BMMC Magazine South Midlands Region



November 2023



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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

Finally, the Silverstone motor racing season has finished, and what a season it has been! I cannot remember any future season having so many issues. I don't remember having so many meetings so short of marshals; the Walter Hayes Trophy was the exception. I was at Woodcote for both days and had the luxury of having three flag marshals. It was great I could concentrate on my role as Post Chief. Sadly, though we only had three track marshals and an I/O for incident cover on half the pit straight; luckily we only had one car in our gravel trap all weekend and that was on lap one of the first qualifying. No one saw the incident, as the spray dispersed there, he was sitting in the gravel facing the wrong way. First red flag of many that weekend.



During 2023 I have spent more time alone on a post than ever before. Most times I have signed on as Post Chief but been occupied with flagging and too distant from my team to undertake a PC role. On one occasion I was flagging at Post 29 Vale, the incident team consisted of one I/O and one track marshal located deep in the corner. My nearest manned flag point was Post 31 Club out and the flag point prior to mine was at Post 25 Chapel. There was no flag cover for Stowe which had an incident team of an I/O and two track marshals. I spent a large part of the weekend laying dust on oil and helping with the recovery of stranded cars.

Why are we so short of marshals? Do we have too many race meetings, too many boring meetings, or too few entries? Ferrari, McLaren, Ginetta, and Motor Racing Legends (MRL); are they proper race meetings, they seem to have difficulty attracting entries. Who thought it was a good idea to have a GP circuit race for Ginettas on a Friday? MRL ran two one hour races for less than 10 cars followed by a three hour race for 28 cars on the GP circuit! Some great cars but not enough for an engaging spectacle.

I stopped doing the British Grand Prix after the double header in 2020 but I understand that everyone who volunteered and was qualified (minimum 12 race meetings) was accepted in 2023. Is F1 getting unpopular to marshal? Are BTCC and WHT the only meetings that appeal to marshals? They are both National Circuit meetings. I think that might be the key. You need less marshals for the national circuit so there is less chance you will be stuck somewhere on your own. As one marshal said at WHT, I come marshalling not just because I enjoy racing but because I meet up with like minded people and we have a great time. It's lonely marshalling on your own.

So that brings us back to the question are there too many meetings. Well, it might not be great news for Silverstone, but it could be great news for marshals. It seems there are not going to be as many race meetings next year. CSCC, HSCC and others have dropped some of their regular meetings so hopefully there will be some gaps on the calendar which will allow you to earn brownie points at home so more of you can attend the meetings that are remaining.

I hope those of you that opt for attending the training offered by BRSCC on 18/19th November have a great time. If any of you are short of theory training signatures, please let us know. We can always try and put together some virtual training sessions on Zoom. SMT have said they will accept BMMC marshals volunteering for their training sessions but as spaces are limited SMT members will be given precedence.

Finally, a thank you to everyone I have worked with this year. Despite the challenges we have all faced whether the weather, circuit infrastructure, or changing timetables, everyone carried out their marshalling with a smile on their face. We must be mad! However, I will be back for another year, and I hope you will join me and have another great year marshalling.

Chris Whitlock SMids Chairman British Motorsport Marshals Club

John Newman SM1301 1950 – 2023

It is with great sadness that we must announce that John Newman passed away on Thursday 2nd November 2023 after a short illness.

For those of you that did not know John, he and Mike Abbott will probably be best remembered as **the** flag marshalling team at Silverstone. Those were the days when we could always have at least two marshals on a flag post!

Sadly, our records do not show when John joined BMMC (formerly BMRMC) but judging by his membership number it was prior to 1984. John could not sit and do nothing, so it was not long before he got more involved. In 1992 he was listed as Assistant Training Officer on the South Midlands committee. John produced and kept up to date an online set of flag training notes; probably the first online training module.

Mike first met John when he was the BRDC Chief Pits marshal and John was considered a highly rated member of the pits team. When the RAC de Belgique invited Mike to take a team of Pit Marshals to help out at the Spa 24 hours John was a key member. When Mike retired as BRDC Chief Pits John taught him how to flag. Eventually advancing years forced Mike to give up flagging and the team dissolved.

That does not mean John abandoned marshalling. John continued as a Post Chief and in 2002 qualified as an Examining Post Chief (Race on Track Assessor). Eventually John also retired from marshalling on the bank and started to qualify as a Steward and very recently he was seen stewarding from his wheelchair.

