



BRITISH MOTORSPORTS MARSHALS' CLUB LTD.

South Midlands Region

Annual Report to AGM 2021/2022

This is the Annual Report for South Midlands Region of BMMC for period 2021/2022 prepared for review at the AGM October 29th 2022.

CONTENTS

1. Chair Report
2. Treasurer Report
3. Secretary Report
4. Recruitment Report
5. Membership Report
6. Volunteering Report
7. Training Report
8. Grading Report
9. Web Admin Report
10. Newsletter Report
11. Social Media Report
12. Regalia Report

1. CHAIR REPORT

At last in 2022 we were freed from the constraints of Covid, but we were still facing the consequences.

- **Committee Matters.** Following the resignation of Malcolm Flippance as Regional Grading Officer at the AGM in October 2020 we were faced with one vacant committee place to fill. At the AGM Ian Whiting expressed an interest in joining the committee and after attending a meeting as a guest agreed to take on the Grading Officer role. He faced a steep learning curve and the prospect of understanding a whole new grading structure with the new Marshals Pathway and, with some initial help from Malcolm, has dealt with the challenges admirably. For the first time in three years we started 2022 with a full committee. I am really pleased at how well this committee is working together as a team. I have attended nine committee meetings this year; one meeting was cancelled because not enough of the committee could attend to make it quorate, however we did receive reports from all members. This year we have organised two zoom Noggin & Natter evenings; one in March with Hugh Chambers and one in July with Peter Roberts. Attendance numbers were down on previous events; is this down to the quality of the guests or because everyone is a bit Zoomed out? We are happy to continue with these events if you let us know who you want to see; but be realistic and we will see what we can achieve.
- **Members.** Surprisingly regional membership has remained almost static as I am sure Steve will report. I say surprisingly because we are aware of an overall drop in numbers due to marshals not returning to the sport after Covid. We are all aware that a number of colleagues did not make it; our sympathies and condolences go to their families and friends. In March I undertook what I hope will be an annual exercise of ringing round the South Mids members to find out how they are coping. Please make sure your contact details are kept up to date. Following last year's AGM we invited our members to two Meet the Committee Zoom meetings, the second to discuss the proposals for the New Marshals Pathway. They were quite lively events!
- **Council Matters.** I have attended all three BMMC Council meetings held so far this year, a fourth will be held before the National AGM. There has been a very full agenda at every meeting. The new

Marshals Pathway has been very challenging largely because detailed information about it was slow in emerging. The series of Zoom meetings led by our National Chair Nadine helped clarify expectations and the Motorsport UK consultation has resulted in something more acceptable. We have also been investigating how we might self-fund training in the light of significantly reduced support from the British Motor Sport Training Trust and how we can improve the data quality of our membership data base and volunteering database to facilitate members volunteering for events. The BTCC experiment in using light signals instead of flags has been quite contentious leading to a Lights Vs Flags debate which has led to a long exchange of emails. Our National Secretary has commenced a review of the Club's Articles & Rules with a view to rationalising them. Finally, we are examining what contribution the Club might make to "Racing with Respect" and "Environment Conservation" initiatives put forward by Motorsport UK.

Finally, it is with deep sorrow that we say good bye to two stalwarts of the Club; George Copeland our erstwhile former Treasurer and past Chairman of South Midlands and Eric Ridler our National Regalia Officer who both passed away in August; may they rest in peace.

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 2021 to October 2022 are as detailed below –

	Income
2021 – 2022 Regalia Sales	£ 15.00
2021 AGM Dinner	£ 229.81
2021 AGM Raffle	£ 50.00
Total Income (Oct'21 –Oct'22)	£ 294.81

	Expenditure
To club funds	£ 294.81
Total expenses (Oct'21 –Oct'22)	£ 294.81

Committee Expenses

Over the 12-month period we incurred expenses relating to the running of our recruitment stand at the British GP, MG Live, BTCC (Silverstone), Silverstone Classic, Motorsport Live and Kop Hill.

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 2021 where we did not have a meeting and April 2022 when we reviewed reports by email.

- Reporting Committee business to the Members. I have enhanced my contributions to the Newsletter to include a more detailed overview of the Committee business, so that Members are aware of what the Committee does on their behalf.

- Virtual Noggin and Natters. South Midlands Region has organised and hosted two Virtual Noggin and Natters during 2022, with total requests to attend in excess of 50 seats. As Regional Secretary I have done all the admin for these events, including preparing and publishing a summary of the event.
- Virtual Meetings. South Midlands Region has hosted two Virtual Regional Meetings during 2022. The first was a “Meet Your Committee” and the second was a forum on the Motorsport UK proposals on the New Marshals Pathway. The latter proved to be a feisty event, as it was held not long after the first set of proposals were published, and the meeting was a challenge to administer. As Regional Secretary I have done all the admin for these events.
- Regional Secretary role. John Edwards, National Secretary, holds periodic Zoom meetings with the Regional Secretary team, where we share knowledge on our role and the various tasks involved, and propose improvements. Through this forum I have gained wider knowledge on how to conduct Zoom meetings and proposed some changes to the way in which the BMMC File Server is organised, as well as helped to on-board two new Regional Secretaries.
- 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 virtual training sessions. I also managed the “front of house” and refreshments for one of the Regional Training events in February, and I have organised this 2022 AGM and End of Season Dinner.

