



# **BRITISH MOTORSPORTS MARSHALS' CLUB LTD.**

## **South Midlands Region**

### **Annual Report to AGM 2023/2024**

This is the Annual Report for South Midlands Region of BMMC for period 2023/2024 prepared for review at the AGM October 28th 2024.

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#### **1. CHAIR REPORT**

##### Committee Matters

Early this year I decided that I would resign as Regional Chair at this years' AGM. This is because under the new Club Rules I would be required to offer myself for election for the next 3 years at the 2025 AGM at the end of that period I would be 78; the region needs a younger Chair. Also the new rules mean that in 2028 I would have to resign having completed three 3 year stints as Chair. Marion is in a similar position and if the cycle was not broken we could have faced both the Chair & Secretary having to resign together.

Luckily, we have found in Ian Whiting a candidate we both agree is ably suited to the role of Chairman and who was not contested for the post. I wish him all the luck he needs. Sadly our local Zero Hero (Sustainability Coordinator) Annette Benson decided to resign and Keith Maderson our Social Media Coordinator having completed a 3 year term decided not to stand for re-election; creating two vacancies. Ian Whiting once duly elected as Chair had to resign the Grading Coordinator post; a third vacancy. The good news is that Emile Naus, Website Administrator and Kaz Topping, Newsletter Editor having reached the end of a three year term have agreed to stand for another three years. Kaz also took on the role of Membership and Taster Day coordinator. More good news, Nina Fountain was co-opted onto the committee as our Training Coordinator and will be ratified in that role at the AGM. As I am giving up the Chair position I applied to become an ordinary committee member and was successful at the first advert for candidates; however, there are still committee vacancies so a second plea has been made to fill those places. Committee roles will be discussed and resolved at the first meeting next season.

### Council Matters

Last year the Board approved a new set of Club Rules and Articles of Association (our Governance documents). This year the Governance Working Group that Marion and I belong to reviewed and redrafted the club's policy documents so that they aligned with the Rules and Articles. The revised policy documents have been approved by the board. Next year the work of the GWG continues drawing up a set of administrative procedures.

### General Matters

The roll out of light signal panels at UK race circuits continues and BARC's decision to run BTCC events with lights only signals in 2022 was very controversial. This year the decision from Motorsport UK that lights be given priority over flags has been just as controversial. Our local race circuit Silverstone inherited its lights from the FIA (Formula 1) and was not involved in the national roll out. Motorsport UK recognise that some changes are required on the positioning of the light panels and the light operators locations but argue that these have to be approved by the FIA. I have asked when this will be resolved at every ABMRC meeting and was told that the FIA would assess the situation at the BGP this year; we await the result of that inspection.

As I write this report Kaz has only managed to organise one taster day (TD) this year. Steve Morris our erstwhile TD coordinator did his best to encourage MSUK registered marshals to start without delay but Kaz found that there still was a large number of outstanding requests. We also needed to reach agreement with Silverstone that we could restart doing TDs. The arrival of Amy & Chanel as the SMT marshal coordinators has helped; they both want to do a TD but they have not found the time to date. The access and accreditation issues at Silverstone have not helped. The future of TDs at Silverstone looks to be assured.

Access to Silverstone this year has proved to be a nightmare. I learnt early in the year that all BMMC marshals, who were not a member of SMT, but wanted to marshal at Silverstone were being required to read and sign an online induction module. The module was based on a construction site induction and was not suitable for volunteers. I spent some time exchanging emails with Silverstone trying to get the induction amended into something more suitable for marshals and in the end changes were agreed. However, SMT marshals were not aware of the induction requirement until they were invited to volunteer for the Moto GP. SMT marshals can access the circuit via the scanning of their membership cards; this has not always been successful, but is much improved by the replacement of barcodes with QR codes. Some marshals are on their third membership card for 2024. Organising club marshals are sent tickets!

