM via Zoom on 25 October, unfortunately it coincided with an Elite meeting at Silverstone! I appreciate the business undertaken at AGMs is boring but it is a procedure we have to endure like going to the dentist. You will be pleased to learn we managed to complete all the necessary business in about 20 minutes; sorry it took so long but we had to vote in two new committee members! Sadly, Christopher Hatch resigned as our web administrator so we are looking for a replacement. We also said goodbye to Simon Spooner who you might recall only joined us earlier this year as Membership Secretary. Unfortunately, for us his real job workload increased to the point he felt he could no longer commit time to committee work. New committee member Steve Morris has agreed to cover both Membership Secretary and Taster Day Co-ordinator as there is a degree of cross over between the two roles.

As this is the last Newsletter for 2020 may I take this opportunity to wish you and yours as happy a Festive Season and a bright New Year as you can manage, it must be better than this!!

Keep Well & Safe

Chris
Chris Whitlock
SMids Chairman
British Motorsports Marshal's Club

More Nostalgia

The recent return of Formula 1 to the Nurburgring reminded me of the great times I have spent there. On my first visit to the "Ring" I was accompanied by Sue my wife and a close friend Glyn Challinor, in fact we were travelling in Glyn's car a Volvo estate. We had just marshalled at Spa for a 1000kms Group C race and were heading on the following Monday to the Ring for a German Group C round. Unfortunately, Glyn's father had died while we were away and he had to return to the UK for the funeral. Luckily, he had the foresight to add me to the insurance so Sue and I were able to drop him off at Koln station and pick him up at the end of the week. In the meantime, we had the use of the Volvo for sightseeing. We stayed in the only pub in Welcherath a small village within spitting distance of the Ring.

We were lucky in that Glyn was able to keep his room without charge until Friday as Sue and I were the only guests during the week. On Friday we discovered that the pub was a biker bar as all the empty rooms were filled and the parking area was jammed with bikes. German bikers take their transport seriously! The bikes were immaculate and all the bikers wore full leather with armour inserts. The roads around the Ring are a famous playground for bikers.

Strangely the German Group C race meeting was not being organised by one of the premier German clubs, it was being run by a Luxembourg race club. How did we manage to get an invite to marshal? We just wrote a letter to the Chief Marshal at the Ring and told him which meeting we would like to marshal at, it was that simple. Today you would need to get a letter of introduction from MS UK. We were allocated to the post on the inside of the circuit at the end of the pit straight. It doesn't exist now as the end of the straight is an abrupt hairpin which goes right over where our post used to be. In those days there was a right left kink at the end of the straight and as we were using the very short circuit that was shortly followed by a U turn that picked up the GP circuit on its return from the Dunlop Kurve, the massive hairpin at the bottom of the circuit. We were warmly welcomed on the post and as the marshals came from Luxembourg most spoke English.

The marshals' huts have to be seen to be believed. About 3 metres by 4 metres half glazed all round and equipped with power. There was ample seating for all of us. The Luxembourg marshal were surprised that we continued to flag when it started to rain, they all took shelter only coming outside if they had to wave a yellow! That was a frequent occurrence our corner being the first and at the end of a long straight. Our new friends were quite happy to leave us outside flagging when the rain started! They were not keen on Sue doing any incident marshalling but were perfect gentlemen in inviting her out of the rain. At lunch time we were all given a bottle of beer; it was non-alcoholic! However, we were concerned what the public might think seeing marshals drinking "beer"!

Oddly the racing was a bit disappointing despite all the German teams that had been at Spa the previous week were present. I think the confines of the short circuit didn't suit the Group C Porsches. Our next visit to the Ring was a huge improvement and quite a party but you will have to wait for the next Newsletter to read about that.

Chris

Chris Whitlock

SMids Chairman

British Motorsports Marshal's Club

Wanted New Website Administrator

Following Christopher Hatch's decision to not stand for re-election to the South Midlands Committee we have a vacancy for a Website Administrator, their duties will be:

- Maintain the Committee Members Contact Details
- Draft and Post Notices and News for the Website
- Maintain a Calendar of Events
- Manage a Gallery of Photos submitted by members
- Review and Refresh the content of the website every month
- Ensure that the website meets BMMC Corporate branding standards
- Liaise with BMMC Comms & Branding Officer with regard to Website content

If you are interested in applying for this post please write to sm.secretary@marshals.co.uk setting out your qualifications for the post. We are looking for someone with good written communication skills, not a web designer.

