

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

FOUNDED 1957

2 - The Chairman's Chat - A Clean Slate

3 - SW Training Day - Postponed for 2020

4 - South West Secretary's Update

5 - Bellini Trophy Recipient Chris Turrall

6 - Marshalling News

**7 - Corona Virus Lockdown
One Marshalling Couple's Experience**

11 - Regalia Items

12 - South West Region Members

The Chairman's Chat

Alex Hodgkinson, South West Chairman

SW Regional Committee Chairman's Chat – August 2020

A Clean Slate

Dear SW Members,

Some of you may be aware that our long-standing chairwoman, Wendi, recently resigned. From all of us at the BMMC, and the wider motorsport community, we all would like to thank her for her hard work and alacrity during her time as chair.

The committee recently held an internal vote to elect a replacement and they very kindly entrusted me to assume the role as Chairman and Charlotte Starkie as Vice-Chair. I will be retaining my training officer role for now and Charlotte will assume her previous role of Secretary. Charlotte brings a wealth of experience from working with local government to our organisation and I am very happy to have her next to me on this journey.



As I'm sure you're all aware, motorsport has returned for many of us and I hope that some of you have been able to get back to the hobby that you love. Events are being managed in a different way, the lack of spectators being the main abnormality. The CV-19 situation is still developing, so there will still be aspects that will need to be considered by the motorsports community, I can assure you that the governing body, Motorsports UK, are firmly leading the charge back to normality within our community.

As the end of the year is slowly creeping over the horizon and clubs are creeping their championships and race meetings further towards the winter, marshals who need to, should take advantage of the regalia sales being offered by the BMMC. Whether it's overalls, waterproof's or BMMC branded face-coverings, get your orders in soon. As the gap between the end of this season and the start of the 2021 season will be shorter than previous years, so avoid the rush and grab your kit early!

Our next committee meeting will be in September, obviously with the CV-19 situation still being somewhat fluid, this will more than likely be a Zoom type meeting. If any member of the BMMC community wishes to join our regular committee meetings, please get in touch with the Secretary and we would all love to have your input. This meeting will be followed by our AGM, with the date being confirmed shortly.

I am very much looking forward to engaging with the membership in my role as Chair, it's a very exciting prospect and we have a great committee within the South West to work with. Please remember to like and subscribe to our social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter, where we will advertise our committee meetings and any other information of benefit to the membership.

Keep Safe.

Alex Hodgkinson
South West Chairman
British Motorsport Marshal's Club

SW Training Day – Postponed for 2020

Our training day, which we hoped we would be able to host at the end of this year has unfortunately been postponed until Q1 of 2021 due to the difficulty of trying to organise a training day during CV-19. The training plan we had developed would be very difficult to deliver whilst maintaining social distancing, therefore the safest decision for everyone is to delay the delivery of our training day until next year.

Rest assured, the committee will work hard to deliver some form of 'self-learning' and refresher training over the winter, although this will **not** count as a training day signature in your PRC, it will serve as a reminder and refresher for all those who are getting back out to venues in 2021.

More details will be revealed after our committee meeting in September, but as always, if anyone has any questions regarding training, training day signatures or the content that you would like to see delivered, please get in touch. My contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Members Q&A:

I would like to see if there is anyone from our readership who would be willing to conduct a five or ten minute interview about their marshalling career. Regardless of discipline, grade or circuit, we would love to share your experiences with our readership. Similarly, we are looking for people from specialisations such as Rescue, Recovery, Race/Rally Control or any other, often under-recognised disciplines.

The interview would be a handful of questions about why you became a marshal, most memorable experiences and an opportunity for you to impart your wisdom and knowledge on our readers. If this is something that interests you, please get in touch with me at sw.chair@marshals.co.uk

All the best and stay safe.

Alex Hodgkinson
South West Chairman
British Motorsport Marshal's Club

South West Secretary's Update

On behalf of the members of the BMMC South West Committee and the wider marshalling community, I would like to thank Wendi Batteson for her contribution to the smooth running of the committee over the last few years. Wendi recently stood down from the role as Chair and is to be thanked for the years of loyal service to the club.

Thank you, Wendi.

On an interim basis, I have offered to take on that role until such a time at nominations can be received. The next meeting will be on 24th September, followed by the Annual General Meeting on 22nd November, and most likely to be using the platform of Zoom.

I write this article watching the GP at Silverstone from the comfort of my sofa, trying to catch a glimpse of some of the marshals that we might recognise. It will be a vastly different experience to what those who have attended in previous years have experienced and it would be great to hear from you, if you attended. If you are experienced or a first timer, please drop me a few lines, with a couple of photos, by 14th September, to put some stories together for the next newsletter.