Following the resignation of our Training Officer in 2023 and not having any replacement we reluctantly decided to not offer any practical race circuit training in 2024. Our decision was influenced by the fact BRSCC was offering marshal training at Silverstone at the end of 2023 season and SMT offered training early in 2024, all of which were open to BMMC members. We intend to repeat this next year. In these circumstances we felt we could not justify asking the British Motorsport Trust to subsidise our training at Bedford Autodrome. Changes to BMMC regional boundaries has resulted in Prescott Hill Climb and Little Rissington Kart Circuit now fall in South Midlands region. We are working with those venues to provide training for their marshals. We are continuing to provide Kart training days at other venues and if the demand arises online theory modules. We have offered to assist SMT with the delivery of off-track training modules and Kart training as and when the need arises.

**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 treasurers' 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 2023 to October 2024 are as detailed below –

	<b>Income</b>
2023 – 2024 Regalia Sales	£ 15.00
2023 AGM Dinner	£ 266.00
Total Income (Oct'23 –Oct'24)	£ 281.00

	<b>Expenditure</b>
To club funds	£ 281.00

Total expenses (Oct'23 –Oct'24)    £ 281.00

### Committee Expenses

Over the 12-month period we incurred expenses relating to the running of our recruitment stand at the BTCC (Silverstone), Silverstone Festival, Motorsport Live, Bicester Heritage, Kop Hill and Autosport International.

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

**Adrian Cashmore**

**Regional Treasurer BMMC South Midlands Region**

## 3. SECRETARY REPORT

The South Midlands Regional Committee has continued to meet every 2 months by Zoom, with the exception of June and July when we met on both months.

- Reporting Committee business to the Members. I have continued my contributions to the Newsletter so that Members are aware of what the Committee does on their behalf. This has included advertising all the Committee meeting so that members can raise issues and attend meetings if they wish.
- Regional Secretary role. The Regional Secretaries continue to meet periodically through John Edwards, the National Secretary, so we can share knowledge about our role and the various tasks involved, and propose improvements. Through this forum I have been able to identify improvements to both my role and the way the committee works, and to propose some changes for the benefit of the club.
- Governance Working Group. I contributed to the Governance Working Group, which has continued to work through the implications of the revised Articles and Club Rules, most notably in revising the Club's Policy documents which were adopted in July. Work continues to update and, where necessary, create, the Club Procedures, which are needed to standardise the implementation of the various policies. I have implemented the changes resulting from that within the region's administration, most notably around the terms of service for the Chair and the Committee members and the way in which the AGM is planned and conducted.
- Training support. As the region was without a Regional Training Co-Ordinator over the winter training period, our previous RTC, Matt Turner, agreed to lead the Kart Training which was based at HKRC at Kimbolton and the Race Off-Track Training for SMT at Silverstone. I assisted by co-ordinating all the arrangements for both events, and helping to deliver the training.

- 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 have organised and co-ordinated the nominations for the Regional Chair and the vacancies on the Regional Committee in line with the new Club Rules, and organised this 2024 AGM. I have completed the admin for the Regional nominations to the National awards and for the Regional Marshal of the Year awards, which has included introducing “Keepsake” Awards for the winners of the Regional Perpetual Awards.

Committee attendance chart for 2023/2024:

Name	Attendance	Apologies	Name	Attendance	Apologies
Chris Whitlock	86%	14%	Ian Whiting	86%	14%
Adrian Cashmore	100%	0%	Karen ‘Kaz’ Topping	71%	29%
Marion Quarrington	100%	0%	Keith Madderson	71%	29%
Glynn Ellis	100%	0%	Annette Benson ^	100%	0%
Emile Naus	86%	14%	Nina Fountain #	33%	66%

^ Annette Benson stood down after the January Committee meeting

# Nina Fountain joined the committee from the June meeting

The current service dates for the new Committee, effective from October 2024, are listed in the Election Results presented separately to the AGM.

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

**Marion Quarrington**  
**Regional Secretary BMMC South Midlands Region**

#### **4. RECRUITMENT REPORT**

Overall, 2024 was another good year for marshal recruitment in our South Midlands Region with a lot of interest from motorsport fans who visited our recruitment stands at Bicester Scramble, Silverstone Festival, Kop Hill and Silverstone BTCC.

