

BMMC Magazine

South Midlands Region



November 2024



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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

Sitting down to write this, I have the sudden reality that this is my first Chairmans Chatter. I am delighted to have been elected to represent BMMC South Midlands as your Regional Chair.

For as long as I can remember I have been a fan of all styles of motorsport, and can regularly be seen at the side of the track at Silverstone as a Grade one incident marshal. I have been a Marshal for 3 years and a member of the SM BMMC committee, in the role of Grading Co-ordinator since 2021.

I would like to sincerely thank Chris, who has been an outstanding Regional Chair a great support to so many marshals and continues to be a font of knowledge and assistance to myself, as I find my way to support you all as your regional Chair. I along with you all are fully aware that these are extremely large shoes to fill. Chris has led South Midland's BMMC for several years and supported us all through challenging and ever-changing times.

I look forward to getting to know as many of you as I can and listening to your thoughts and suggestions.

It was great to see so many marshals attend the Butchers Arms, Greens Norton at our social event following the Birkett relay and also for us to show our appreciation to Chris, where Marion presented him with a tankard and paperweight for appreciation of his service.



Chris also presented the Lesley Harris trophy award to Andrew French, who has also taken over my role as SM Grading Co-Ordinator.

Holding the AGM as virtual meeting has proven to be a success and we shall look to continue this in the future, this year we had the added bonus of surprising Karen 'Kaz' Topping with the Marshal of the year award.

Congratulations to both Andrew and Kaz for all of your hard work.

I would also like to welcome Ross Lewis to the committee as the Environment & Sustainability Coordinator.

It was great to attend and assist with marshals training at the extremely well organised BRSCC Driven by Racing event held at Silverstone over the weekend 16th/17th November 2024. The training was organised and run by Nina, who is also our own Regional Training Co-Ordinator, and huge thanks to both her and to all the other trainers, and to the marshals who helped out.

There are a few pictures below;



Over the next couple of months, I shall be looking to re-establish the 'Noggin and Natter' events, so please keep your eyes peeled for further announcements and potentially a few tours/visits. If anyone has any ideas, suggestions or are able to assist please let me know.

I am excited am excited to be your Regional Chair and hope to continue to progress and support this amazing club.

Enjoy the rest of the year and I look forward to hopefully seeing you at some of our events.

Wishing you all well!

Ian Whiting
SMids Chair
British Motorsport Marshals Club

Secretary Scribblings

The South Midlands committee meets on alternate months, at present on the internet using Zoom, and all members are welcome to join us. Please see the meeting calendar below. Here is a summary of some of the topics that the committee has covered since the last Newsletter:

- The Regional AGM was held on-line on Monday October 28th with 14 regional members present, along with 3 guests. Many thanks to all those who attended and the others who sent their apologies. As already reported Ian Whiting took up the role of Regional Chair during the AGM and expressed many thanks to his predecessor Chris Whitlock. He also thanked Keith Madderson who retired from the committee at the AGM, and welcomed Nina Fountain, who was confirmed in her role, and Andrew French who had been newly elected to the committee.
- One of the tasks of the first meeting of the new Committee after the AGM is to assign the roles to the committee members. A few days after the AGM another regional member volunteered to join the committee, and we welcomed Ross Lewis to our number. Also, as there is now little money to be managed within the region, it was decided to retire the role of Regional Treasurer. The committee roles are now filled as follows:

Chair	Ian Whiting	Grading	Andrew French
Secretary	Marion Quarrington	Regalia	Adrian Cashmore
Recruitment	Glynn Ellis	Website	Emile Naus
Membership	Kaz Topping	Social Media	Emile Naus
Taster Day	Kaz Topping	Newsletter	Chris Whitlock
Volunteering	Glynn Ellis	Environmental and Sustainability	Ross Lewis
Training	Nina Fountain		

- The winners of the regional awards were announced at the AGM as:

Marshal of the Year: Kaz Topping

Leslie Harris Trophy for New Marshal of the Year: Andrew French

Both were congratulated

- We held an end-of-season social event on October 26th at The Butchers Arms in Greens Norton. This was a good venue with a very warm welcome from the staff, and we hope to be able to use it again for more social events in 2025.

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. The dates for 2025 are below, they are all Mondays and the meeting starts at 19:45.

January 6th	March 3rd	May 12th	July 7th	September 8th	November 3rd
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If you want to join the meeting 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.

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 compiled a list of events happening in December 24 & Jan – Feb 25 within our South Midlands region, further details of these events can be found by logging on to our volunteering web site.