I was lucky enough to marshal at the first race of the season at Castle Combe on 4th July. It was exciting to return, knowing that an additional level of responsibility rested on our shoulders, due to the restricted number of marshals on post. That said, once we got used to the limited number of support crew in the paddock, and the complete lack of spectators, it was business as usual, with the usual work to be done. We still managed to finish the day in a distanced gaggle over a drink, sharing the usual banter.

I reiterate the message of the BMMC Chair, Nadine Lewis, that the new rules to adhere to social distancing are necessary in order to keep us all safe. Please think before signing up to attend a race. If in doubt about your own health, and if you have had any symptoms of the dreaded virus, please think before signing the online declaration in advance of marshalling.

Don't forget to join the BMMC South West Facebook page and if you have any news items for the newsletter, or photos that we can use on social media, we encourage you to get in touch with the appropriate committee member. An Instagram page is being set up and we will need photo content for that.

Stay safe, and enjoy the season, either track side or watching the live streaming of races that some clubs have set up.

Charlotte Starkie
South West Secretary
British Motorsport Marshal's Club

Bellini Trophy Recipient Chris Turrall

Recently, long-serving BMMC member, Chris Turrall was presented with the Bellini Trophy.

This award was in recognition of all the work Chris has done for the club over the years. It is also noticeable that Chris has a long-standing relationship with the Dutch Zandvoort circuit and their marshals team who were due to host their first Grand Prix this year after a gap of 35 years but were beaten by the COVID-19 virus. Hopefully it will be on next year's F1 programme.

Graham was also busy delivering an inscribed tankard to Adrian Rangecroft for his work as Secretary of the region. Adrian has now moved out of the South West Region and lives in Abingdon and as Graham was marshalling at the Abingdon long-course sprint he hand-delivered the award to Adrian. We are reliably informed by Adrian that the award was quickly put to work!

Our best wishes to Adrian who is now a South Midlands region member.

Graham Ellis
South West Membership Secretary
British Motorsport Marshal's Club

Marshalling News

The racing season has finally started and marshalling has commenced. The first UK race was held in the South West at Castle Combe where MSUK officials visited and oversaw the very first Covid-19 marshalling set-up. It is reported that all was well and other tracks have also now started racing.

On the weekend on 25th and 26th July the Classic Sports Car Club (CSCC) organised their first event at Thruxton, where maximum grids were experienced along with some very close racing over two days and with very differing weather conditions.

Marshals (incl. BMMC members) from post 6 are shown in the attached photograph wearing their assorted face coverings. Social distancing was fully observed with no problems experienced. The author is the one on the far left.

(Photo courtesy of David Stallard photography- CSCC)



On Saturday 1st August Castle Combe held their summer spectacular race day which like all other races will be behind closed doors, not ideal but at least we are racing. The big test comes the same weekend with the British Grand Prix, it will be interesting to see how this is handled by Silverstone and the FIA, from the TV it appears that all went well.

Local clubs are also starting to run events and the Abingdon Long Course sprint is being held at Abingdon on 15th August and will be followed by the annual CAR-nival on the weekend of 26th and 27th September. Contact for these events is Dave Whyman (davewhyman@hotmail.com) and tell him his details have been provided by the South West BMMC membership secretary!!.

Graham Ellis
South West Membership Secretary
British Motorsport Marshal's Club

Corona Virus Lockdown One Marshalling Couple's Experience

My wife June and I became aware of the Corona Virus - or a close relation of it - as early as December 2019. We were on a Christmas cruise with TUI. At the halfway stage, 800 new passengers came on board in Kingston, Jamaica mostly from the UK.

Within days we both had virulent coughs, breathlessness, bit of a temperature, etc - all the signs later attributed to Covid19. We took it as just a chest infection at the time and dosed ourselves up with medicines we carry with us. We cancelled our two remaining excursions, dined alone and spent time on our very comfortable balcony, reading. Self-isolation as became the term used when Corona Virus struck.

It was only when we got to the airport for the journey home, and waiting for a delayed flight, that we realised how many other passengers had the same complaint.

I was due at the Royal Marsden next day, for my regular Myeloma checks. Mid-range panic set in as the results unfolded. All the checks were well out of tune with what they should have been. The test for level of infection came out at 176 instead of 10. Another test I cannot remember the details of, was similarly awry. Oxygen in my blood got to 95 only after a great deal of huffing and puffing.