John always gave BMMC his full support. He and Cath could always be found at our Noggin & Natters and annual dinners. He enjoyed a pint, and a good chat about motorsport. He was a larger-than-life character who will be sorely missed.

The family request no flowers please but donations to Macmillan in his memory would be gratefully accepted. https://tributefunds.macmillan.org.uk/In-Memory/John-Newman

RIP John

Secretary Scribblings

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

- continued with planning the training that we will deliver over the winter period. Building on our successful training in 2023 we will deliver Kart training at Kimbolton, one of our three regional Kart circuits, in early February. The grant application has been accepted and we will be reimbursed up to 75% of the total budgeted cost. The committee reluctantly agreed that we are unable to offer dedicated BMMC Race training in 2024, and instead promoted the training offered by BRSCC at Silverstone in October. We have also negotiated with Silverstone Marshals Team for BMMC members to attend their training in early 2024, subject to available spaces, and there will be more news on this soon. The Region is still without a dedicated Training Co-Ordinator, if you would like to find out more about this key role in supporting our members then please contact Chris on sm.chair@marshals.co.uk.
- held our Regional AGM and Annual Dinner on Saturday October 28th at The Saracen's Head in Towcester, attended by 17 members. The Regional Annual Report was available before the AGM and is available on the website if you missed it. The AGM confirmed Annette Benson on the Committee, and said goodbye to Steve Morris and Matt Turner, who have both stood down at the end of their terms of service. Thanks was expressed to them both. The AGM also "raised a glass" to John Newman, a longtime BMMC member and Silverstone marshal.
- the Regional awards were presented at the dinner, and reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Our Marshal of the Year is Glynn Ellis and our New/Trainee Marshal of the Year, and winner of the Lesley Harris Trophy, is Catherine Smart. Congratulations to both of them!
- the previously reported practices at recent events at Silverstone which impacted on marshals have been included in the agenda of an upcoming feedback session between Motorsport UK and Silverstone Circuits, and will let you know the outcome once the meeting has been held.
- started a process to review and bring up to date the information on the website "Your first day at Silverstone" and also to provide similar guidance on starting both Speed and Kart marshalling. Look out for updates on this in future months.
- as required in the Club Rules, the first Committee meeting after the AGM must include the allocation of roles to
 the elected Committee members. All continuing Committee members agreed to remain in their previous roles,
 and Kaz Topping was confirmed in the additional roles of Membership Secretary and Taster Day Co-Ordinator,
 roles that she had been shadowing from Steve Morris for a couple of months. The full list of Committee members
 and their roles is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please let me know if there's anything you would like the Committee to discuss so I can add it to the agenda, but please let me know at least 2 weeks before the meeting. WE have agreed to hold bi-monthly meetings and the dates for 2024 are below, all are on a Monday evening and the meeting starts at 19:45. If you want to join us please send an e-mail, along with your membership number and the e-mail address you will be joining from, no later than 2 days before the meeting to sm.secretary@marshals.co.uk and I will send you the joining instructions.

	January 8th	March 4th	May 6th	July 8th	September 9th	November 4th
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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

BMMC Volunteering System

Below I have summarised a list of events taking place in December 23, January & February 24 within our South Midlands region, details for which can be found on the organiser's web site.

As we start approaching the end of the traditional circuit racing season other motorsport events are still operating including stage rallies, karting, and trials, all of which need marshals of all grades to successfully operate.

Our volunteering system web page is having a few updates over the winter so it will not be fully operational until the New Year when all the smaller clubs have finalised their calendars for 2024.