Chris
Chris Whitlock
SMids Chairman
British Motorsports Marshal's Club

Secretary's Scriblings

Thank you to all who attended the AGM on October 25th, which was held on the internet using Zoom software. The process and the technology both worked as planned, and we completed all our AGM business in just about 20 minutes. Unfortunately, it could not be followed by our usual annual Regional Dinner, but we were able to continue with one tradition and celebrate the award to our Regional Marshal of the Year. This was awarded to our Chair, Chris Whitlock, in recognition of the work he has done to keep in contact with all our members during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to reinvigorate the regional committee after its low point in late 2019. The picture shows Dave Joyce, our 2019 winner, passing on the trophy at an event at Silverstone earlier in October.



The South Midlands committee meets monthly, at present on the internet using Zoom software, and all members are welcome to join us. Here is a flavour of the topics that the committee has been discussing this autumn:

- how to deliver training to our members in the present circumstances. The current proposals include planning for the “classroom” sessions to be delivered virtually, whilst practical sessions could be arranged on a “rolling” basis with groups of 6 given pre-set arrival and departure times to minimise interactions between groups, subject to MS UK guidelines and UK Government restrictions.
- posting and hosting some videos on marshalling so that potential new marshal recruits have some more information to look at before they are able to join us at a live venue for a Taster Day or access the BMMC or MSUK on-line training.
- planning to restart the monthly Natter as a virtual event.
- requesting changes to the roles listed on the National Volunteering website to make it easier to volunteer for the Assembly role at circuits, which have now been implemented.
- preparing proposals to harmonise the Specialist grading structure “ladder” in line with the progression in place for Track, Speed and Karting roles.
- reviewing the required training modules for upgrade to Examining grade across all roles, and preparing proposals for aligning them. These two grading topics have now been referred to our National Chair, National Grading Officer and National Training Officer for them to consider and take to the MS UK Marshal Advisory Group and Training Advisory Group.

Please let me know if there is anything you would like us to discuss so I can add it to the agenda, but please let me know at least a week before the meeting. If anyone wishes to attend the committee meetings in 2021 listed below are the provisional dates. All are on a Monday evening, and the meeting starts at 19:45. If you would like to join us please send me an e-mail no later than 2 days before the meeting on sm.secretary@marshals.co.uk, along with your membership number and the e-mail address you will be joining from, and I will send you the joining instructions.

January 11 th	February 8 th	March 8 th	April 12 th
May 10 th	June 7 th	July 5 th	August 9 th
September 6 th	October 4 th	November 8 th	December 6 th

If you have any comments or questions about the committee please don't hesitate to contact me on sm.secretary@marshals.co.uk.

Marion
Marion Quarrington
SMids Secretary
British Motorsports Marshal's Club

Grading Gripes

Grading Scheme

There appears to be growing optimism about the coming 2021 season, as seen in the 'Latest Member News' bulletin from Motorsport UK. At least two organising clubs have announced their provisional race programmes for next year; the Classic Sports Car Club having emailed out their marshals' availability form. However, until there is an easing of the current restrictions by the governing body, it seems unlikely there can be a re-introduction of the upgrade procedures until mid-season at best. In addition to sufficient (self-recorded) attendance days, signatures for the required training modules, and successful assessment(s) will be required.

New Registrations & Upgrades

The following notifications were received too late for inclusion in the September Newsletter with congratulations to the following South Midlands Region members:-

New Registration:

Kevin Billington	Trainee Race	Trainee Specialist
Mikel Garcia	Trainee Race	Trainee Specialist, Trainee Kart

Upgrades:

John McClelland	Race Marshal, Specialist Marshal – John already holds the Speed Marshal grade.
Malcolm Sims	Specialist Marshal

Be Careful What You Say

Overheard on the start-line at a recent Prescott Hill Climb test day:

Marshal	<i>" Driver please take your foot off the brake "</i>
Driver	<i>" I haven't got my foot on the brake "</i>
Marshal	<i>" Well the car will not role back "</i>
Driver	<i>" I know I have the handbrake on "</i>

Note: Competing road legal production cars, fitted with 'hill-hold' which cannot be disengaged, also pose their own problems when the start-line area is on an incline.

Best wishes for the festive season and 2021

Malcolm

Malcolm Flippance

SMids Grading Officer

British Motorsports Marshal's Club

Training Times

It's almost time again to start thinking about our training day for 2021.

This year's training will be very different to previous years as there will be a lot less on the actual day and we are looking to do virtual sessions in the week or two before to cover the theory.

The main date for your diary is Sunday the 28th of February. The training day will be held at Bedford again.

We aim to still bring the practical elements that we had last year with the fire rig booked and at least 3 race cars already organised to be coming along to give some practical hands on training.

We aim to have you at the training venue for just over an hour and a quarter during which time you will complete your practical fire training and get to do some incident or specialist practical's too. This will all be in small groups as per MSUK guidelines.

The volunteering form for the training day has already been made and is here for you to fill in –

<https://forms.gle/72tAw1yCy8eaiTMP7>.

Please fill in the form if you intend to attend the training day, the answers you give on the form will shape the planning for the training day. If you only want to have theory training rather than attending the practical day please indicate so on the form.

