



BRITISH MOTORSPORTS MARSHALS' CLUB LTD.

South Midlands Region Annual Report to AGM 2020/2021

This is the Annual Report for South Midlands Region of BMMC for period 2020/2021 prepared for review at the AGM October 23rd 2021.

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1. CHAIR REPORT

It has been a very busy year despite Motorsport being locked down and restricted for about six months. I will try and summarise what I have been up to:

- **BMMC South Midlands Committee** We started the year with two vacancies following the resignation of our web administrator and membership secretary. Happily those vacancies were soon filled; Steve Morris took up the role of Membership Secretary in addition to Taster Day Coordinator and Emile Naus joined the committee as our Web administrator. We have also been reunited with Keith Madderson who has accepted the role of social media officer following the adoption of a Social Media Policy by National Council. I'm very happy to welcome you three to the committee, may you stay with us for a while. Sadly we must say goodbye to Malcolm Flippance, our Grading Officer. Malcolm has decided not to seek re-election after spending three years on the committee.

On a happier note on 31st March I was able to present David Joyce with the Barrie Williams Trophy/BMMC National Marshal of the Year 2020 before he went into hospital for an operation that he has subsequently described explicitly via Social Media!

- **BMMC Members** During the three Covid Lock Downs I have tried to remain in contact with South Midlands members by ringing round and chatting to them. I could not contact everyone, some people were working! (not on furlough) and some had failed to keep their personal contact details up to date. This has been a recurring theme in my "Chairman's Chatter" contributions to the newsletter.

I have also led five Virtual Noggin & Natter Zoom sessions that have been open to all BMMC and SMT members; they featured Stuart Pringle, Ben Edwards, James Allison, Marcus Pye and Richard Ceune-Grandidier.

- **National Council** As South Midlands Chairman and a Director of BMMC I have attended four National Council meetings since October 2020. All the meetings have been held on Zoom and for the last two we moved away from having the meeting at a weekend; there being less likelihood of conflicting with motorsport activities.

At those meetings I pressed hard for regional secretaries to have access to policy and procedural files on the Central File Repository as they were only visible to Directors, and eventually succeeded. I also campaigned for basic information such as Club Rules and Articles of Association be visible to new applicants and not hidden in the “members” pages and this has happened.

Recent meetings have included discussions about the new Marshals Pathway and how it will develop over the next couple of years. Immediate change is the introduction of Registered Marshal replacing “Trainee” across all disciplines and removing “Examining” grades from the grading scheme and substituting Assessors specifically trained for the role.

We have also discussed the financial implications of Covid, how we manage the retirement of marshals due to Covid, the rising costs of overalls, the long waiting lists for taster days, the need for recruitment and future membership fees.

It has been a busy year despite the restrictions on marshalling. The future looks brighter but we must still be cautious Covid has not gone away. Hopefully we will see a fuller calendar and more opportunities for marshalling next year.

Chris Whitlock

Chair BMMC South Midlands Region

2. TREASURER REPORT

As the region does not have any specific income of its own, all income and expenditure is dealt with via central accounts. The treasurer’s function for the South Midlands region is really one of paying in income from sales of regalia and sundry items as detailed below.

The figures for October 2020 to October 2021 are as detailed below –

	Income
2020 – 2021 Regalia Sales	£ 13.00
Total Income (Oct’20 –Oct’21)	£ 13.00
	Expenditure
To club funds	£ 13.00
Total expenses (Oct’20 –Oct’21)	£ 13.00

Due to the Covid pandemic the AGM and dinner did not take place therefore no income was accrued.

Committee Expenses

Over the 12-month period we incurred expenses relating to the running of our recruitment stand at the British GP, Silverstone Classic and Kop Hill. A new trophy was purchased for the regional marshal of the year named in honour of our much-missed former secretary Lesley Harris.

All of these expenses were processed and our members promptly reimbursed.

Adrian Cashmore

Treasurer BMMC South Midlands Region

3. SECRETARY REPORT

The South Midlands Regional Committee has continued to meet monthly by Zoom, with the exception of December 2020.

- **Central File Repository.** All Regional Committee members were given remote access to their Region’s section of the BMMC CFR File Server in early 2021, with the Regional Secretary as the local Administrator. All Regional Secretaries now have wider access to the CFR and can see all documents pertinent to their role. Regional Secretaries were also made responsible for updating their Region’s portion of the National Calendar so regional activities are visible to all National and Regional Officers.

