

BMMC Magazine

South Midlands Region



November 2022



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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.

Chairman's Chatter

Well another Walter Hayes Trophy meeting marks the end of the marshalling year at Silverstone. Where has the year gone, it seems like it was only yesterday that we were preparing for the start of the season. What a busy and controversial year it has been what with the introduction of the new "Marshals Pathway" and the proposal to race without flags! The initial pathway proposals caused some heated debates but happily changes were introduced that show the powers that be have listened to reason. If you just want to continue marshalling in your current role there is no need to change. The revised Pathway does provide opportunities to cross train across roles if you wish. My new registration card says I am a Race: Grade 3 (Post Chief/ IO) Marshal Assessor. In fact my actual role is Post Chief, I have not trained as an IO, nor as a Specialist/Off Track marshal. We are going to have to adapt our thinking about grades and roles.



Again, the concept of racing without flags has proved to be controversial, in practice it doesn't seem to work. The powers that be seem to be moving towards the view that flags take precedence and lights support the flags! However, I think we must accept that the light panels are more visible than the flags. One thing we have learnt from this exercise is that not all flag points or light panels are necessarily in the best positions. There is going to have to be some shuffling around. Some Flag points will move and some light panels will also move. I believe it is accepted that the lights should be operated from the flag points and to maintain safety they should be protected with appropriate debris fencing and weather protection.

There are some significant changes happening at Silverstone this winter. Work has already started on breaking ground for the new International Kart Circuit which is being built in the green space behind Luffield and will incorporate the old Bridge – Priory area. The intention is that the International Kart track will be capable of splitting into two National size Kart circuits with separate race controls. I wonder where the marshals will come from?

Chris Whitlock
SMids Chairman
British Motorsport Marshals Club

Regional AGM Report

Thank you to everyone who attended our Regional AGM on Saturday October 29th, which was followed by the announcement of our annual awards and our Regional Dinner. I hope you have all had time to read our Regional Annual Report, which gives a summary of all the Committee activities in South Midlands region during 2022. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please contact the relevant Committee Member via their contact details.

The AGM is an important milestone in our Committee year. It is the time for the Committee to report back to the members on what we have been doing on your behalf, and for you to decide whether you want us to continue doing it! This is the second year that we have published a Regional Annual Report ahead of the AGM, where each member of the Committee summarises what they have been doing within their area of responsibility. By publishing the report in this way, you have the chance to read it and raise any questions, rather than just have the reports read out during the AGM, and we know from your feedback that this more open approach has been well received.

We also hold the elections to the Committee at the AGM. It might seem strange that we have elections every year, but the BMMC Rules require that at least one third of the Regional Committee must retire every year, and, if those people want to continue on the Committee, they must stand for re-election. As our Committee is currently 10 people that means that 4 must retire every year, as we must "round up" to the nearest number divisible by 3. A second Rule states that no Committee member can be in post for more than three years without being re-elected, so that guides who must retire and stand for re-election. This year the 4 Committee Members who retired were Chris Whitlock, Marion Quarrington, Glynn Ellis and Adrian Cashmore – all stood for re-election and were successfully voted unopposed to serve back on the Committee by those at the AGM. A third Rule states that the Regional Chair is elected by the Committee from amongst their number. As Chris had retired from the Committee before the AGM, he had also effectively retired as Regional Chair, and so, at our first Committee meeting after the AGM, he was re-elected unopposed as the Regional Chair again. It may seem such a lot of trouble to end up with no changes, but our Club Rules are there to make sure that the Regional Committees are representing their members, and that the members can make changes should they feel the need to do so.