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

2023/24 SMids Events in the Next Three Months

Date	Organiser	Туре	Location	Title
Dec. 2 nd	VSCC	Autotest	Bicester Heritage	Winter Driving Tests
Dec. 9 th	HKRC	Karting	Kimbolton	Round 11
Dec. 10 th	HKRC	Karting	Kimbolton	Round 11
Jan. 1 st	VSCC	Classic Stony	Stony Stratford	Vehicle display
Jan. 8 th	BMMC	Committee Meeting	Via Zoom	
Jan. 11 th	ВММС	Recruitment	NEC Birmingham	Autosport Int.
Jan. 12 th	ВММС	Recruitment	NEC Birmingham	Autosport Int.
Jan. 13 th	ВММС	Recruitment	NEC Birmingham	Autosport Int.
Jan. 13 th	HKRC	Karting	Kimbolton	Practice Day
Jan. 14 th	ВММС	Recruitment	NEC Birmingham	Autosport Int.
Jan. 14 th	HKRC	Karting	Kimbolton	Round 1
Jan. 20 th	SKRC	Karting	Shenington	Practice Day
Jan. 21st	SKRC	Karting	Shenington	Round 1
Feb. 10 th	HKRC	Karting	Kimbolton	Practice Day
Feb. 11 th	HKRC	Karting	Kimbolton	Round 2
Feb. 16 th	SKRC	Karting	Shenington	Practice Day
Feb. 17 th	SKRC	Karting	Shenington	Practice day
Feb. 18 th	SKRC	Karting	Shenington	Round 2
Feb. 24 th	HSTA	Sporting Trials	Sywell	

Marshal Recruitment

With the cancellation of Motorsport Days Live usually held in the Silverstone Wing first weekend in November, we have now concluded our planned recruitment events for 2023.

The last three events at Silverstone Festival, Kop Hill and Silverstone BTCC resulted in a lot of interest from motorsport fans to join BMMC and become marshals.

Over the Christmas break do talk to your friends and family about the hobby we all enjoy, watching competitive motorsport at venues around the country, explain the different roles we carry out and the variety of different disciplines there are to get involved in, encourage them to join us by taking a taster day at their local major circuit or just ask them to contact me or a committee member should they just want to jump in and join us one weekend.

Hope you all have a great Christmas break and see you in the new year.

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

Training

After considerable deliberation we have reluctantly decided that we cannot offer practical race circuit marshal training at the present time. Our reasons are as follows:

- We do not have a regional Training Coordinator (see below)
- There are plentiful race circuit training opportunities offered by other clubs in the region that are open for our members to volunteer at e.g. SMT training days February/March 2024 dates to be advised.
- In these circumstances we felt we could not justify asking the British Motorsport Trust BMT
 (formerly British Motorsport Training Trust) to subsidise the hiring of Bedford Autodrome for our
 training. BMT is a charity with limited funds that supports all UK marshal training.

We are still planning to hold two Kart training days in February 2024, where there is a degree of crossover with circuit training modules including fire theory and practical.

We will also provide online training via Zoom for any theory modules, if there is a demand for them; best wait to see what gets included/excluded from any training day you volunteer for, just let us know what you want.

Training Coordinator Wanted

BMMC South Midlands region needs a new regional Training Coordinator! The role is largely administrative and applicants do not necessarily have to deliver any training or be qualified trainers. However, if you want to qualify as a trainer then this would be a good place to start and we would be happy to put you forward for a Motorsport trainers course.

What you will need to do is become familiar with the training modules that are required for the different marshalling disciplines and grades. You need to be familiar with Microsoft Powerpoint. The Training Coordinator is responsible for the region's training equipment which includes but is not limited to a laptop, projector, screen, a set of flags etc. They are also responsible for putting together an annual training programme and submitting bids for funds to BMT. But the Training Coordinator does not work alone, a number of the South Mids Committee are qualified trainers in their own disciplines and the Coordinator needs to liaise with them to bring together the relevant skills needed for each training event.

If you are interested in applying for this post or in becoming a Motorsport UK qualified trainer please email Chris Whitlock at sm.chair@marshals.co.uk

Motorsport UK Kart Training





We are planning to hold two Kart training days in February 2024. These are provisionally set for: **3 & 4 February 2024** and will be held at Kimbolton Kart circuit, the home of Hunts Kart Racing Club.

The training days are open to all Registered Marshals, whether you are a member of BMMC or not, and for all levels of Kart experience or none.

Both days will offer an identical training programme, so you will only need to attend on one of the days to get your training signatures. We will offer all modules required for grading to Kart Grade 1 (Marshal) and Kart Grade 2 (Experienced). If you need any modules for grading to Kart Grade 3 then please contact us as below, as we will be able to offer them either virtually on a one-to-one basis or face-to-face on one of the two days if sufficient people ask for them.

