

# BRITISH MOTORSPORT MARSHAL'S CLUB



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## MARSHAL'S POST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH WEST REGION OF THE  
BRITISH MOTORSPORT MARSHAL'S CLUB

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# The Chairman's Chat

Alex Hodgkinson, South West Chairman .....

## SW Chair and Secretary's Update – February 2021

I write this with both hats on (Secretary and Vice Chair) as our Chairman, Alex Hodgkinson, is absent for a period of time, abroad with work. We wish him well and look forward to reuniting in the late spring/summer. It's the first newsletter of 2021, so welcome to the new year.

I might be one of the luckier ones, but I did manage to get out in my marshalling gear in 2020, at Castle Combe, my local circuit. Different experience: much quieter, all spread out, fewer of us, but still united by the motor racing. I am aware that some of you had to put your volunteering aside last year for a number of reasons but let's hope that we can say farewell to the pandemic and social restrictions and get back to the activity that we all love.

The best place to find a list of racing is to log into the BMMC website, as this is updated with the full schedule of UK racing. When you log in visit the online volunteering system, where you will find a list of events across the UK, with an opportunity to volunteer for that event too.

And don't forget to join/follow the BMMC South West Facebook and Instagram pages. If you have appropriate photos or videos that we can share with members please email them to Rob Hambly, our social media guru.

We have held our first committee meeting of 2021 on Zoom and had to make the decision to cancel some planned training that was being arranged in April 2021, on the old airfield at Old Sarum, near Salisbury. The decision was made as it was difficult to anticipate what we would be able to do in the way of numbers, training, use of facilities. We, however, might be able to arrange something for later in the new year, so will bring you details in due course.

The committee meeting also discussed other training and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved: In the absence of being able to physically attend spring training events at the circuits, many are going online with virtual training. You might also find some training films and webinars equally useful. Have a look at YouTube and search for MSUK training.

Many things were put on hold last year, but as a committee we continue to meet to ensure that we are engaging with members and coming up with ideas to attract new members and retain existing members. One area of discussion was the newsletter. The committee is small, but membership is wide, and we want to make sure that we are offering to you what is interesting, timely and relevant. If you have some ideas for a page in the Newsletter (Sales and Wants, get-togethers, articles about marshalling, top tips etc) then please get in touch as we are discussing this at the next meeting.

And a final request: If you are a member of the BMMC but have opted out (or unsubscribed) to receive the news from the national body, then you are missing out. As a result, you may not be receiving news of the many members benefits including details of the recent 50% discount for renewing your membership early which could have saved you at least £10. If you would like to re-subscribe Just follow this link <http://eepurl.com/dpKGQf> fill in your name and email address and select your preferences and click 'subscribe'.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th May (likely to be on zoom) where we will discuss training, grading, the newsletter, recruitment, membership, news from the National committee of BMMC, and updates from the Rally Club.

Thank you

*Charlotte*

Charlotte Starkie

SW Vice Chair and Secretary

British Motorsport Marshal's Club

## **Volunteer Marshal Support with the Vaccine Rollout**

I work in local government and we often get asked for help with other agency work and so I was keen to respond to the email from the local GP practice in the town where I work, asking for volunteers to help with the marshalling of the rollout of the vaccine to the oldest and most vulnerable residents. They needed help between Christmas and New Year in their anticipation to deliver approximately 1000 injections in that week in the town of Shepton Mallet (I've been updated now to say that since then 10,000 people in that same site have received the vaccine).

I put myself forward for 2 x 6 hours stints; one of them being the first session, and the other the last session over the 3 days (New Year's Eve up to 9pm). A group of volunteers assembled in the car park and we were allocated roles: some inside, some outside. I offered to be the door monitor and was grateful that I had taken along my waterproof hi-viz marshalling coat. Aside to us was a plethora of medical staff and cleaning staff: in a variety of uniforms and stationed in pods ready to give the vaccine. It was a huge effort bringing together so many different skilled people and the marshal's role was to get the people safely into the building and chaperoned throughout and out again.

The first arrival was excited and overwhelmed to be receiving the vaccine, and that spirit continued over the 3 days. Some of the people I met had not left their home for 9 months and only had contact with immediate family and carers in that time. Added to that, they were infirm and required some assistance to get out of the car and into the building via a wheelchair. Others arrived with younger neighbours who had volunteered to drive them. Some turned up on their bike. An elderly gentleman was delighted to tell me it as his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday and so we sang to him. Husband and wife together, married for many, many years. It was a real mixture of ability and circumstances, but with one thing in common: that they hoped the vaccine would bring some positivity for 2021.