At the AGM we were delighted to recognise that June Copeland had been awarded an Honorary Membership of BMMC, following the sad death of George earlier in the summer. June was our guest at the Regional Dinner, and also presented one of our Regional Trophies. This year our Member of the Year is Ian Greenwood, a Track Marshal at Silverstone, who has demonstrated that, despite suffering a serious illness, he has persevered with marshalling in 2022 and has provided strong leadership and guidance for new marshals on his own initiative. Unfortunately, Ian was not able to join us in the evening but had been surprised by being presented with his award by Chris at sign-on for the Birkett that morning. Our Trainee of the Year, and recipient of the Lesley Harris Trophy, is Ian Whiting, a Trainee Track Marshal at Silverstone. Ian readily offered to take on a committee role when the grading officer post became vacant and, despite having the challenge of adapting to the new marshal's pathway, has offered sound advice and answers to queries regarding grading issues. The two photos on the next page show Ian Greenwood with his presentation from Chris (photo courtesy of Dave Joyce), and Ian Whiting with his from June (photo courtesy of Emile Naus). We congratulate all three on their awards.

For those of you not aware the main Club AGM is due to take place either in person at Bicester Heritage or over the internet on Sunday December 4th, please see the main website for more details.

Marion Quarrington
SMids Secretary
British Motorsport Marshals Club

Secretary Scribblings

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM on Saturday October 29th, which was followed by the presentation of our annual awards and our Regional Dinner. There is a separate report elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The South Midlands committee meets monthly, at present on the internet using Zoom, and all members are welcome to join us. Here is a summary of the topics that the committee have covered since the last Newsletter:

- discussed the concern that the details of the new training modules still had not yet been published by the time your Regional Training Officer, Matt, was due to start planning for the training to be delivered in 2023. However, Matt and his team have started their planning using the outlines that are available and will need to catch up once the full details are published.
- the team continue to host and plan Taster Days at Silverstone for potential new marshals, but we get more requests than we can sometimes deal with. A lot of work goes into planning a Taster Day and we need at least three people to help show them round during the morning. If you are willing to give up half a day to help with hosting, our Membership Secretary, Steve, would be pleased to hear from you on sm.members@marshals.co.uk. Please look out for the Taster Day people if they come through your area next season and help out with any questions. We regularly see some of our Taster Day people marshalling at events and gaining upgrades, so we know Taster Days are successful at attracting and keeping marshals.
- discussed a concern that new marshals are not well supported on their first day marshalling at Silverstone, that they may not get enough advanced information to help them prepare for the day or much help to settle in. A small working group has been formed to look into what we can do as a club to welcome new marshals immediately before and during their first day.
- held a recruitment event at Motorsport Days Live with 20 people leaving their details and many more taking leaflets. The exhibition side of the event was not as large as previous years, but we had a good location right next to the only food stall at the event so had plenty of footfall! Glynn will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to help at one of our recruitment events, on sm.volco@marshals.co.uk.
- discussed whether we should accept adverts from outside (ie non-BMMC) sources in the Newsletter, and decided that we cannot do this at this time.

Please let me know if there's 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. The dates for 2023 are below, all are on a Monday evening, and the meeting starts at 19:45. If you want to join us at the meeting please send an e-mail no later than 2 days before the meeting to 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.

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|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| January 9 | February 6 | March 6 | April 3 | May 8 | June 5 |
| July 10 | August 7 | September 11 | October 9 | November 6 | December 11 |

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

Marion Quarrington
SMids Secretary
British Motorsport Marshals Club

Marshal Recruitment

We have now concluded all our recruitment events for 2022 and over the next couple of months will start planning our events for 2023, so if you know of a motorsport related event in our region that has a large footfall, particularly non circuit racing events, please contact me and I will table it for discussion at our January committee meeting.

Whilst meeting family and friends over the holiday period can I suggest you chat to them about what you do as a marshal, be it incident or specialist duties at any four wheeled motorsport event and try to encourage them to join us. I am sure if they are a motorsport fan they will jump at the chance, direct them to our web site and suggest they register as a marshal with Motorsport UK and then contact the organising club or myself to arrange a first day on post. Alternatively, if they are a little unsure whether marshalling is for them, they can attend a taster day at a circuit of their choice.

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

Glynn Ellis
SMids Volunteering Co-ordinator and Recruitment Organiser
British Motorsport Marshals Club

BMMC Volunteering System

Our volunteering web site is a little sparse of events currently as all the organisers are beavering away to finalise their events for 2023 which when agreed with the circuits will be added to our web page.

