

# BRITISH MOTORSPORT MARSHALS' CLUB



## MARSHALS' POST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH WEST REGION  
OF THE BRITISH MOTORSPORT MARSHALS'  
CLUB

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MOTORSPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

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# The Chairman's Thoughts....

Wendi Batteson, South West Chairman.....

SW Regional Committee Chairman's Chat – December 2015

Dear SW Members

Firstly, let me apologise for not having sent to our newsletter editor anything for the last newsletter. I was in New Zealand at the time of its publication, and clear ran out of time to send anything in before I left for what has been the most fabulous holiday you could imagine. It was great.

On our travels round the North Island we almost got to do some Rally Marshalling, in that we had intended travelling interstate 1 (known as the Forgotten Highway) from Stratford to Taumarunui a distance of 150Km (approx. 92 miles), through beautiful terrain. The Forgotten Highway is New Zealand's oldest touring route, so really not to be missed. However, we got as far as Strathmore only to find the Interstate (a main arterial route, bit like a motorway but only one lane with passing places and sometimes short stretches of dual carriageway) was shut for the Targa Rally. So, we headed back to Stratford to the Information Centre to find an alternative route to Taumarunui. We were a little surprised there were no notices of the Road Closure before we actually got to it. Anyway, the upshot was that although local roads had been properly closed with Road Closure Notices having been issued by the Local Authority, to shut a major interstate required a Road Closure Order from NZTA (New Zealand Transport Agency) and the Targa boys had failed to do this! Oops, they were in big trouble. We didn't stick around for the fall out and drove a different route.

Unfortunately, this meant going on some unsealed roads (more like dirt tracks) and some of that was very scary! We did find though a one way tunnel on this stretch which was quite interesting. See below.



We also visited the Southward Museum over at Paraparaumu. It was huge with all sorts of vehicles. They had the Cadillac that carried Al Capone complete with bullet holes.





It was absolutely great and we spent many hours in there. Well worth a visit if you ever get the chance to go.

Our AGM was held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Thruxton. We held a minutes silence in remembrance of Len Smart and Stan Hunt. Stan had died peacefully not long before our AGM. A number of your committee and South West BMCC Members attended his funeral, which was packed with people from all over motorsport. Stan's contribution to motorsport over the many years he was involved since his first marshalling experience gained at the First Grand Prix in 1947 will be sorely missed. He was a very well regarded member of our motorsport community and a huge support to the SW Region committee, never failing to attend the AGMs. Stan had been marshalling the Grand Prix since 1947 up to 1999 and was a huge asset to Gurston Down, his GIT (Gurston Incident Team) name being "Veteran Git". Many of you will have come across Stan, especially at Thruxton as he was most often there, in many capacities but certainly as a Steward, in latter years. Stan had his own funeral well organised in advance and his niece read out a letter from Stan to all who attended. In it he thanked all for the support he had received, that he had had a wonderful life and posed the question of what had happened to the democracy in this great country of ours that we had fought for, to be told what to do by the European Community.

I am pleased to report we have some new members on our Committee so a huge welcome to:-

Chris Drew, our regional Grading Officer. Steve Malec of course remains as National Grading Officer but in the first instance for upgrade please contact Chris.

David Patrick has become our Social Media/PRO, as Stephanie Hunter has stepped down from her roles on the SW Committee. David is responsible for our Facebook page and twitter accounts.

Adrian Rangepcroft, has stepped into the Role of Webmaster. We'd also like to welcome Mike Gilmore back as our Secretary. I'd like to extend our very grateful thanks for all the work Steve Malec did as Regional Grading Officer in the time he has been on committee and also to Steph for her roles as Secretary, Social Media/PR and Web Admin Officers and in particular setting up our Facebook and Twitter pages well before any National social media pages were set up.

We're still looking for a training officer. This role is about assisting in the training of marshals and organising training days/events. The work involved is not particularly onerous and Paul Wiltshire and I are registered MSA trainers so would assist in this in any event. If this is something you would be interested in then do please get in touch with me.

At our AGM we ran a small and rather exclusive training event on Post Chief Report Writing which went very well, so my thanks go to Paul Wiltshire and Chris Turrall in taking this forward. It was well received and generated much discussion.

Members who attended also voted on our awards:

The Bellini Trophy went to Chris Turrall  
The New Marshal of the Year went to Jane Russ  
The New Cadet Marshal of the Year was unawarded.

Congratulations to both Chris and Jane for these awards.

Until next time. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. All the best and stay safe.

*Wendi Batteson*  
South West Chairman  
British Motorsport Marshals' Club

## Craven Motor Club – Sprint Event Mar 2016

Craven Motor Club are running a sprint event on the 20th March 2016 at Hullavington Airfield (junc 17 M4).

This is our second event at this new venue and we are committed to further improving on last years success.

I would like to invite anyone interested in marshalling to get in touch with me at [hawkdarren@gmail.com](mailto:hawkdarren@gmail.com) or [webmaster@craven-motor-club.co.uk](http://webmaster@craven-motor-club.co.uk)

Many thanks

*Darren Hawkins*  
Event Chief Marshal

# End of Year Recruitment Report

To All

This year we started early and we look to be finishing right up to the end as we get requests for taster days, we have had some good lists come through from the BTCC rounds as well as events such as the Autosport show and the Classic Car show and other events, we seem to be doing better now than when I first took over as Recruitment Officer about 3 to 4 years ago so you can say now the region has a good record with taster day requests, this has been noted by National level, the requests that we are getting are for our usual Circuits, hillclimb venues and Kart tracks but also Rallying and tracks further afield such as Silverstone and Donington, I send out letters and emails for feedback information so we keep a link open with a positive hope they will join our region.

But as always it is you guys and girls on the bank who come in contact with the taster day requestee so talk to them even if we only get 10% of all actually join our club we are doing well so keep it up.

This year I have been doing a trial with our National Recruitment Officer to try to find a better way in which we the regions report the statistics from the lists that are sent to us for taster days such as total numbers, numbers placed at circuits, hillclimb venues, kart tracks, Rallying, feedback, email or letters of no contact, insufficient contact details.

So all in all our region is doing well and I hope we can keep the good work up for 2016, on another thought as we look around the circuits we see a lot of guys doing various duties and I wonder how long will they be doing that duty, there are a lot of younger people with the experience to step up so all I ask is give it a thought for the New year, so if you think you could do a Flag marshals job or IO or Post Chief position well speak to a member of the committee we are here to help you, we shall be at a training day near you so speak to us.

*Charles Turrall*

SW Recruitment Officer

British Motorsport Marshals' Club

## SW New Members

The following personnel are new members to the South West Region:

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Member No.</b>	<b>Marshalling Interest</b>
Geoffrey	Mollison	NW7463	Kart
Tom	Whipp	NW7462	Race, Kart
Helene	Johns	SW7465	Race
Keith	Johns	SW7464	Race
Andy	Fox	NE7441	Race, Kart, Speed
Alan	Williams	NW7442	Race, Rally
Paul	Jones	SM7460	Race
Nigel	Eaton	NW7457	Race

I'd just like to welcome you all to the Region and hope to see you all out on the Bank in the New Year.

*Paul Wiltshire*  
SW Membership Secretary  
British Motorsport Marshals' Club



## SOUTH WEST REGION

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