



MOTORSPORT UK RECOGNISED
Marshals.co.uk | @BMMCSW
Founded 1957

December 2021

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Chairman's Chat

It feels a long time since I last spoke to you all; in fact, it was! 2021 has been a hectic year and although covid continues to be ever present in our day-to-day business, it was pleasing to see motorsport and the wider social calendar return to the strength and depth of old. I hope that, in whatever capacity, you managed some good days out on the bank or on the stages and that I hope these can continue into 2022 and beyond. My last days marshalling was at the British Grand Prix this year and it was wonderful to be a part of this event, the first major sporting event in the UK with only small covid restrictions and the weekend absolutely delivered on having a brilliant atmosphere, fantastic weather and great racing.



Whilst I have been out of the country for the last four months or so there have been some changes to the committee. Our long-standing Secretary and Vice-Chair Charlotte will be standing down at the end of this year and on behalf of the region I wish her well and thank you for the hard work and endeavour she has put into the committee in my absence. Paul is also standing down as National Secretary but will continue to be a valued member of the regional committee.



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Unfortunately, due to a number of reasons, we were unable to hold our training day again in 2021 and we have not been successful in organising our training day for 2022. I appreciate this is hugely disappointing, but this is due to a variety of factors, mainly availability of licensed trainers, venue restrictions and the ever-changing landscape of covid requirements. The region will of course, support in any way it can, members who wish to attend training days elsewhere in the region, and when the dates are announced; they will of course be published on the website and on the social media platforms. The Motorsport UK learning hub is available online 24/7 and has some marshal training modules for members to look over should you wish too. Simply visit the Motorsport UK website and click on the 'learning hub' link to be taken to their dedicated learning area.

You should have all by now received a license renewal from Motorsport UK through the post. Renewals were not required in 2021 due to covid however in order to attend MSUK registered events in 2022 everybody must be a registered marshal with the sport's governing body and this means having an up-to-date registration with MSUK. Please contact the Grading Officer Al Clarke (sw.grading@marshals.co.uk) if you require any additional information. Licensing is done centrally by Motorsport UK; however, their licensing department is very helpful and very good at turning around renewals quickly. Of course, renewals can be completed online **providing you are not upgrading**. If you are

upgrading, then you will need to complete a paper renewal and post this to Motorsport UK. More details are available on the Motorsport UK website: <https://www.motorsportuk.org/volunteers/marshals/>

BMMC membership renewals are now open. For those that have a direct debit set up this will be taken in January. In order to minimise costs, information regarding BMMC annual membership renewals are now sent by email. Members who do not have an email address on the Club database will receive a letter by post. Please contact the National Membership Secretary if you have not received your renewal information yet. You can now pay your yearly subscription online, please visit the BMMC website for more information.

Finally, I wish you all a very festive break and look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

Alex





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Upgrades

Congratulations to all the members below that have successfully upgraded this year.

Trainee to Track Marshal

Phil Beeson
Tom Davies
Julian Fowler
Tim Walker

Trainee to Specialist Marshal

Richard Bell
Liz Rowland
Tom Rowland

Trainee to Speed Marshal

Gwyn Alford

Track Marshal to Experienced Track Marshal

Al Clarke

Experienced Track to Flag Marshal

John Norton

Experienced Speed to Speed Post Chief

Dave Gibbs

If you are a BMMC member but upgraded through a different club and are not included on this list, please let our Regional Grading Officer, Al Clarke, know so we can update your BMMC record.

New Marshal Of The Year

Each year the regional committee may recognise individual marshals for their contribution and commitment to marshalling.

This year's winner of the new marshal of the year award is Lisa Gray.
Congratulations!





Trainee In a Pandemic

I'm not sure what I expected to get out of marshalling as I drove into the car park at Castle Combe on a cold and overcast Sunday morning in early March 2020 for my first ever training day. So far things were going to plan, I'd done a taster day at the end of 2019, Joined the BMMC and MSUK over the winter, and was getting ready for the 2020 season. After sign on I wandered over to grab a coffee, feeling strangely conspicuous, not being attired in bright orange. The room was humming with the background noise of chatter and banter, punctuated occasionally by raucous laughter or a shout to, or at, a newly arrived marshal. I took a seat at a table with couple of similarly dressed newbies.

The training was excellent, a good balance of hands-on practical skills along with some theory, and some scary but useful videos of what not to do! I came away from the day with a newfound appreciation for the teamwork involved in marshalling, as well as a few unanswered questions (like why do you call an extinguisher a bottle? †)

A week later, I was at Thruxton, doing my second training day, I figured that reinforcement helps learning, and having a second trainer's perspective would be a good thing. It was. I came away with some of the questions I had the previous week answered, but still didn't know why you call an extinguisher a bottle†.

And then Lockdown! I was pretty sure that would be it for 2020, even as MSUK started to open events, initially running with 2 marshals per post and then with up to 6 socially distanced. Understandably trainees at this point were barred from participation. Out of

sheer boredom I started to work through the training material on the MSUK web site. Irritatingly, there was little material specifically for marshals, with the marshal's pathway simply showing "Coming Soon" – it never did.

As confidence grew in running meetings with covid precautions, trainees were permitted back towards the end of 2020, so long as they were performing an actual role, not just shadowing. Armed with two days training, and a bunch of MSUK training course completion certificates, I made a pitch to the Castle Combe chief marshal to see if there was any chance of marshalling that year. To my surprise the reaction was positive, and I managed to get 5 days experience at the end of the season.