Please do use our volunteering web site to register for the events you are volunteering for, be it either volunteering for an event or just registering that you have volunteered directly with the organising club, these entries are used by our national committee with items such as the number of days our members have volunteered for, to obtain more accurate quotations for our insurance. Also don't forget to read the event notes which will give you more information about the event including in Silverstone's case which of the three circuits the event is running on.

Whichever way you choose to volunteer for any motorsport event please ensure you volunteer with one organisation only. This will ensure the event Chief Marshal has an accurate list of marshals volunteered.

Enjoy your marshalling and stay safe.

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

2024 / 25 SOUTH MIDLANDS EVENTS IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Date	Organiser	Type	Location	Title
Dec 7 th	VSCC	Autotest	Bicester Heritage	Winter Driving Tests
Dec 7 th	HKRC	Karting	Kimbolton	Practice
Dec 8 th	HKRC	Karting	Kimbolton	Club Round 10
Jan. 1 st	Vintage Stony	Vehicle Display	Milton Keynes	Vintage Stony
Jan. 5 th	MSUK	Vehicle Display	Bicester Heritage	Bicester Scramble
Jan. 6 th	BMMC	Committee Meeting	Via Zoom	
Jan. 9 th	Autosport	Motorsport Show	NEC Birmingham	Autosport Int.
Jan. 10 th	Autosport	Motorsport Show	NEC Birmingham	Autosport Int.
Jan. 11 th	Autosport	Motorsport Show	NEC Birmingham	Autosport Int.
Jan. 11 th	HKRC	Karting	Kimbolton	Practice Day
Jan. 12 th	HKRC	Karting	Kimbolton	Club Round 1
Jan. 12 th	Autosport	Motorsport Show	NEC Birmingham	Autosport Int.
Jan. 18 th	Shenington KC	Karting	Shenington	Club Round 1
Jan. 19 th	Shenington KC	Karting	Shenington	Club Round 1
Feb. 8 th	HKRC	Karting	Kimbolton	Practice Day
Feb. 9 th	HKRC	Karting	Kimbolton	Club Round 2
Feb. 14 th	Shenington	Karting	Shenington	Club Round 2
Feb. 15 th	Shenington	Karting	Shenington	Club Round 2
Feb. 15 th	VSCC	Circuit Racing	Silverstone	Pomeroy Trophy
Feb. 16 th	Shenington	Karting	Shenington	Club Round 2
Feb. 21 st	Stoneleigh Park	Vehicle Display	Stoneleigh	Race Retro
Feb. 22 st	Stoneleigh Park	Vehicle Display	Stoneleigh	Race Retro
Feb. 23 st	Stoneleigh Park	Vehicle Display	Stoneleigh	Race Retro
Feb. 23 rd	HSTA	Sporting Trials	Sywell	Sywell Trial

Marshal Recruitment

Your committee are currently compiling a list of possible events within our South Midlands Region where we could have a successful marshal recruitment stand next year, this will then be discussed in detail at our January meeting. If you are aware of an event in our region that would be suitable for marshal recruitment, please drop me an email.

We are now approaching that time of year when we meet up with friends and relatives around the country so please take time to describe the hobby we all enjoy to them suggesting they join up as a marshal or if undecided suggest they take a taster day at a circuit of their choice.

Stay safe, enjoy your marshalling and have a great Christmas.

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

Grading Report

Hi, I am Andrew French and following the BMMC South Midlands AGM in October, I joined the committee, and I have taken on the role of Regional Grading Coordinator. I have just finished my second season as a marshal, mostly through events held at Silverstone. Although I have come into marshalling a bit later than some, I have found it a very enjoyable and rewarding experience – mainly due to the help and encouragement I have found within the marshalling community.



If you are thinking of upgrading in the near future, please read the section in the recent Motorsport UK Marshals' Bulletin – November 2024. It contains some useful information as we move into 2025 – both under the heading 'Marshal Upgrades' but also further down in the FAQs section. You can read the Marshals' Development Pathway [here](#) for details on what you need to have completed and submit for an upgrade.

We are continuing to hopefully move away from posting paper records and towards submission for upgrades via scans or good quality photos of documentation. Not only will this be more sustainable, but it is also quicker to pass documents around between the parties who need to review, approve and finally submit to Motorsport UK. You also get to keep hold of those precious original pieces of evidence! Therefore, if you are able to submit by emailing your documents as attachments, that would be most welcome.

If you have any questions, or are ready to submit your evidence for an upgrade, please email me on sm.grading@marshals.co.uk - if I don't know the answer, I will endeavour to find out and, either way, reply as soon as possible!

Andrew French
SMids Grading Coordinator
British Motorsports Marshals Club

Drifting – Who Knew It Was So Much Fun?