The volunteering web page is currently being updated to incorporate the new Motorsport UK Marshal Pathway grading system so you may find it out of action for the next few weeks, I will advise you of any updates. All being well everything should be up and running by the end of January.

Looking forward to late December and early 2023 listed below are a few events either in our region or on its outskirts which may interest you,

- 3rd December – Bicester Heritage, VSCC Winter Driving Tests
- 10th & 11th December – Kimbolton, Hunts Car Club kart meeting
- 26th December - Mallory Park, 750MC Plum Pudding meeting.
- 28th December – Curborough, Stuff the Turkey Autosolo.
- 1st January 2023 – Milton Keynes, VSCC Vintage Stoney
- 12th – 15th January – NEC Birmingham, Autosport International.
- 14th January – Wilton Mill, kart marshals training day
- 24th – 26th February – Stoneleigh Park, Race Retro.
- 26th February – Sywell, HSTA Historic Trial

Do check the individual organiser's web page for all relevant details.

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.

Glynn Ellis
SMids Volunteering Co-ordinator and Recruitment Organiser
British Motorsport Marshals Club

Training Times

The planning process for our 2023 training days has now begun in earnest.

We have received our budget allocation from the British Motorsport Safety and Training Trust and I am now meeting with my fellow trainers to discuss how we are going to run this year's training days.

Obviously there has been a change in the grading system since our last training so the modules we run will look slightly different although similar topics will need covering.

Again we will be looking to run a Kart day as well as our circuit day. Please do come along to the training if you've had any inclination to try kart marshalling.

On a sadder note the 2023 training days will be my last as training officer and I would like to thank you all for coming along virtually as well as in real life over the last three years, it's certainly been a varied and challenging tenure.

This means that the committee will be looking for someone to join them and take on the responsibility of being the training officer. You do not need to be a MSUK trainer to take on this role but it would definitely be something you would need to be willing to work towards.

Being a trainer and especially a training officer is an extremely rewarding way to contribute to your fellow marshals' experience and knowledge. I am very proud of what our trainers and myself accomplished during 2021 in managing to run training days and I know there was a number of upgrades that would have been unlikely to happen if it wasn't for our virtual days.

For whoever takes on the role you will inherit a very capable and committed team of trainers and I will stay on as a trainer and offer any advice you need so don't be too daunted by the task at hand.

If you are interested in taking on the role, please email me to discuss more on sm.training@marshals.co.uk

Matt Turner
SMids Training Coordinator
British Motorsport Marshals Club

Grading Gripes

Greetings everyone, I hope you have enjoyed a fun filled racing season and are all preparing for a well-earned rest over the festive period.

Having completed my first year as the regional grading officer, which has been very much a year for learning, I would like to give a big thank you to everyone for your support and understanding.

This year has seen many proposed changes and following the announcement of the new grading 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.

I would like to remind everyone that the upgrade process is laid out in the PRC with the number of days required and how many training days are needed.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter

Here are some of the common reasons why upgrades must be referred.

1. No marshal registration form (MRF) supplied. These are available at MSUK under marshals-resources
2. Dual duties recorded and counted towards upgrade. Dual duties are not able to be used and you must only record the 1 duty for the day.
3. Incorrect training signatures. Some upgrades such as experienced grades require 2 training days which must be at least 1 year apart.
4. Time expired signatures. Attendance signatures are valid for 3 years and training for 2 years. Please remember that we must all attend training days every 2 years or bi-annually.
5. Non completion of all modules for training signatures.

Why not use the cut out that was supplied in the previous newsletter as an aid memoir providing simple steps to upgrading and where and how to send off your upgrade request?

Don't forget to get your upgrades in and if you need advice before submitting then please do drop me a line.

I wish you all an enjoyable festive period and happy new year.

Ian Whiting
SMids Grading Officer
British Motorsports Marshals Club

Race Meetings All New Marshals Should Try

A New Year a new beginning, 2023 brings a return of favourite race meetings that new marshals should/must experience. The season usually kicks off with the Pomeroy, a Vintage and Sports Car Club event. Not really a full-bodied race meeting but a collection of tests and races for some vintage cars. With luck some of the fabulous multi-cylinder, fire spitting aero engine cars will be present; maybe some Edwardian cars racing with solid rubber wooden wheels at more than 90 MPH!

