

BRITISHMOTORSPORT MARSHALS' CLUB



MARSHALS' POST

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

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MOTORSPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

FOUNDED 1957

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The Chairman's Chat

Wendi Batteson, South West Chairman

SW Regional Committee Chairman's Chat – June 2017

Dear SW Members

The season is now well underway, and I hope you are all having fun with your motorsport hobby.

I have been remiss in not letting you know that back at our AGM in October 2016 Paul Wiltshire was put forward for the Bellini Trophy and awarded this. I did ask him to write an article about his marshalling career and he did provide this back then and although when I wrote the last chairman's chat I had a niggle in the back of my mind that there was something else I was supposed to include. Unfortunately, that niggle didn't actually reveal what it was until after the newsletter was published and sent to you all!

No other trophies were awarded.

My huge apologies to Paul for that oversight and so I have taken this opportunity to share that news with you and include Paul's piece below.

If there is anything you wish the committee to take forward on your behalf then do please let any one of us know. Similarly, we are always looking for articles to go into our newsletter so any little stories you have please send direct to Karen Connolly our Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the newsletter. Email sw.news@marshals.co.uk

All the best and stay safe.

Wendi Batteson
South West Chairman
British Motorsport Marshals' Club

Paul Wiltshire A Marshal's Tale

I would like to firstly thank the SW. Region for this nomination as marshal of the year. I am honoured to be awarded this Trophy.

I first became interested in motorsports back in the early 1970's. I had a friend who was a mechanic for Dorset Racing. He went all over Europe with the team. He and his brother used to race Karts at venues such as Clay Pigeon and Little Rissington. We used to help with the karts. In those days a rolling start was usual, so I had to pick up the kart to bump start it. If you qualified at the front you were in great danger of getting your heels wacked from the karts behind. Which happened very often. In those early days my pal was a friend of Terry Sanger. When I first met Terry he scared me to death, he was larger than life. But when I got to know him and he, me, I quickly began to realise what a wonderfully generous person he was. I did some spanner work for my friend who was mechanic for a formula ford driver in the winter series at Silverstone. The bug bit then. It took even deeper hold after watching a can – am race from the top of the old pit lane garage complex at Silverstone. Just seeing those monsters race and the wonderful sound coming from them was enough to get the blood pumping. I was a confirmed petrol head after that.

It was in the eighties that I took the plunge and decided to become a race marshal. This being the only way that I could afford to be involved. This turned out to be the best decision I ever made. I attended my first training day at Castle Combe circuit. It was at this time that I joined the British Motorsport Marshals Club. It is hard to believe that was 36 years ago. I worked my way through the grades and around 2000 became an examining post chief, being nominated by the chief marshal at the circuit. I used to enjoy and still do, flagging. Having cut my teeth on some great club and national racing during and after my qualifying as flag marshal.

I became a member of the SW Region committee after I retired from the NHS as a maintenance engineer. Having finished up, as the Trust Fire and Waste Officer. I decided to put myself forward because I believe in giving back to the organisation and to motorsport in general my knowledge. Hopefully to encourage anyone who is interested in motorsport to get involved. In that respect, I was pleased when I was nominated along with the SW chair to become an MSA trainer. I had been involved with staff training with the NHS trust I worked for. I was fortunate to marshal in Dubai also at the first GP in Abu Dhabi. I marshal touring cars and at the GP's. But I still believe that club racing is the best type of racing there is. Lately I have been asked to officiate as Chief Incident Officer (course car) and assistant chief observer, which widen my skill base. I enjoy the challenge of something different.

I have made many friends and met a lot of great people in motorsports over the years and has given me many good memories. There are still more friends to make and memories to gather, which I look forward to.



Paul Wiltshire
SW Members Secretary & Volunteering Co-Ordinator
British Motorsport Marshals' Club

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