Those first few events felt pressured, any other year I could probably have expected to just shadow another marshal, but not this year. What did become clear in those first few days was how everyone on post has each other's back. Even as a newbie I immediately felt part of the team and was clear on exactly what was expected of me. I am extremely grateful for the encouragement and advice in those first few meetings.

The 2021 season started late. Because the season was compressed and the headline championships moved their events later in the season, there were a number of date clashes at my 2 "local" circuits, so I started to volunteer at Brands Hatch as well, mostly at club level events as I figured the marshal numbers would be lower, so I had more chance of being accepted, though as it turned out 6 marshals per post was aspirational for some of those events. Again, I'm grateful for all the guidance and support I received. There's no doubt marshals are a tight knit community, but certainly open to trainees that are prepared to





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listen and pull their weight, maybe not so much for those that aren't.

It was at Brands Hatch that I had my first close one. Post 20, Stirlings, a 90° left. It was a pre-66 touring car race and a Mustang had just pirouetted into the edge of the gravel as he exited the corner, he'd been promising to do it for the previous couple of laps. He'd only dropped the rear wheels into the gravel, so we had a fair chance of pushing him clear. Unfortunately, he'd dug himself deep and we couldn't shift it. We retreated towards the Armco. As we headed back there was a muffled shout from our flaggie drowned out by the sound of showering gravel as a Lotus Cortina came ploughing through the gravel, splitting the group of retreating marshals before continuing. We joked about it afterwards, but we all knew how close it had been. For me it was a wakeup call, I don't think I had appreciated how fast things can go wrong; valuable lesson learned.

I don't think I can write about my journey from trainee to track marshal without mentioning the tragedy at Brands Hatch this year. I didn't know Robert Foote, and I'm fortunate as I wasn't there that day, but like all marshals I've spoken to, I felt a profound sense of shock and grief at the news. I don't suppose I was the only marshal that had difficult conversations with family in the following days. Once again though, I was struck by the outpouring of solidarity, not just from marshals in this country, but around the world. We truly are an #OrangeFamily.

I was recently fortunate to spend a couple of days on post with the post chief on Post 2 at Brands Hatch on the day of the incident. I am genuinely in awe of the courage of this man, not only in returning to marshalling, but also in

writing an article for the BMMC SE region [Autumn newsletter](#), which I commend to all.

As the end of the season neared, and with 30 days experience behind me I took both my assessments which, thanks to all the great advice I've received over the last 18 months, I passed. So I should be starting next year as a track marshal, so the real learning starts now!

So, what about those initial expectations from my first training day? More time at circuits ✓ New skills ✓ Close to the action ✓ But the one that surprised me most, and that I value, has been the camaraderie and community of the #OrangeFamily. I can't wait for the season to start.

† At least one English dictionary defines a fire bottle as: "historical: A bottle or vial of phosphorus or other flammable material, used to start a fire or (formerly) as an incendiary weapon."





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2022 Event Calendar

As 2021 draws to a close, thoughts turn to next year's calendars. At the time of writing most clubs and venues seem to have published provisional timetables.

BARC has now published their [event calendar](#) for the year, and their RevUp system has been populated with their events.

Castle Combe has also published a [provisional timetable](#) and their RevUp system is also now live.

If hill climbs are more your thing, then [Wiscombe Park](#) have published their calendar of events as have the team at [Prescott](#). Gurston Down is, of course, covered in the BARC calendar.

For more details of these events, contact the relevant chief marshals.

OR

If, you wish to see all your marshalling opportunities in one place and use one system to keep track of your volunteering, you can use the BMMC volunteering system. Over the next couple of months, the volunteering system will be populated with all events for the year. This is a big undertaking for the volunteering coordinators, so please be patient.

Training Days

As Alex mentioned earlier, current circumstances have prevented BMMC SW from being able to organise a training day this year.

However, both Castle Combe and BARC are organising training days for marshals in early March, so please contact Richard Beard or Paula Brown respectively for more details and availability.





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Regalia Items

BMMC regalia items can be purchased at select events from our SW Regalia Officer Ian Harrison. He can normally be found at Thruxton and Gurston Down, and also marshals at Castle Combe and Wiscombe Park. If you want to purchase any of these items, don't hesitate to contact him, details at the end of the newsletter.

	Price (£)
BMCC Badges Etc	
Union Jack W/Website Woven Badge	2.00
BMMC Woven Badge	2.00
BMMC Lapel Badge	2.00
BMMC Tie Pin	2.00
Grading Badges	1.00
Stickers etc	
Exterior Sticker	2.00
Long Interior Sticker	2.00
Heroes Items	
Heroes Woven Badge	2.00
Heroes Lapel Badge	2.00
Heroes Exterior Sticker	2.00
Proud Marshal Sticker	2.00
Hats & Caps	
Knitted Ski Hat Black	5.50
Knitted Ski Hat Orange	5.50
Baseball Cap, Black	7.00
Baseball Cap, Orange	7.00

Note Prices Subject to 2021 Changes

Next Issue:

Grading Changes

As you are probably aware, MSUK are currently reviewing the current marshal grading structure and training requirements, we'll share what we know, try and explain what MSUK are trying to achieve, and what the next steps in the consultation process will be.



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