After a short conference, I was told I needed to stay in for five days, to have intravenous treatment, because of the danger relevant to Myeloma. I argued that I could not do this, as June would be on her own and had yet to see a doctor. It took another two hours of consultation, involving the Chief Pharmacist, before I was allowed home for five days, armed with some very strong antibiotics, plus an anti-viral med. (I'd also had a Covid19 type swab test).

If I was no better at the end of five days, I would have to go in as an in-patient. In the meantime, we stopped all cancer treatment, to give the new drugs a better chance to work. As it was, I felt fine at the end of five days. The full Myeloma tests a few days later showed everything back to normal. It took June three weeks on antibiotics to get better and even then, the cough lingered.

When Covid19 appeared on the scene, we felt very much that what we had suffered was remarkably akin to the symptoms and eventual "cure" in my case with a viral med. We tried to see if we could have a test to determine if we'd had Corona Virus or something remarkably similar. No success on that, even after requesting a test via our local MP, Sir John Redwood. So, we will probably never know.

Then on to lockdown. Myeloma UK was quick to advise us that Myeloma sufferers were five times as likely to catch this deadly virus; one note suggested even ten times. That got our attention!

We were told we would receive a letter from the government advising us what precautions we, especially, should take. It was two weeks before this arrived, possibly because I am registered as a private patient and they got to the private lists last. Thankfully we had kept BUPA on when we sold our business, which allows me a much more benign treatment than most of the traditional treatments for Myeloma, some of which are very aggressive.

So, we were happily continuing to shop at our local Tesco store, where they had made excellent arrangements to deal with social positioning etc. Very impressive. However, when we mentioned to the family what we were doing, Deputy Head school teacher daughter and GP son-in-law, both in the thick of COVID-19 prevention schemes, told us to desist! We did as we were told!

As part of the special arrangements for such as us, the Shielded, we get a fortnightly call from a lady on Wokingham Borough Council, weekly food packages which we stopped after the first one, to go to those who need it more. Chris Whitlock, Chairman of South Mids, used up his free calls to ring round South Mids members. We now have a special arrangement with Tesco that guarantees us weekly deliveries. We get regular letters updating the special arrangements for the Shielded. Generally, we feel well looked after and a credit to those in government who have put all these things into being, plus quite generous compensation packages for most who have been laid off.

I am not usually a great lover of politicians, of whatever party, but I do feel they deserve credit this time for how they coped with a pandemic the like of which none of us has seen before.

Thanks, too, to all those in the front line. Our son-in-law, despite being senior partner of two sizeable partnerships currently merging, still volunteers for the odd shift at the local hospital to give doctors there a break. Our daughter and granddaughter, both teachers, worked 12/14 hours a day preparing home schooling as well as looking after at school the children of key workers or otherwise vulnerable children. Both worked through the Easter and mid-term breaks.

Credit to all on the front line throughout this crisis. God bless the NHS and those who continued to relieve us of our dustbins, delivered our mail and packages, etc. I think we have seen the best of our country in this present crisis. There has been so much good, as well as tragedy.

As for our immediate family, Zoom has been a Godsend. Regular contact, quizzes and generally keeping in touch. When we gained a little freedom, we did have a barbecue with daughter and son-in-law, who live nearby, but still socially spaced around a long garden table.

Our first outings did not go well. First attempt was to drive around the New Forest, where we had many happy years when the kids were little. Got as far as Southampton, where miles of traffic caused by a road traffic accident meant too long a journey - with no public toilet facilities available! Second attempt, we did not get out of Wokingham before some boy-racer in a beat-up Audi A3 side-swiped us exiting a roundabout. Not his fault, of course, but following driver offered himself as independent witness, and after I got the clown to ring the Police, he did consent to let us have his details.

In house, we caught up with things we had not yet found a place for; fixed the odd new-home crack in the plaster. Currently having a lift installed, since I did not get my knee operations, due to the crisis, and we both struggle a bit moving stuff up and down between floors. It was included in the building plans but the builder reneged on the deal to fit it.

One motorsport event was to write to BoJo and the Home Secretary when Boris was reported as saying he could not support the Silverstone GP, as that would be elitist. This was on one of my steroid nights, when I know I won't sleep and don't bother going to bed.

I re-acquainted them with the historic significance of the 70th anniversary race. The part played by Silverstone, in running the inaugural race in 1950. The fact that seven out of the ten teams are based in the UK, and were we going to forget how quickly these teams set up to make improved ventilators, etc in present times.