Keep an eye open for a two-day MSVR meeting in March/April on the National circuit. First rounds of national championships for saloons, single seaters and sports cars. Short circuit equals quick laps.

April/May should see the return of 750MC with a mixture of races featuring home built bike engine sports cars, single seaters and a selection of their national championship rounds. Again, a two day meeting on the National circuit so short laps.

May should see the first Grand Prix Circuit races featuring two-day weekends for the British GT Championship and the return of HSCC racing. We are always short of marshals for Silverstone GP meetings, it's all hands to the pump!

Calendars for 2023 are yet to be finalised. Keep an eye on the Volunteering database for some of these mouth-watering meetings.

Chris Whitlock
SMids Chairman
British Motorsport Marshals Club

Teamwork?

I have seen some actions recently that make me question whether we are truly working together as a team. I have seen marshals out on track dealing with incidents without any yellow flag or light cover and I am not the only one. I have had reports from other marshals of similar incidents. It goes without saying this is dangerous and stupid! What is the hierarchy of safety that we are all taught? Look after yourself first, then your colleagues, and lastly the driver (they have a strong cage around them)! It is clear then that if marshals are working on track without yellow cover they are not looking after number one and those responsible for providing that cover are not looking after their colleagues!

But closer examination of some of these incidents shows there might be a common thread. A flag point was not manned or light panel might not have a designated operator. What to do in such circumstances? Why not turn on the lights locally? It only requires someone to press the appropriate yellow button; then they can attend the incident and turn off the light when they return to post. Just because you have signed on as a track/incident marshal it doesn't mean you can't step into another role for a second. You still have a responsibility to look after your own safety and if you do switch a yellow light on then you are looking after your colleagues as well! All track marshals have to undertake some flag days if they want to progress, why not put that experience to use and wave a flag?

But it is not just track marshals who are not working as a team. At the CSCC Silverstone meeting in October a car stopped next to the pit wall on fire. Not one Pit marshal thought to grab a fire extinguisher to help put out the fire despite a few rushing to the scene to see what was going on.

A marshal is a marshal no matter what their normal role, we should be able, capable, and willing to work together as a team.

Chris Whitlock
SMids Chairman
British Motorsport Marshals Club



At Kimbolton we are looking for new or experienced Marshals to take part in a race weekend. We will fully support you and guide you. So, if your new to karting don't worry as we will look after you. Going forward we will train you and support you through the MSUK grading scheme.

We are a friendly team with high standards, so we do expect you to work with us and to work as part of a team.

We run on part of an old air base so a lot of history- we have been going 60+ years!

We pay expenses per day which is paid at the end of the day. On race day the club provides a meal voucher to use at the catering unit on site. You will need to provide your own safety kit as you would do at any venue.

Please give kart marshalling ago. It's a very busy but very enjoyable race weekend.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact the chief marshal Tommy Vasey via email thomas.vasey11@gmail.com

We hope to see some new faces soon.

Best wishes

**Tommy
Thomas Vasey
Chief Marshal
Hunts Kart Racing Club
Kimbolton**

Whilton Mill Kart Club Marshals Training Day



MARSHALS TRAINING DAY

SATURDAY 14TH OF JANUARY 2023

ALL WELCOME!

- Practical & classroom sessions
- Flags, fire, 'first on scene medical', electric karts and more!
- Groups based on experience
- Corporate kart race (optional) and lunch included
- To confirm attendance please email compsec@whiltonmill.co.uk



whiltonmill.co.uk/wmkc
Call 01327 843 822



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 2023 are:

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|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| January 9 | February 6 | March 6 | April 3 | May 8 | June 5 |
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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

Or send an 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 | | | | |
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Name:

Membership Nos:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone Nos:

Mobile:

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Cheque should be made payable to: BMMC Limited

Please send this order form with payment to: Adrian Cashmore, 9 Church Street, Weedon, Northants, NN17 4PL - Email: sm.regalia@marshals.co.uk

SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

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