What did I have to do? In daylight it was easier as we directed people in from their car, via a queue and safely into the building, dishing our masks and hand sanitiser. At about 4.30pm the temperature plummeted to minus 4 degree and it became dark and suddenly there was a greater sense of urgency to get people indoors. Poor light also meant that some could not see a small step, and also meant it more difficult to find their "lift" parked in a frozen and busy car park. My role changed to getting them out of the building as quickly as possible and reunited with their chauffeur in a warm car.

There were some hilarious moments: one lady asking if she could leave her husband behind and take another one home, another family member carer asking if she could come back 3 hours later, a husband giving me a full description of his wife for me to find her, only getting it rather wrong. We set up a lost property section for those who's lifts did not turn up on time. I discovered the "refreshment room" that we could take a break in and have a chat with clinicians about the roll out and was grateful that a local supermarket had donated lots of goodies. And to discover that another dose could be extracted from some of the vials meant that a call went out to medical personnel in the area to get vaccinated.

I had to have a great deal of patience in assisting those who were a bit infirm, and stamina to keep going in the freezing conditions. But everyone who volunteered, as well as those in their paid capacity, all took great heart in recognising that we had all come together for a greater purpose and that is what volunteering is all about. Others above self.

*Charlotte*  
Charlotte Starkie  
SW Secretary  
British Motorsport Marshal's Club

## Marshalling Still Goes on During COVID

Despite the lack of events for marshals to attend, some of our South West members have been working hard to assist the general public to access care during the pandemic. You will probably read in this newsletter about Charlotte Starkie; our Secretary and deputy chairman; who has been volunteering at her local centre to assist people coming for their Covid injections.

Our recruitment officer Joe Shingler has also been doing his bit, he has been delivering vaccine vials and needles to vaccination centres across the South West from Reading to South Wales and down from places such as Swindon into deepest darkest Devon and Cornwall. Despite having been involved in a serious accident the other week when his van was hit by a car that drove through a red light, Joe is still out there working. Thank you Joe and keep safe.

A little closer to home, one of our well known marshals around Castle Combe and Thruxton circuits, Phil Martin (aka Big Phil) has been working as a volunteer at his local surgery (The Blandford Group Surgery) helping people get their jabs, he has done 8 roll out days and about 20 medication delivery days so that people in Blandford and the outer villages can access the vaccines.



In order not to scare our readers Phil was asked to hide his identity but then went and displayed his volunteer badge, oh well never mind. Anyway, many thanks for your efforts Phil.

I am sure that the rest of our members would support me in saying thank you to those who are volunteering and the people listed are just those I know about but, I am pretty sure lots of our members are doing similar things out there. If you have any more volunteering stories then why not contact Charlotte Starkie so she can get more people mentioned in our newsletter.

### **Sad News**

I have been notified that one of our members, Brian Hall (SW 8129) died on 06<sup>th</sup> February at the age of 69, it is always sad to report deaths amongst the orange army. I have passed on condolences from the South West to his widow.

*Graham*  
Graham Ellis  
SW Membership Secretary  
British Motorsport Marshal's Club

## Provisional Volunteering Dates for 2021

Please see below the dates for 2021 for the next three months. Please be aware that these are all provisional at the minute due to COVID.

### Mar 21

Sat 13 Mar	Castle Combe Racing Club - Officials	Circuit Racing	Castle Combe
Sat 20 Mar	Castle Combe Racing Club - Trainees	Circuit Racing	Castle Combe
Sat 20 Mar	Bristol Car Club - Sprint	Sprint	Castle Combe
Sat 20 Mar	Castle Combe Racing Club - Experienced	Circuit Racing	Castle Combe
Sat 27 Mar Airport	Camberley Kart Club - Kart Race Day	Karting	Blackbush

### Apr 21

Mon 5 Apr	Castle Combe Racing Club - Race Day	Circuit Racing	Castle Combe
Sat 24 Apr Park	Woolbridge MC - Hill Climb	Hill Climb	Wiscombe
Sat 24 Apr Airport	Camberley Kart Club - Kart Race Day	Karting	Blackbush
Sub 25 Apr Park	Woolbridge MC - Hill Climb	Hill Climb	Wiscombe

### May 21

Mon 3 May	Castle Combe Racing Club - Car Race Day	Circuit Racing	Castle Combe
Sat 8 May	BARC HQ - BTCC	Circuit Racing	Thruxton
Sat 8 May Park	The 500 Owners Association - Hill Climb	Hill Climb	Wiscombe
Sun 9 May	BARC HQ - BTCC Day 2	Circuit Racing	Thruxton
Sun 9 May Park	VSCC - Hill Climb	Hill Climb	Wiscombe
Sat 15 May	BARC HQ - Truck Racing	Circuit Racing	Pembrey
Sat 15 May Park	Torbay Motor Club - Hill Climb	Hill Climb	Wiscombe
Sun 16 May	BARC HQ Truck Racing	Circuit Racing	Pembrey
Sun 16 May	BARC HQ - Members Meeting	Circuit Racing	Goodwood
Sat 22 May Airport	Camberley Kart Club - Kart Race Day	Karting	Blackbush
Sat 29 May	BARC HQ - Brit Championships	Hill Climb	Gurston
Sun 30 May	BARC HQ - Brit Championships	Hill Climb	Gurston
Mon 31 May	Castle Combe Racing Day - Car Race Day	Circuit Racing	Castle Combe

One thing to note BARC (Thruxton) have said they are not running any training days this year but are looking to have training sessions on race days if circumstances allow. Once more information has been received this will be announced in future newsletter.