The British GP recruitment stand at Silverstone Stowe was this year organised by Motorsport UK and manned by marshals from several organising clubs together with BMMC. All those interested were asked to apply for one / two of the allocated shifts over the four-day period with Motorsport UK then selecting those they thought suitable.

This year I struggled with helpers on the stand with only a few regulars wanting to help on the major events. My thanks to Kaz and Paul, Marion and a special thankyou to Malcolm who not only helped on the stand but was there the day before helping me set up. We did record several of days of extremely inclement weather including high winds and heavy rain for the Festival and very heavy rain for the BTCC, giving me a few headaches trying to dry off the gazebo and other kit.

Again in 2025 I will be organising recruitment events once all the clubs have confirmed their event dates, Do keep an eye out in our early 2025 newsletter for recruitment event dates. As usual I will be looking for additional help at our recruitment events so if you fancy doing something a little different either all weekend or just one day 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. For 2025 if additional stand helpers are not available I will have no option but to cancel a recruitment event.

Also this year we have displayed a Mission Motorsport charity bucket on our recruitment stand, collecting for a very good cause, sadly the proceeds are well below that expected, but every little helps.

**Glynn Ellis**

**Recruitment Co-Ordinator BMMC South Midlands region**

## **5. TASTER DAY REPORT**

Unfortunately, the only Taster Day that has been achievable this year was one that was held 17 Aug 24. I took over from Steve Morris as the Members Secretary & Taster Day Co-ordinator Nov 23 and had 300+ pers on the list who had requested a Taster Day of which I've been concentrating this on to get everyone e-mailed to see if still interested, no longer interested, or started marshalling. This has been quite time consuming and is one of the reasons why there has been very little Taster Days in 2024 and also mainly lack of communications with the Silverstone team who never answered e-mails / phones. I spoke with Amy at the Training Day back in March and she was very keen to help in any way she could and also requested to attend a Taster Day to get a feel of what's involved as she was new to the team herself and to Motorsport. Since March the team have had two other members join but there is still the lack of comms with them. It took Chris Whitlock, Chairman, to intervene to get a day sorted and nailed down.

Then there was a very keen Taster Co-ord from another region that was also in communications with Silverstone as he had been wrongly informed that there was no Taster Day Co-ordinator for the SMids. So instead of contacting the Committee he went straight to Silverstone and had even set up a Teams meeting with them. So, it seemed everyone apart from myself could get hold of the Silverstone team which was very annoying and frustrating.

As it was on the 17 Aug Taster Day, we had 12 personnel turn up – None from the Silverstone team as they were all too busy with that weekends event. One of the individuals was the parent of a 16yr old and although he didn't know anything about marshalling beforehand, he was hooked by the end of the day and said he would be joining and would be back.

Unfortunately, we need to find a better way of getting Tastees to post instead of just launching them out onto the circuit, especially when it's a split circuit. When my husband (Paul Topping) and myself attend the Taster Days we go around afterwards checking on the Tastees to make sure they made it to post and also to make sure they're alright and answer any questions they may have. We had two individuals who were to go to Maggots & Becketts respectively, but we found them on the Wellington Straight instead. This is one of the things I intend to address for 2025 by creating detailed instructions including a map to hand to personnel.

Out of the 300+ individuals that I took over from Steve I've managed to e-mail them all now and starting to get some e-mail responses back. This is how we currently stand:

- 120 personnel still wanting to do a Taster Day as not quite sure if it's for them or not.
- 10 pers have their MSUK Licence & joined the SMids region and started marshalling of their own accord. With another 20 who have either their MSUK Licence and/or joined the SMids but have not started marshalling yet.
- 13 pers who's details were incorrect, and e-mails bounced back undeliverable.
- 1 is an experienced UAE Marshal and will be in contact with MSUK to get their experience etc transferred over when they arrive in the UK.
- 15 pers have said they want to start marshalling without attending a Taster Day so I've sent them details on how to apply for their MSUK licence and how to join BMMC if they so wish.
- A couple have attended Taster Days at other circuits; another individual was enquiring on the behalf of someone else who has now found the information he was after and some others have

decided it's not for them or they simply don't have the time now as starting University etc, so they've all been removed from my current list and archived.