- **Virtual Noggin and Natters.** South Midlands Region has organised and hosted five Virtual Noggin and Natters during 2021, with total requests to attend in excess of 275 seats. As Regional Secretary I have done all the admin for these events. These have been very well received by both our members and the wider marshalling community.
- **Regional Committee Role statements.** All South Midlands Committee posts had a Role Statement created in early 2021 defining the nature and scope of the role. This ensures all regional activities have an “owner” within the Regional Committee, and will aid the transition process between post holders. All roles are summarised in a Committee Responsibility Chart.
- **New Regional Trophy.** The Committee decided to award a new trophy for the best novice or trainee marshal within their first two years of marshalling. This is called the Lesley Harris Trophy, to celebrate and commemorate the contribution Lesley made to the Region in her 14 years as Regional Secretary. The trophy is being awarded for the first time at the 2021 AGM.
- **General admin and support.** General Regional admin is up to date, and, as a license holder for the BMMC Zoom account, I have facilitated various regional activities including hosting some of the training sessions. Now that we are finally able to meet in person I have organised this 2021 AGM and End of Season Dinner.

Committee meeting attendance for period November 2020 to October 2021 inclusive:

Committee Member	Attendance	Apologies	Committee Member	Attendance	Apologies
Chris Whitlock	100%	0%	Steve Morris	73%	27%
Adrian Cashmore	91%	9%	Malcolm Flippance	100%	0%
Marion Quarrington	100%	0%	Matt Turner	82%	18%
Glynn Ellis	91%	9%	Keith Madderson	89%	11%
Emile Naus	78%	22%			

Marion Quarrington

Secretary BMMC South Midlands Region

4. RECRUITMENT REPORT

Marshal recruitment last year, and for the first half of 2021, was non-existent due Covid restrictions set out by our governing bodies.

- **Recruitment stands.** I am pleased to report that your region did have recruitment stands at the following events this year: British GP, Silverstone Classic, Kop Hill, Silverstone BTCC and RAF Motorsport Open Day, with several hundred potential new members contacting us by our web site to register for either a taster day or be sufficiently keen to join our membership and start marshalling straight away. Thanks to Midland region we were able to hold two recruitment events during the same weekend.
- **Helpers needed.** I have struggled this year with the lack of helpers on our stands so would welcome any members, whatever grade, to spare a day or so assisting at the events talking to potential members about the sport we love.

Recruitment events held around our region may not always bear fruit initially but by talking to motorsport fans, general spectators and their families you set the seed for possible future members.

Glynn Ellis

Recruitment Officer BMMC South Midlands region

5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A slightly unconventional start to my first year on the South Midlands Committee, initially as a Trainee, and with somewhat restricted ability to be Trackside, coupled with a change of main point of contact at Silverstone

- **BMMC South Midlands Members Secretary.** Having joined the committee in the latter part of 2020, and with no one in post to facilitate a handover, it felt a little strange not being able to

Marshal and trying to 'learn the ropes', but my fellow committee members made me feel welcome and were very supportive.

Emails were sent out to all members who had not 'auto re-joined' to remind them about the discounted membership cost at the start of the year. In the main, this had a positive response, but it was clear some Marshals, mainly for personal reason, had elected not to return to Marshalling.

- **BMMC South Midlands Taster Day.** Taster Days are held at Silverstone and are planned and organised in conjunction with the Silverstone Marshals Team (SMT). I think it is fair to say, this has consumed the lion's share of my time. In early 2021 the SMT contact changed to a new person (Lauren) and we initially had some difficulties in communicating with each other, so I think it is fair to say the relationship was a little bumpy at the start. The inability to hold taster days since the start of Covid restrictions, coupled with two ever-growing lists of requests held by ourselves and SMT which we decided to amalgamate, meant we arrived at simply an unmanageable number of Taster Day requests at close to 700. A new way to address this was needed! It has taken a lot longer than I would have liked, but with the lion's share of the work being done by Tony Apsion (Motorsport UK Instructor), supported by the rest of the committee and with Nadine (BMMC National Chair) & Motorsport UK's input, we are almost ready to launch the 'Virtual Taster Day' in the next few weeks. This will enable us to (hopefully) address the numbers who really 'need' a Taster Day in 2022.

I have made every effort to communicate with the prospective Taster Day requestors, trying as best I can to keep them abreast of the situation, and the plans for the future.

On a personal note, I was successful (after 6 years, but my 1st attempt) in upgrading from 'Trainee' Track, to Track Marshal, and again, many members of the committee have helped, coached and mentored me on this. Let us all hope 2022 becomes closer to what we knew an 'normal' and allows us to continue to support the sport we love so much.

Steve Morris

Members Secretary BMMC South Midlands Region.

6. VOLUNTEERING REPORT

As stated elsewhere 2020 and 2021 have been difficult years due to Covid with a large number of our members deciding to hang up their overalls completely or just not volunteering for events, resulting in a significant number of events running without adequate marshals. This has been verified by organisers and Chief Marshals sending out emails on a regular basis to encourage marshals to sign up for their events. The restrictions on which trainees could attend events has not helped the problem. We all hope the overall situation will improve for the 2022 season.