Both training days will include the generic training modules Fire Theory and Fire Practical, which are applicable across all disciplines. We intend to plan the days so that these modules will be presented in the afternoon on both days, so any marshals from other disciplines who just want to have fire training will be able to attend for a few hours.

any comments or questions about the South Midlands Regional Committee please don't hesitate to contact Chris on sm.chair@marshals.co.uk or Marion on sm.secretary@marshals.co.uk.

If you have any comments about the new Articles or Club Rules please contact John Edwards, National Secretary, on nat.secretary@marshals.co,uk, or come to meet him at our AGM.

The venue is limited on space, and we are keen to understand how many people will want to attend. To register an interest please can you send an email to Marion Quarrington at sm.secretary@marshals.co.uk, with the following information:

- your Motorsport UK registration number and BMMC number (if applicable)
- which kart grade you are working towards (if applicable)
- which day(s) you could and could not attend
- if you are just requiring the Fire Theory and Fire Practical modules.

Your email will register you to receive further information, which will be sent out closer to the time, and will not commit you to attending the training. All emails will be acknowledged, and if you do not get a reply within 3 days, your email will not have been received and you should resend it.

Marion Quarrington
SMids Secretary
British Motorsport Marshals Club

Environment & Sustainability: Zero Hero



Hi, I'm Annette, and I'm the Zero Hero for the BMMC South Midlands Region.

It's (almost) the end of the season – well for those of us who mostly marshal at circuits, I know there will be rallies over the winter months, but now my thoughts are turning to Christmas... Yes, I'm mentioning it already, and I'm writing this in the middle of October whilst Storm Babet is causing serious flooding in Scotland, Derbyshire and Suffolk.

Dear Santa, please can you bring me some useful things to help me be a more sustainable marshal in 2024:



A flask for hot drinks – one like this would be great. It's 1.2 litres so will keep me in hot coffee all day.

An insulated & re-usable coffee mug – I REALLY want my coffee to stay hot on cold days. It's steel as well, so won't break when I drop it!

A metal insulated drinks bottle – great for hot days and will keep my drinks cold.





A battery charger and some reusable batteries for my scanner/radio – so I won't have to buy new batteries all the time.





I'd really like a new woolly hat, something made of recycled wool would be great, wool keeps me really and I'll need it if I'm going to a rally in January.

Best wishes to Mrs. Claus, the reindeer and all the hard-working elves.

Best wishes also to all my fellow marshals for a more sustainable 2024.

Annette Benson SMids Environment & Sustainability British Motorsport Marshals Club

Trainee Rescue Crew Wanted

Northants Rally Safety runs a MSUK Licenced Rescue Unit - call sign 'Lace Rescue'. The unit is based in North Northamptonshire and covers about 25 events a year. These events are mostly rallies and sprints with the occasional circuit race, across the Midlands, Wales and East of England. The unit is looking for a couple of new trainees.

The MSUK rescue training programme takes two years with an assessment at the end. The required skills include general motorsport skills (e.g. radio use), medical skills, and technical rescue skills. The training is a mixture of training day attendance and on-unit training.

The training requires a significant effort from the trainee and the rescue unit. In light of this, prospective trainees should be prepared to commit to 10 - 12 days a year during training in order to develop their skill set to the level required for the assessment. Once qualified, a similar commitment would be appreciated to repay the investment the unit has made in the training.

Full rescue licence holders are required to maintain their skills through event attendance, practice, and training day attendance - they are re-assessed every three years.

Joining Lace Rescue would give you the opportunity to learn new skills and experience the camaraderie of a tight knit group. We have crew members who combine marshal and rescue activities - you don't have to give up marshalling.

There's information about the unit on the web at www.lace-rescue.org.uk. Chris Middleton runs the unit, so please get in touch with him if you're interested in finding out more about joining the Lace Rescue crew. Chris' phone is 07501 320 625 and email is nrs.0116.rescue@btinternet.com. If the chat with Chris goes well, the next step would be to spend a day on the unit as an observer before applying for a trainee rescue licence.

John Turner SM2723 Lace Rescue Crew

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 virtually via Zoom, 19.45 for 20.00.

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 2024 are:

January 8th	March 4th	May 6th	July 8th	September 9th	November 4th

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, NN74PL

Item	Price	Grade	Qty	Total Cost
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50 Years of Motorsport Marshalling	Free			
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