Back in the days when we had motorsport events at Rockingham some of you, like me, may have seen the Drifting events held in the outer paddock. My visits were to marshal on the circuit, whether it was Racing or Sprints, and I barely spared a glance at the modified cars, the engine noise or the tyre smoke, although I noticed that I always had to drive through huge crowds to get to the in-field tunnel.

In October there was an appeal for extra marshals for an event in Snetterton, which combined Time Attack on the outer 200 circuit with the last round of the British Drifting Pro Championship on the 100 circuit. I volunteered and was assigned to a post for Drifting. “Well, ok” I thought, “this is different, let’s give it a go”. Well, it was certainly different, with 30 to 40 minute on-track sessions alternating with the same amount of down-time, and spectators allowed to cross to an in-field paddock to get really close to the action. The competition was quite different to racing, with three judges perched high on a scaffold tower in the middle of the action, runs being judged against a set of criteria and not a stopwatch in sight!



The day started with individual practice runs before the competition rounds. During this session the judges also drift-drove the course, as they were all former drivers and needed to see it from the drivers’ perspective. Each round saw all the cars separated into pairs with each pair competing head-to-head over two runs in a “Tandem Drift Battle”. In the first run a “lead” driver set the pattern by performing tricks and spins, and was judged for originality and the difficulty of the moves. The second “chase” driver had to follow close behind and was judged for how well they mimicked and copied the moves of the lead car. Points were deducted for going off the circuit, and for the chase car not keeping a constant gap from the lead. In the second run the roles were swapped, with the chase driver now setting the pattern for the other driver to follow. Each round worked on a knock-out basis, the drivers with the most points continuing on and the field gradually reducing until just four drivers remained. Each of these then ran against each of the others, until the two highest scoring drivers remained to compete in the final. To be honest, I still don’t know why or how the winner actually won, as all the runs looked spectacular to me, but the crowd was very knowledgeable and certainly appreciated it all, whooping and clapping after every good run.



As marshals our most important job was to pick up the debris that fell off the cars during the run, as the extreme power and sideways moves resulted in such contortions that parts of the bodywork sometimes fell off! All the bits were given back to the teams, and, undeterred, the parts were put back on the cars, in some cases with plentiful use of tie wraps. As the day was wet, and cars went off on to the grass quite frequently, we also had to go out with brushes and shovels to clear the mud off the circuit. In addition, as I was on the last post and level with the end of the run, I had the job of reporting any drivers who continued to “showboat” after their run had finished.



My post was directly in front of a raised spectator bank, and it was full for every session, despite the rain. Without an event commentary, as the loudspeakers near me were covering the Time Attack sessions, I relied on the spectators to keep me informed on what was happening, and I wasn't disappointed. The discussions behind me varied from how and why a driver had modified the aero wing on his car for this event (the combination of corners made it very different from the previous round), to whether the windows on a particular car adversely affected the driver visibility and hence how well he performed as a chase car. These conversations continued through into the paddock, as there was complete access to all the teams and the cars in pop-up canvas garages, and there were “meet the driver” opportunities in the down-time sessions.



Despite the closeness of the action – as you can see from the photos at times the cars are going sideways and barely a car's width apart - there was only one incident of contact when one lead car slowed unexpectedly and the chase car didn't quite stop in time, but both were able to continue. There were a few runs where one or other of the cars took to the grass, but given the rain and the amount of rubber on the circuit this was not unexpected. The level of car control from all the drivers is amazing, and the amount of trust they must have in each other to be able to compete like they do is remarkable. I wouldn't say I have become a hardened Drifting fan, but I absolutely enjoyed the day and when the event comes back to Snetterton next year I shall be volunteering to marshal again. Why don't you look out for Drifting coming to a circuit near you in 2025 and give it a try - you might enjoy it!

Marion Quarrington
SMids Secretary
British Motorsport Marshals Club

All photos courtesy of Drift Pro Championship, and from various rounds during 2024

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 25th 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

January 6th	March 3rd	May 12th	July 7th	September 8th	November 3rd
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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 2025 are:

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				
					Total

Name:

Membership Nos:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone Nos:

Mobile:

Email:

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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Members Secretary (including Taster Day Matters)	Grading Coordinator	Training Coordinator
Kaz Topping 52 Musselburgh Way Bourne Lincolnshire PE10 0XY Mobile: 07498 795791 Email: sm.members@marshals.co.uk	Andrew French 9 Copperwheat Bank Marston Moretaine MK43 2AL Mob: 07971 022717 Email: sm.grading@marshals.co.uk	Nina Fountain Mobile: Email: sm.training@marshals.co.uk
Volunteering Coordinator	Website Administrator	Recruitment (Pro Tem)
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