



SAFER MOTORSPORT

# BRITISHMOTORSPORT MARSHALS' CLUB



## MARSHALS' POST

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

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[www.marshals.co.uk](http://www.marshals.co.uk)

MOTORSPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

FOUNDED 1957

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# The Chairman's Chat

Wendi Batterson, South West Chairman .....

SW Regional Committee Chairman's Chat – August 2016

Dear SW Members

On 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016 the SW region will be holding a Kart Marshal Training day at Boscombe Aviation Museum, near Salisbury, if any of you are interested in coming to this please do let me know as soon as you can. We'll be covering FMOS (First Marshal on scene), radio procedure, flags, incident & report writing together with fire training practical and theory. This training will be relevant to new marshals as well as those more experienced. I'm pleased to say I have had a few responses from people interested, but as it currently stands not enough to make the event feasible. If you do wish to learn about kart marshalling then please, please let me know as soon as possible.

We held a recruitment event at the Berkshire Motor Show on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 at Prospect Park, Reading. It was a beautiful day and there were lots of lovely old cars and camper vans to see along with some family friendly events. There was clearly something there for everyone and not just petrol heads. We were able to obtain the details of a number of people interested in marshalling, so that was good. We also forged greater links with our Regional Motorsport Representative Andrew and the Craven Car Club. All in all it was a good day out.



Following the last newsletter I am pleased to report we have recruited a Training Officer to the SW region which is great news. He is Alex Hodgkinson and is very welcome addition to our committee.

Again, a plea for any stories or articles you would wish to see in our newsletters. If you do have time to pen a small article for that for distribution to all our members in the South West then our Newsletter Editor Kaz Connolly will look forward to hearing from you. You can contact her on

[sw.news@marshals.co.uk](mailto:sw.news@marshals.co.uk)

The time is fast approaching for your committee to think about who in the region should receive our awards. We have the Bellini Trophy for outstanding services to marshalling, the New Marshal of the year which is open to people who have been marshalling just two years and who have showed a dedication or enthusiasm and demonstrated a keen interest in learning and ability whilst on post. We also have the Cadet marshal of the year which is open to young marshals below the age of 18. If you have any potential candidates for this award then do please let me, or indeed any member of the committee know. These awards are usually awarded at our AGM. The AGM this year will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Next year will be the Club's Diamond Anniversary, so again if you have any ideas of a social evening we could organise in the SW region you would wish to attend please send me your thoughts.

All the best and stay safe.

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

## CQ Award

Folks,

Below is evidence of the CQ received from the Mini7 Club last weekend at Oulton.



The money was raised following the competition ran by the Mini7 Club - Race a Mini.

Rob Howard kindly allowed his spare car to be raffled for a one off drive at Brands (incl ARDS if required by the winner).

The £400 was the surplus after the expenses of the competition had been taken. I think there will be a similar competition next Summer.

Photographer was Stephen Colbran and the competition was run by the Mini7 Club.

Regards

*Steve Woolfe*  
National Secretary  
British Motorsports Marshals' Club

# POCONO AUGUST 2016

## JUSTIN WILSON REMEMBERED

Last year's visit to Pocono in Pennsylvania was not a pleasant experience, as we saw Justin Wilson killed on track, in something of a freak incident. Debris from Sage Karim's car which had crashed into the wall several cars in front of Justin bounced along the track to hit Justin head on.

This year there were all sorts of remembrances for poor Justin. Union Flags were at half-mast all along the pit road for the whole weekend and he was mentioned frequently in commentary. All drivers and many other personnel, including controversial commentator, Robin Miller, were sporting Union Flag stockings to mark the anniversary.

Justin was very popular with everyone in Indy Car racing, and it showed at Pocono this year. We understand Justin's wife has remained in the States, not to upset their two daughters' education, and that she has become close to Suzy Wheldon, widow of another British driver to sadly die racing Indy Cars.

So, a bit of a sombre note this year at Pocono but it was good to see the level of appreciation for one of the good guys, sadly missed.

Shame the race was rained off on Sunday, which did not help crowd size, already expected to be not very large. The rain was widely forecast to happen on Sunday afternoon, from 14.00 hrs to 20.00 hrs, with the race scheduled for 15.00 hrs start. Many people did not feel it was worth the bother, it seems.

Shame, too, for the organisers at Pocono who have put a lot of effort – and cash – into trying to invigorate Indy Car racing in the North East of America. They have just signed up for another two years, which is very brave of them, considering the poor return so far. Yet, drivers are keen to race there.

Worse still for the family at Pocono, this was their third rain out this year, with all three major races delayed for 24 hours, two NASCAR Sprint Cup races and this Indy race. Up until now, the record of rain outs has not been too bad, given that the circuit lies within the Pocono mountains where just as at Spa, it can rain anytime. I am sure their luck will improve.

We planned for this and booked our flights from New York to Florida until the Tuesday. There were not too many less for the race on Monday, which turned out to be one of the best Indy Car races this year.

Undoubted star of practice and qualifying was recently returned Russian driver, Mikhail Aleshin, fastest in all practice sessions and easily on pole position. He led the race from the start, and for 87 of the 200 laps, followed closely by Ryan Hunter-Reay who started last, after a crash in practice. Hunter-Reay made up seven positions in the first two-thirds of the opening lap – until Sato threw himself at the wall exiting Turn Three, the last corner in Pocono's tri-oval set up.

It would have to be Sato wouldn't it? Why is he still racing? Dario Franchitti once said that Sato had hit every car except the Safety Car – give him time Dario! Was it not also Sato who put Dario in the fence, an incident that led to Dario's retirement? Sato races for A. J. Foyt's team, whose main sponsor was headline sponsor for this race. A.J. may have calmed down in his senior years but I wonder how he greeted Sato's return to the pits? I simply cannot understand why this chap Sato is still allowed to race.