Committee attendance chart:

Name	Attendance	Apologies	Name	Attendance	Apologies
Chris Whitlock	100%	0%	Steve Morris	70%	30%
Adrian Cashmore	70%	30%	Ian Whiting	100%	0%
Marion Quarrington	100%	0%	Matt Turner	60%	40%
Glynn Ellis	100%	0%	Keith Madderson	60%	40%
Emile Naus	70%	30%			

If you have any comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Marion Quarrington
Secretary BMMC South Midlands Region

4. RECRUITMENT REPORT

Overall 2022 was a good year for marshal recruitment in South Midlands Region with a lot of interest from motorsport fans who visited our recruitment stands at MG Live, British GP, Silverstone Classic, Kop Hill, Silverstone BTCC and Motorsport Days Live held in Silverstone Wing and their International Circuit. Also there were lots of potential marshals who logged on to our web site looking to either become a member or attend a Taster Day at Silverstone. Kop Hill and Silverstone BTCC on the same weekend did provide a challenge but with the help of both BMMC and SMT members we pulled it off with flying colours. I am always looking for additional help on our recruitment events so if you fancy doing something a little different either all weekend or just one day do please drop me an email and I will be in touch. Recruitment stand helpers can be of any grade from first day Trainees right through to experienced Post Chiefs, there will always be a knowledgeable marshal on the stand should you need help with any difficult questions.

Glynn Ellis
Recruitment Officer BMMC South Midlands region

5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Post Covid 19 restrictions saw the return for our ‘Trainee’ Marshals (soon to be referred to as ‘Registered’) back to circuits and Marshalling duties, and also saw a welcome return to Physical Taster Days, where by close of the year, we will have managed to show © 55 people how we live our life in Orange at Silverstone.

We had filled the gap before we could restart Physical Taster Days by giving potential new marshals a “virtual” understanding of marshalling by inviting them to a Virtual Taster Day presentation developed and delivered over Zoom by Tony Apsion, Nina Fountain and myself, and including plenty of Q&A. A number of potential trainees were able to use this to decide to sign up as marshals, and we have seen them at circuits and join BMMC.

As Membership Secretary, I feel I should also note the passing of George Copeland, who played a significant role in the history, and shaping of the club.

Our (South Midlands) membership numbers have increased slightly over the year from 237 in November 2021 to 252 in September 2022, and we still remain at around the 10% of the total club membership.

Steve Morris

Members Secretary BMMC South Midlands Region.

6. VOLUNTEERING REPORT

2022 was by far a more normal year when it comes to events and marshalling than 2020 or 2021, although the number of members using our volunteering web site to volunteer for events in our South Midlands Region is still way below pre covid times. Generally, I have found a lot of new starters / trainees using our system but certainly not as frequently as pre covid times.

This year Silverstone have put out more appeals for additional marshals than in previous years with some meetings running with considerable fewer marshals than is ideal. However, for the first time to my knowledge in 2022 Silverstone rejected a number of trainee marshals from their September BTCC meeting due to the number volunteering for the event. I was told the number volunteering for this event on the National circuit exceeded the volunteer list for the British GP. Obviously an excessive number of marshals on any particular post can be more of a safety issue than too few so a decision had to be made, unfortunately it was aimed at trainees who are mainly in their first year of marshalling. I hope for 2023 this issue can be resolved more amicably as a lot of time, effort and expense goes into recruiting these members initially.

Enjoy your marshalling and stay safe.

Glynn Ellis

Volunteering Co-Ordinator BMMC South Midlands Region

7. TRAINING REPORT

What has been happening this year?

- We ran our blended circuit training day in February this year and the sessions seemed to go well and we will look to carry on with this approach.
- We ran a kart training day for the first time this year and it went down incredibly well for the kart club and we intend to carry on with the days from here.

How we go forward from here?

- Unfortunately, this years’ training will be my last as training officer and we are now beginning the process of looking for a new Training Officer.
- We will be running our training this year with some different modules to support the new grading scheme, we will hopefully hear more about these modules from Motorsport UK soon.
- We aim to run our circuit day and kart training day in late February with the virtual modules run in the week or so before and afterwards.

Matt Turner

Training Officer BMMC South Midlands.

8. GRADING REPORT

My first year and very much a year for learning, a big thank you everyone for your support and understanding.

This report covers grading activities 1st January 2022 to 30th September 2022.

- Following the announcement of the new Marshals Pathway, BMMC South Midlands were the first region to hold an open meeting in order to discuss questions, views and concerns.
- The new Pathway was initially expected to be introduced in August 2022, this has now been extended until June 2023, this will allow an extended period for upgrades to be submitted on the current system
- August 2022 saw the first National Grading meetings take place, where all of the Regional Grading Officers can get together. This will continue on a regular basis.
- BMMC South Midlands have processed four upgrade applications.
- Five 'Grading Gripes' articles were prepared and published in the South Midlands region bi-monthly Newsletters.

Ian Whiting

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/>) as well as regular e-mail updates.

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

- Training events
- Committee members and contact details
- Notes from committee meetings
- Social events
- Regional newsletter
- Disciplines and locations

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, updates have been made to show short term requests for marshals, detailed information for Kimbolton kart track, pictures from some recent events and notes from recent South Midlands committee meetings.

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.

We have introduced a new template for articles which is intended to give a more consistent view.

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

Last year we had a total of 66 members on our Regional Group Facebook page. This has now increased to 92 members, although after recent discussions at Committee level it was decided that in the New Year any non-member of BMMC will be removed from the Facebook page.

The additional members of the group was brought about by a pro-active campaign to promote the page on the National/Regional website. Although this was successful, we will be restricting membership in future to paid-up members of BMMC.

Keith Madderson

Social Media Officer, BMMC South Midlands Region

12. REGALIA REPORT

The total sales of regalia totalled a disappointing £15.00. Although there was a full racing calendar it appears that members are disinclined to purchase any items.

Due to a clashing event I was unable to attend the training day. Regalia was available at the training day however no purchases were made.

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.

Adrian Cashmore

Regalia Co-Ordinator, BMMC South Midlands Region

Compiled October 2022