Our volunteering web site has seen a reduced number of members both volunteering through our web page and recording that they have volunteered direct with the organisers, again I think this is mainly due to covid restrictions.

Enjoy your marshalling and stay safe.

Glynn Ellis

Volunteering Co-Ordinator BMMC South Midlands Region

7. TRAINING REPORT

What a challenging year it has been for training!

- **Virtual Training.** We've had to adapt and change the way we have been able to offer training to our regional members and many others around the country. We were one of few organisations that have offered training this year. We had over 50 marshals attend 24 individual Zoom sessions over two weekends in March and there has been several upgrades for marshals who attended those sessions.
- **How do we go forward from here?** We will be taking the lessons that we learnt from our virtual sessions and using this to run our training in future years in a blended approach, allowing us to combine the best of the virtual with the best of a practical day. We will be using this principle for our 2022 circuit racing day.

- **Kart Training.** We are going to be offering Kart training for 2022 at two of our local circuits – Kimbolton and Sherington.
- **Motorsport UK Trainers.** We are now in the position of getting an extra couple of members trained to become trainers to support our future training needs. If anyone is keen to do this, please contact me and we will add you to a list for the next time it's available.

Matt Turner

Training Officer BMMC South Midlands.

8. GRADING REPORT

This report covers grading activities in the period: 1st October 2020 and 30th September 2021.

- Motorsport UK Covid 19 protocols, first introduced in March 2020, suspended all upgrade activities and the registration of new marshals. These restrictions remained in place until May 2021.
- Upgrade assessments were permitted from the 17th May 21, but with restrictions on handling of documentation and maintenance of social distancing.
- May 21, saw the return of BMMC 'National Grading Summary Reports' and Motorsport UK Race Marshals Register Upgrade Proposal (RMRUP) Reports. Since that time, nine new South Midland region member registrations have been recorded; five of whom, already held MSUK registrations.
- Following relaxation of Upgrade Assessments, four South Midland region members have successfully achieved upgrades – two having been administered through BMMC, and two via other accredited clubs.
- Five 'Grading Gripes' articles were prepared and published in the South Midlands region bi-monthly Newsletters.

Malcolm Flippance

Regional Grading Officer, BMMC South Midlands Region.

9. WEB ADMIN REPORT

I have been supporting the South Midlands Region with the maintenance of the Regional Website (<https://www.marshals.co.uk/southmidlands/>)

The objective of the site is to provide information for our members:

- Training events
- Committee members and contact details
- Social events
- Regional newsletter
- Disciplines and locations in our region

The training and social events (Noggin and Natter) pages are updated on a frequent basis, and this year I have also updated a number of pages with recent changes. In particular, the Silverstone page has been updated with new maps showing post locations and names and up-to-date information on sign-in and volunteering.

I am always looking for new content, and if you have information that would be useful for our members, please get in touch. I would also welcome any pictures of our regional members in action.

Emile Naus

Website Administrator, BMMC South Midlands Region

10. NEWSLETTER REPORT

I have published 6 copies of the newsletter to the usual bi-monthly schedule. The majority of newsletters are sent digitally using the Club database, but a small number are sent by mail to those unable to receive e-mails. This list has been checked against the Club database and copies are now only posted to those people who are current members of South Midlands Region.

My appeal for new photos for the front cover has meant I have been able to change it more often. Please send me any more photos that you would like me to use.

Kaz Topping

Regional Newsletter Editor, BMMC South Midlands Region.

11. SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Since joining the Committee in January 2021 as a Committee Member, I was given the responsibility of Social Media Matters to take care of. Since January 2021 there was a decision made at National level to ensure that any media presence followed national guidelines, which this Group's Facebook page now does. There was a 'public' area which has now been removed, and the Group's official page is now restricted in membership to only those that are bone fide BMMC members. Applications to join the page are verified through the membership database by the membership secretary.

Since the start of the process some 'members' of the Facebook page have been removed and some new members have been added. To date there are 66 members. All posts are moderated before publication to ensure that there is no conflict with national guidelines.

Keith Madderson

Social Media Officer, BMMC South Midlands Region

12. REGALIA REPORT

Due to the Covid restrictions all Regalia sales were handled centrally through National until restrictions were lifted in July. We also had no physical South Midlands training day, which would normally bring in sales. Hence the total sales of regalia through the region totalled £13.00. Although we have returned to a full racing calendar it appears that members are either disinclined to purchase any items, or do so through National sales.

The region is able to supply items such as cloth badges, stickers and pin badges etc. Plus, larger items such as umbrellas. Please contact me with any queries you may have with regards to availability of items listed on our website.

Going into 2022, with the return of our training day planned for the beginning of the year, we will/should see a boost in sales.

Adrian Cashmore

Regalia Co-Ordinator, BMMC South Midlands Region