Aside from this, it was a great race. Aleshin and Hunter-Reay led most laps but there were many changes of position further down the field – and Will Power was gradually making ground on everyone. Skilful pit stops and clever strategy eventually led to his victory. Well deserved, in my



view, and a very interesting Indy Car race, much more interesting than the follow-my-leader style of current F1 races.

Why Indy Car racing is not more popular in the USA I simply do not understand. OK, it has to compete with 43 starters in NASCAR Sprint Cup racing, but that can be a bit boring at times, too.

We have been going to Pocono International Raceway for some 34 years now, following an introduction to the owner family by Keith Douglas, one of our founder members. I have watched IMSA racing there, plus some brilliant NASCAR weekends and more recently the return of Indy Cars. The whole track can be seen from most spectating positions and the circuit just gets better every year – including the longest line of men’s urinals in the world!! No long queues there to use “the facilities” that is so common at most European circuits – Le Mans especially.

If you get the opportunity to attend, do take it – and it is much, much cheaper than the costs to attend a F1 GP.

### **George Copeland**

**Footnote:** He did it again; Sato into the wall at the Texas re-run!

But another great race and a fine tribute to Justin Wilson from eventual winner Graham Rahal. In a special programme on Graham Rahal, shown after the Texas race, Graham made an emotional tribute to Justin Wilson, how popular he was and how safe he was to race with.

Then, Scott Dixon, winner of another exciting Indy race at Watkins Glen on 4<sup>th</sup> September, announced that he would be donating his winnings to the Justin Wilson children’s fund. Justin was clearly a very popular driver within Indy Car racing and it is quite remarkable how his fellow drivers and teams have marked the first anniversary of his sad death; a tribute to them all.

## SW New Members

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

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Member Nos.</b>	<b>Marshalling Interest</b>
David	Hodgson	NW7651	Race, Rally
David	Williams	NW7650	Race, Rally, Speed
David	Totty	SE7652	Race
Elizabeth	Wilcox	SW7654	Rally
Albert	Jones	SW7653	Race, Rally, Speed
Paul	Dennison	SE5969	Race
James	Sharp	SE7620	Race
Stephen	Carter	SE7625	Race
Philip	Dunlop	NI7635	Race, Rally, Kart, Speed
James	McNeil	NW7629	Race
Louise	Piper	SW7637	Race, Speed
Andy	Garrett	NW7628	Race
Steve	Baker	SM7639	Race, Rally

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

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

## South West Region

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Grading Officer</b>
<p>Wendi Batteson 90 Huntsmoor Road Tadley Hants RG26 4BX Tel: 0118 327 6345 Mobile: 07818 411367 Email: <a href="mailto:sw.chair@marshals.co.uk">sw.chair@marshals.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Mike Gilmore 14 Milton Close Basingstoke Hants RG24 9BT Tel: 01256 466418 Mobile: 07880 945646 Email: <a href="mailto:sw.secretary@marshals.co.uk">sw.secretary@marshals.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Chris Drew 34 Bredy Close Canford Heath Poole, Dorset, BH17 9JP Tel: 01202 657909 Mobile: 07910 933588 Email: <a href="mailto:sw.grading@marshals.co.uk">sw.grading@marshals.co.uk</a></p>
<b>Membership &amp; Regalia Secretary</b>	<b>Competitions Secretary</b>	<b>Training Officer</b>
<p>Paul Wiltshire 23 Lansdown Close Melksham Wilts SN12 7JR Tel: 01225 703419 Mobile: 07846 934919 Email: <a href="mailto:sw.volco@marshals.co.uk">sw.volco@marshals.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Paul Wiltshire 23 Lansdown Close Melksham Wilts SN12 7JR Tel: 01225 703419 Mobile: 07846 934919 Email: <a href="mailto:sw.members@marshals.co.uk">sw.members@marshals.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Alex Hodgkinson 25 Tamerton Close Plymouth PL5 4JX Tel: 01752 790684 Mobile: 07941 005049 Email: <a href="mailto:sw.training@marshals.co.uk">sw.training@marshals.co.uk</a></p>
<b>Recruitment Officer</b>	<b>Rally Representative</b>	<b>Webadmin Administrator</b>
<p>Chris Turrall 51b Station Road, Netley Abbey Southampton SO31 5AE Tel: 023 8045 7180 Mobile: 07857 484669 Email: <a href="mailto:sw.recruiting@marshals.co.uk">sw.recruiting@marshals.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Stephen Biggs 76 Copse Lane Ilton, Ilminster TA19 9HQ Tel: 01460 259208 Mobile: 07712 069558 Email: <a href="mailto:magicknight@btinternet.com">magicknight@btinternet.com</a></p>	<p>Adrian Rangepcroft 186 Woodlands Road Woodlands Southampton, Hants, SO40 7GL Telephone: 02380 293107 Mobile: 07747 855469 Email: <a href="mailto:sw.webadmin@marshals.co.uk">sw.webadmin@marshals.co.uk</a></p>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Social Media &amp; PO</b>	
<p>Kaz Connolly 21 Heron Road Benson Wallingford OX10 6DN Mobile: 07949 026899 Email: <a href="mailto:sw.news@marshals.co.uk">sw.news@marshals.co.uk</a></p>	<p>David Patrick 72 Bracken Crescent Bishopstoke Eastleigh, Hants SO50 8ND Telephone: 02380 695309 Mobile: 07739 795520 Email: <a href="mailto:sw.media@marshals.co.uk">sw.media@marshals.co.uk</a></p>	