- I'm still waiting to hear back from the rest which currently stands at 171 pers. They have been given deadlines to respond back before I remove them from my list.

The plan going forward is to start e-mailing dates out to personnel in Jan for a Taster Day in Apr, Feb for May, Mar for Jun, Apr for Jul and so on throughout the year. Silverstone will then be sent the details in Feb for Apr, Mar for May, Apr for Jun, May for Jul and so on, and hopefully we should be able to get the majority of personnel through this way and it will give Silverstone plenty of time to get tickets out to those personnel. I will also be trying to start comms again with Silverstone at the end of the season / beginning of the year and hopefully keep comms open wherever possible.

That's the plan unless someone else takes over as Membership Secretary & Taster Day Co-ordinator after the AGM.

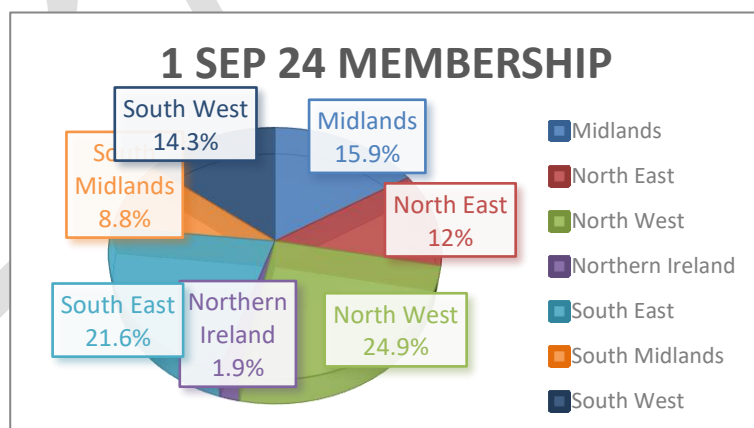
**Karen 'Kaz' Topping**

**Taster Day Co-Ordinator BMMC South Midlands Region.**

## 6. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of 27 September 24 the SMids Membership currently sits at 255 members which is 8.8% of the whole BMMC Membership of 2888. The table and pie chart below shows a representation of the Membership across all Regions showing their membership numbers and percentage figures.

	Sep-24	Sep %
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>2888</b>	
Midlands	460	15.9%
North East	347	12.0%
North West	719	24.9%
Northern Ireland	53	1.8%
South East	625	21.6%
South Midlands	255	8.8%
South West	412	14.3%



**Karen 'Kaz' Topping**

**Members Secretary BMMC South Midlands Region.**

## 7. VOLUNTEERING REPORT

For 2024 all SMT staff at Silverstone changed resulting in a few issues with volunteering and taster days organisation, thanks to Amy most of which were resolved quicker than expected.

This year has again seen the continuing trend where events are running with fewer marshals than is ideal.

Our volunteering system is again due for upgrades over the winter period which should make the operation of volunteering and the issuing lists of volunteers more user friendly.

Enjoy your marshalling and stay safe.

**Glynn Ellis**

**Volunteering Co-Ordinator BMMC South Midlands Region**

## **8. TRAINING REPORT**

South Midlands started the 2023/24 winter training period without a Regional Training Co-Ordinator. As all marshals were invited to Race training at both the BRSCC Driven By Racing event in November 2023 and training at Silverstone in spring 2024, we encouraged all our members to join one of these events. However we also had a request from Kart marshals to again organise in-region kart training. As a result our previous Co-Ordinator Matt Turner kindly agreed to be Lead Trainer and help the committee put together a 2-day training programme at Kimbolton. This was attended by over 25 kart marshals and 7 non-kart marshals, who attended for the fire training module only. In January 2024 we were approached by SMT to help in delivering the Off-Track Race training modules to Grades 2 and 3 as part of their training programme, and Matt and two other Trainers delivered the training in early March.

