

BRITISH MOTORSPORT MARSHAL'S CLUB



MARSHAL'S POST

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

The contents included in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor or the BMMC Ltd

www.marshals.co.uk

MOTORSPORTS UK RECOGNISED

FOUNDED 1957

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The Chairman's Chat

Alex Hodgkinson, South West Chairman

SW Chair and Secretary's Update – April 2021

Hello again everyone,

The last time I spoke to you all was before Christmas and that already feels like an absolute age ago; how time moves on.

I trust that you are all keeping well despite the continued burden COVID-19 continues to have on our lives. The motorsport calendar for 2021 has shaped up nicely and I'm aware that many of you will be looking forward to packing your weekends again with motorsport activity.

Whilst the BMMC and the region, refocuses onto 2021 and beyond, we are still trying to arrange our training day for this year. I'm aware that the racing season for many of you has already begun but we are all continually aware that these training days not only focus the minds on motorsport, but also any new or updated regulation changes but they are also a social gathering for marshals young and old and is often the first time many of you will see familiar faces; something which we are keenly aware of and are looking at ways to allow us to meet up, face to face, in a training environment at some point in 2021.

For those yet to venture out on the bank, our regalia is still available for purchase through our Regalia Rep, Harry Harrison – his contact details can be found on the 'Committee' section of our website.

Have a wonderful spring, see you all in orange on the bank in 2021!

Alex

Alex Hodgkinson

SW Chairman

British Motorsport Marshal's Club

The Late and Great Murray Walker OBE

How very sad that the late and great Murray Walker, OBE has finally slipped away, at the ripe old age of 97. Many of us, I am sure, felt Murray would go on forever, but this was not to be.

My memories of the great man began when he became President of the Marshals' Club. I cannot remember exactly who proposed him, but it met with instant and unanimous approval at Council. The only hesitancy was that Murray insisted he would accept the position only if he could offer genuine help. June and I, by chance, had a long discussion with Murray before his first formal appearance, at a South Mids Club Night, one of the many occasions when he made big inroads to a very busy lifestyle to accommodate the marshals. I consider that we, and others who joined in on that discussion (Bob Sketchley for instance), made a decent job of persuading Murray he had an awful lot to offer our Club.

Sure enough, he did. From then on, he made a point of praising all marshals, not just BMRMC members, reserving praise for the British marshals, "arguably the best in the World" at that time. We heard his commentary in a couple of different countries around the World, and he never failed to give mention to the vital part marshals played in motorsport, at all levels. A habit, I am pleased to say, that has continued right through to the present Sky F1 team who regularly praise volunteer marshals at appropriate times – no more so than in the amazing escape of Romain Grosjean from that fiery interlude at the end of last season. On an international basis, though, the practice began with Murray.

As an aside, we enjoy the same level of attention from the Family Douglas – father, Keith (sadly deceased), founder member of the Marshals' Club, two sons, Russell and Alistair, and even a grandson now joined that team!

Back to Murray, though. Murray had a frenetic lifestyle, yet he always found time for Marshals' Club training days, etc. One especially he describes in "50 Years of Motorsport Marshalling" where he almost passed out at the re-telling of some injuries sustained in the sport at one of our medical forums! Chris Hobson, organiser of the 40th Anniversary Dinner, managed to secure the services of Murray and Stuart Turner (motorsport's answer to Peter Ustinov) as entertaining speakers at that event.

For our own part, June and I met up with Murray at a whole host of other events over the years. We were hugely flattered that he always remembered who we were and, if I were on my own, he asked after June – or vice versa if June met up with him at a Doghouse Ladies event. Murray had an amazing memory for names and faces.

I was elected President of the British Plastics Federation in 1994/5. The BPF was then one of the largest trade organisations in the UK and something of a leader in Europe. The Annual Dinner, held in London, was attended by CEO's and other bigwigs from all around Europe and elsewhere – which frightened the pants off me, as I was expected to give a learned speech and I have a lifelong affliction of not being at all comfortable with speaking in public!

I was presented with a list of prominent Speakers I could invite to lighten up the evening, headed by Peter Ustinov at £25,000 plus expenses for an after-dinner speech. I knew that would be outside the BPF Budget! To save having the pants scared off me, I wore my kilt (!!) and decided to try Murray as my guest speaker.

In an absolutely charming reply, Murray explained that, for commercial dates, he sorted out the surfeit of invitations he received, to allow him some time at home, by selecting only those that met his published terms. Sadly, the BPF's budget fell short of this and, with some regret, he turned down my invitation. I understood his reckoning; Jackie Stewart gave me much the same explanation some time before. Nevertheless, when we next met Murray, he was effusive in his apologies. During this time, Murray still turned out for Marshals' Club activities and continued to heap praise on marshals in his commentaries.

When we hear people being described as "Icons of their sports", is there anyone more fitting to bear the title "Icon of Motorsport" than Murray Walker, OBE? I think not!

George
George Copeland
Vice President
British Motorsport Marshal's Club

Marshals Are You Ready to Face this Challenge??

Have you ever wondered how to keep your skills alive during the motorsport closed season? I certainly did until I found kart marshalling that goes on year-round.

The skills you need to do this marshalling encompasses all of the roles you are likely to face on track or in speed events, you fulfil the role of post chief/incident officer and flag marshal all in one so you need to be on top of your game. In addition, you will also have to handle the radio traffic at the same time, not easy.

What is really impressive is watching drivers as young as six years old flying around the circuit possibly followed by seniors in their fast karts, at speeds of up to 125mph on some tracks, so it is a lively environment. If you've got your basic skills down tight then you will be made welcome at your local club as they are really desperate to attract marshals for their events. I am aware that Forest Edge are really short of marshals and I suspect so are the rest of the tracks.

In the wider South West area we have a number of kart clubs that would welcome your interest, these are:-

Camberley Kart Club based at Blackbushe in Hampshire. GU17 9LG www.camberleykartclub.com

Clay Pigeon Kart club based by Dorchester in Dorset. DT2 9PW www.claypigeonkartclub.com

Forest Edge Kart Club based at Barton Stacey in Hampshire SO21 3BF www.fekc.co.uk

Rissington Kart Club based at Great Rissington. Glos GL54 2LR www.rissingtonkartclub.co.uk

There is also the Shenington kart club located eight miles west of Banbury in Oxon. OX15 6NW www.sheningtonkrc.co.uk

The first point of contact with the clubs is either via the chief marshal or alternatively the competitions secretary. Most of the practices and races are under MSUK licences and as a marshal you can add Karts to your marshal's licence and will receive a personal record card specifically for karting.

So, what are you waiting for, contact your local club and give it a go. Oh, by the way you might also get some expenses for attending, what a bonus!!!!

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.

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	The 500 Owners Association - Hill Climb	Hill Climb	Wiscombe Park
Sun 9 May	BARC HQ - BTCC Day 2	Circuit Racing	Thruxton
Sun 9 May	VSCC - Hill Climb	Hill Climb	Wiscombe Park
Sat 15 May	BARC HQ - Truck Racing	Circuit Racing	Pembrey
Sat 15 May	Torbay Motor Club - Hill Climb	Hill Climb	Wiscombe Park
Sun 16 May	BARC HQ Truck Racing	Circuit Racing	Pembrey
Sun 16 May	BARC HQ - Members Meeting	Circuit Racing	Goodwood
Sat 22 May	Camberley Kart Club - Kart Race Day	Karting	Blackbush Airport
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

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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