If you sign up and then find at a later date you cannot attend, there is no problem please just email me on sm.training@marshals.co.uk.

Matt

Matt Turner

SMids Training Officer

British Motorsport Marshal's Club

BMMC Volunteering System

We are now at the end of the 2020 extended circuit racing season with the last couple of events at Silverstone cancelled due to lockdown two.

There are still two events on this year's calendar in our region that may interest marshals who don't mind doing events other than traditional circuit racing, both at Bicester Heritage, the VSCC driving tests 5th December and a HERO (Historic Endurance Rallying Organisation) event 19th December, details of which for both are on our volunteering web page. If you are interested do please contact the Chief Marshal / organiser direct, but also look at their web site for further updates.

Looking ahead to 2021 there are a few events pencilled in for the early part of the season, but yet to be confirmed, these include,

Autosport International – NEC Birmingham

Race Retro – Stoneleigh Park, Coventry. 19th – 21st February.

HSTA (Historic Sporting Trials Association) – adjacent Sywell Airfield, Northampton.

Pomeroy Trophy – Silverstone 19th February

Again these events may be subject to cancellation or other major format change due to the current pandemic, so do contact the organisers if you wish to marshal at any of the last three events and check their web site regularly for updates.

At present each club have their own method of selecting marshals for their events so don't be surprised if you are not chosen for any event you have volunteered for, also do keep an eye open for Motorsport UK updates following the change in government ruling.

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

Finally, if you know of any event in our region in 2021 that will not be included on our volunteering web page, be it to marshal at or just a date for the calendar do let me know and I will add it to our system.

Glynn

Glynn Ellis

SMids Volunteering Co-ordinator and

Recruitment Organiser

British Motorsport Marshal's Club

Marshal Recruitment

Unfortunately this year as far as marshal recruitment is concerned, has almost been a complete wash out, I say almost as mainly due to our Club Ambassadors spreading the word around there has been a continual trickle of candidates wishing to attend one of our taster days, these we hope to accommodate early in the new year once the circuit season is more back to near normal.

We have now started to think about recruitment events for 2021 with decisions likely to be made early in 2021 as to which events would be more suitable for our recruitment stand, all depending of course on the restrictions imposed by our governing bodies as to how these events will operate with regards to spectator admissions.

To ensure our 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 of our proposed dates just drop me an email and I will arrange your attendance. Many thanks to those who have already said they will help.

Enjoy your marshalling, stay safe and have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Glynn
Glynn Ellis
SMids Volunteering Co-ordinator and
Recruitment Organiser
British Motorsport Marshal's 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 12 times a year on a Monday virtually via Zoom, 19.45 for 20.00. Ten of these meetings are virtual for anyone wishing to attend with the first and last meetings being face to face with venues to be confirmed, dependant on current COVID-19 guidelines at the time.

Future South Midlands Committee Meetings will be virtual using Zoom

Anyone who wishes to attend to observe should notify the Secretary a week before the meeting so that they can be sent the relevant link.

Meetings for 2021 are:

January 11 th	February 8 th	March 8 th	April 12 th
May 10 th	June 7 th	July 5 th	August 9 th
September 6 th	October 4 th	November 8 th	December 6 th

BMMC South Mids Regalia Sales Order Form

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

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

Orsendan A5 size SAE to: Adrian Cashmore, 9 Church Street, Weedon, Northants, NN74PL

Item	Price		Grade	Qty	Total Cost
Grading Badge (Please provide proof of grade)	1.50				
Grading Badge (Please provide proof of grade)	1.50				
Union Badge	1.50				
Sew-on Cloth Badge	2.00				
Lapel Badge	2.00				
Interior Sticker	2.00				
Exterior Sticker	2.00				
Long Interior Sticker	2.00				
Heroes Cloth Badge	2.00				
Heroes Lapel Badge	2.00				
Heroes Sticker	2.00				
Heroes Keyring	2.00				
50 Years of Motorsport Marshalling	Free				
					Total

Name:

Membership Nos:

Address: Postcode:

Telephone Nos:

Mobile:

Email:

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 sm.regalia@marshals.co.uk

SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

Chair	Secretary	Treasurer
<p>Chris Whitlock 3 Acorn Way Silverstone Northants NN12 8DQ Tel: 01327 857011 Mobile: Email: sm.chair@marshals.co.uk</p>	<p>Marion Quarrington 7 High Street, Southoe, St Neots PE19 5YE Mob: 07876 422675 (No calls after 9pm) Email: sm.secretary@marshals.co.uk</p>	<p>Adrian Cashmore 9 Church Street Weedon Northants NN7 4PL Tel: 01327 340677 Mobile: Email: sm.treasurer@marshals.co.uk</p>
Members Secretary	Grading Officer	Training Coordinator
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