**Marion Quarrington**

**Regional Secretary BMMC South Midlands Region**

Having joined the committee as the SM Training Coordinator part way through 2024, we have made progress in 2024/2025 training as below:

1. We are joining the BRSCC Driven by Racing Marshal's training on 16 & 17 November 2024 at Silverstone. Everyone is invited to join from South Midlands but also from all other regions. Funding was already in place.
2. I have approved Silverstone Marshals Team to look to also assist with their 2025 training plans, but they have already put plans in place. I am waiting to hear whether we can advise our marshals of their training days.
3. South Midlands do not have a fixed venue in which to provide training. However, I will for 2025 be looking at other options including offering training via zoom (where modules allow) and also an alternative venue should we decide we want to also host our own training event outside of the BRSCC training (although BRSCC training is at no cost to BMMC).
4. I have submitted an application for funding for kart training at Kimbolton to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Currently we await hearing back on the funding.
5. We are also invited to join BRSCC Driven by Racing Marshals' training in November 2025. A funding application has been made by BRSCC.

**Nina Fountain**

**Training Co-Ordinator BMMC South Midlands Region**

## **9. GRADING REPORT**

Following the implementation of the new Grading Pathway, 2024 has seen a seamless transition for upgrades. With applications to Grade one now being approved by the National Grading Coordinator to accept scanned copies, this has improved the speed and sustainability of applications, cutting down on printing and postage.

Please see below the report covering the period of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

- BMMC South midlands have processed a range of upgrades including Off Track, Track and Kart. In total BMMC South Midlands have processed six upgrade applications.

**Ian Whiting**

**Regional Grading Co-Ordinator, BMMC South Midlands Region.**

## **10. WEB ADMIN REPORT**

There have been a number of small changes to the regional website, to make them easier to navigate. The Regional Committee section has been restructured and now shows the available history of minutes from the Annual General Meeting and Annual Reports. The Gallery has been restored following a change to the website infrastructure, and the various Photo Galleries have been re-enabled. Finally, there is now a section with all the South Midlands Newsletters, going back to 2015.

We continue to post regional news to the website (on the left side of the home page), and to our regional Facebook page. If you have any items for this, please let me know.

We are always looking for feedback from our members: are there any other items we should add to the website, to make it easier for you to marshal in our region.?

**Emile Naus**

**Website Administrator, BMMC South Midlands Region**

## **11. NEWSLETTER REPORT**

There have been 6 copies of the Newsletter published on a bi-monthly basis. They are published in the last week of January, March, May, July, September and November with them being distributed digitally using the Club Database and e-mail system Mailchimp. Copies are also posted on the Regional section of the Club website so any BMMC member can read them, and, with thanks to Emile, our Website Co-Ordinator, the newsletter archive now extends back to the start of 2016.

Thank you to all those who have sent me photos and articles for the Newsletter, new material is always welcome. I like to try to put a new photo on the front cover for every edition so please continue to send in what you would like to share.

**Karen 'Kaz' Topping**

**Regional Newsletter Editor, BMMC South Midlands Region.**

## **12. SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT**

Throughput 2024, Keith Madderson has been looking after our Regional Facebook site. He is standing down from the committee and we thank him for his valuable contributions.

Facebook is used for key news and messages and we normally post updates to both the website and to Facebook; it is also available for all our members to post messages of interest to marshalling in our region. We currently have around 120 members

We are always looking for feedback from our members to make this an even better service, please contact the committee members with any suggestions.

**Keith Madderson**

**Social Media Co-Ordinator, BMMC South Midlands Region**

## **13. REGALIA REPORT**

The total sales of regalia totalled £15.00.

The club has produced a range of new stock items that are available to members. Despite several articles advertising the availability of these items, via the newsletter and our social media platform, the take up was disappointing.



The region can supply items such as hats, 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**

#### **14. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

In 2023 the BMMC Board voted to give a sum of £200 to each region for them to donate to a local Environmental or Sustainability charity of their choice. Our Environmental Co-Ordinator, Annette Benson, researched options and proposed that it should go to Foxcote Reservoir, a waterfowl reserve at Maids Moreton between Whittlebury and Buckingham run by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust. Created in 1956, the reserve is now a crucial link in sustaining both resident and migrating waterfowl throughout the year, and especially in winter. Annette resigned from the committee in February.

**Vacancy**

**Environmental Co-Ordinator, BMMC South Midlands Region**

Compiled October 2024