If anyone would like to volunteer for any of these events please do so via the BMMC Volunteering page.

*Paul*  
Paul Wiltshire  
SW Volunteering  
British Motorsport Marshal's Club

## Looking Back over My Marshalling Career

Well, when did it begin? I am not really sure because I do not have a definite record of the date but I do remember a friend from whom I worked with asked if I would like to go to Thruxton Circuit one day. It must have been about 1978 to 1980's and he persuaded me to go on post with him so therefore I signed on and we went out to the post. I enjoyed the day and got the bug and at the end of the day the then Chief Marshal Fred Reeves asking if I'd had a good day and he suggested I come to a few events and see how it goes. As this was part way through the season, he would arrange for me to attend the following years Training day that BARC Organised. That's how it began.

Looking back, the first couple of years I worked with 4 main Post Chief's or Observer's Stan Hunt, Mike Devine, Mike Norris-Hill, Joe Jordan and then the more experienced I got the further afield I would travel and as well as circuit racing, I would do hill climbs. In the late 1984 Steve White asked me if I was interested in officiating at the 1985 FIA F1 event at Circuit Park Zandvoort and to my surprise I was selected.

Between 1985 to 2000 I gradually worked my way up the ladder of the then BMRMC Training / Grading Scheme to the grade of Post Chief and then Examining Post Chief. In those days I would travel to events at Silverstone, Donnington, Mallory Park and Brands Hatch to do events such as BTCC, F3000, World Sports Proto Types, 1000kms 6hour Endurance, events Tourist Trophy, the FIA World Touring Championships and 20 plus British Grand Prix's along with many other events where I met so many interesting people who have been my friends for many years now.

In 2007 I was invited by the BARC to officiate at the Dubai 24hour race and then in 2010 they invited me to Officiate at the first round of the FIA GT1 World Championship at Abu Dhabi Yas Marina Circuit they were both excellent events.

Getting back to Circuit Park Zandvoort the 1985 Dutch Grand Prix we had a good team of British Marshals Jon Tillott, David Darley, Steve White, David Barnes and Ann Rothberg to name but a few. Many events at Zandvoort in the mid 80's to the mid 90's were curtailed due to the GP loop became unusable due to a lack of investment so they could only use the smaller club circuit, but then things changed and the GP loop was reinstated and events such as the Historic Grand Prix, A1 Grand Prix, ADAC Dtm, ADAC GT Masters, 12 hours Zandvoort and many others where most of these were 3 day meetings and some were 2 day events. The Dutch way of marshalling is different to our way because they start of as Flag Marshals then move to Track Marshals and either Post Chief or rescue team Marshals who crew the Nissan Navaro intervention vehicle's then they can progress to Race Control duties similar to us.

During my early visits to Zandvoort there would be Marshals from the North of England and the South such as John and Audrey Watt, Eric Ridley, Mike Kelly, Chris and Sue Whitlock and Mandy McLeod.

Over the years I have been asked to do some different jobs at Zandvoort for example working with a Manitou vehicle recovery, Judge of Fact, helping on post training and during the Dtm event the ADAC introduced a new system for listing cars so we, the track marshals, had to attend a training session on the start line. Then another year it was the introduction of the light system and these were interesting then on another occasion I was shown over a DTM car and the German team were surprised to discover I was British at Zandvoort.

During a visit to Zandvoort in 2015 the Oca Dutch Marshals Club presented me with an award for 30 years motorsport safety motorsport safety. I was most honoured especially as there was a group of other British Marshals there to see it.

Over recent years my health has stopped me for actively marshalling and I have been forced into retirement due to the fact that I have to wear a Diabetic Vaco Boot and use crutches to walk due to a recent hospitalisation in 2019 I cannot do the Bank any more it was a hard decision to make after 35 years plus of Marshalling in both the United Kingdom.

I will miss my many friends in motorsport although I do keep in touch with as many as possible.

*Chris*  
Chris Turrall  
Retired Examining Post Chief

## Regalia Items

	Cost
Item	(£)
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 Marshal's Club

## SOUTH WEST REGION

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