I even paid credit to the Marshals' Club, whose Training and Grading Scheme was replicated in around 30 countries, translated into several Chinese dialects, before becoming the MSA national scheme. The MSA won an FIA award for our scheme and it went on to be the bedrock of other T&G schemes in the Motorsport World. Another indicator of the important part the UK plays in this same World - and emphasised that the Marshals are volunteers!

No one knows what happens to such letters, but I did get early acknowledgement from the Home Secretary and an invitation to join a virtual meeting with her. Not as grand as it sounds but it did allow me to reinforce the points made.

Did it help? Who knows? Stuart Pringle of Silverstone feels as I do, if you don't try you surely will not win, and gave thanks for trying.

I am also on a list of people invited to make suggestions to the Chancellor on how best to help the economy recover. A couple of simple, obvious ideas first - make more, grow more of what we use and eat in this country. Limit our trade with China, where product quality is still not great. Encourage central and local governments to specify "Made in the UK" when issuing tenders - not as we were told once by two fairly senior government officials, who we arranged to come to speak to us at the British Plastics Federation, that they almost felt obliged to buy in Europe as we were part of Europe. Didn't seem to matter that this would be at the expense of UK plc.

Still, I suppose First Class on Eurostar, a couple of nights in minimum four-star hotel, is more attractive than trundling up and down the M1/M6 looking for UK supply!!

Technically, we are on lockdown until the 1st of August and are advised by GP son-in-law and our specialist at Royal Marsden to continue as we are - and we are doing so. We had our longest outing yesterday (6th July) to the funeral of June's younger brother who succumbed to cancer of the oesophagus. Limited to 18 mourners.

We should have been in the USA at this time, for our annual outing to Pocono, this time for what was to have been a unique event, double-header races for Trucks, Infiniti and Cup. First BA cancelled our flight, US would have refused us entry, our government said we couldn't go and lastly, the whole weekend at Pocono ran without fans. Then the event was nearly rained off. We hesitate to even offer our sympathy for such disappointment.

We had other American friends booked in for the Silverstone GP but that, too, had to be cancelled. We had booked some very expensive hospitality packages, so we could spectate in comfort and did manage a cash rebate but not without a bit of a battle.

This will be the first year in near thirty years that we have not been at our second home in Florida (now sold) or away somewhere equally exotic. Saved a fortune on holiday costs this year. We have booked a short cruise for our Anniversary in July 2021 but at the moment no one will insure us crumbles for cruises! I think the company we have booked with will come up with insurance of their own nearer the time, or they have agreed full refund if not.

So, there you are, our lockdown history. We have not got on each other's nerves too much. We have found it incredibly boring at times but we console ourselves with the thought that what we are doing is the right thing to do. Granddaughter's wedding in April was cancelled and they have managed; now planned for same time next year. Others we know have had to struggle with their own health, several with Covid19. We have done well, by comparison so let's be grateful for that.

Finally, a huge vote of thanks to our frontline staff, in every aspect of how they have coped with this damned pandemic. I hope if there are some "gongs" in the offing after this is over, that more will go to those who were truly in the front line, not observing from afar.

I trust my article was not too boring!

George Copeland
Vice President
British Motorsport Marshal's Club

Regalia Items

Item	Cost
	(£)
Union Jack W/Website	2.00
BMMC Anorak Badge	2.00
BMMC Lapel Badge	2.00
BMMC Tie Pin	2.00

BMMC Stickers etc.

Exterior Stickers	2.00
Long Atmospheric Stickers	2.00

Heroes items

Heroes Woven Badge	2.00
Heroes Woven Badge	2.00
Heroes Lapel Badge www	2.00
Heroes Stickers	2.00
Heroes Key-Rings	2.00
Proud Marshal Stickers	2.00

Clothing & Equipment

Woollen Ski Hats Black	4.50
Woollen Ski Hats Orange	4.50
Baseball Caps - Black	7.00
Baseball Caps - Orange	7.00

Sundry Zero Value Items

Grading Badges	1.00
Large Stickers 7"x7"	1.00

(Please note prices are as last advised).

I can be normally be found at Thruxton, Gurston Down, but also marshal at Castle Combe or Wiscombe Park.

If you need any of the above items please do not hesitate to contact me as per details advised within members of the committee.

Please also note that if you require new overalls these can be obtained at a discount, directly from Lille. Members will also be able to get a full 100% refund on off the peg probans under the current subsidy. Details of which can be found at: <https://www.marshals.co.uk/blog/bmmc-proban-overalls-new-supplier/>

Ian Harrison
SW Regalia Officer
British Motorsports Marshals' Club

SOUTH WEST REGION

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