

Volunteers in Motorsport

Newsletter Number 1 September 2007

www.volunteersinmotorsport.co.uk

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**VOLUNTEERS
IN MOTORSPORT**
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Welcome to this first e-newsletter, which we are sending to MSA Clubs and Associations as well as all those on the MSA National Marshals Register, as a way to keep you informed of the current and continuing work of the Volunteers in Motorsport (ViM) project – an MSA initiative supported by Motorsport Development UK.

The content of the newsletter is free of copyright, so please feel free to copy and reproduce in club or other magazines or to forward it to others who may be interested in the content. If you become aware of someone who wants to subscribe to receiving free copies of future editions and may not otherwise be on our mailing list, please send their details to Richard Nunn as below.

Also, if you have any snippets of information or images that may be suitable to be considered for inclusion in a future edition, then we would be pleased to hear from you.

We wish you continued safe and enjoyable motor sport.

Sue Sanders - Peppitt

ViM Project Leader

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VOLUNTEERS IN MOTORSPORT ASSISTS CLUBS IN RECRUITING NEW MARSHALS

The previous decline in the number of marshals involved in UK motorsport has been reversed thanks to the work of many clubs and individuals with the support of Volunteers in Motorsport (ViM).

The Volunteers in Motorsport project was established in 2005 after concern over the numbers of marshals entering and remaining within the sport.

Concerted effort was needed to turn the situation around, and in 18 months over 1,500 people have been encouraged to join clubs and register with the MSA.

There are now 11,128 people on the MSA National Marshals Register compared to 9,511 in 2004.

Mike Skelton, an MSA Trainer and marshal at Castle Combe race circuit said, "It's been very encouraging, not only have we already seen increasing numbers, but the new marshals are being trained to be competent across a whole range of events."



"That means people are not restricted to one role and can cover a wider range of events in their area." He added, "ViM has even provided volunteer race marshals with overalls via their clubs so new recruits can go straight into action, which has been a great help."

Over the next year ViM support materials will be used by clubs at over 90 local shows and 13 major events to help them recruit volunteers, and the MSA is ready to train 4,000 new and existing volunteers by the end of March 2008.

ViM also plans to develop links with schools and Further Education establishments in order to encourage youngsters to become motorsport volunteers, creating a younger age profile and a more sustainable future.

TREMENDOUS RESPONSE TO VIM TOURING CAR 'TEAM'

More than 700 members of the public have put forward their names to become motor sport marshals in the UK, thanks to a recruitment drive among the spectators at Dunlop MSA British Touring Car Championship race meetings.



The British Motorsport Marshals Club (BMMC) attracted an amazing number of prospective volunteers from the season's BTCC meetings, at Brands Hatch, Rockingham, Thruxton, Croft and Oulton Park. All put forward their names as part of a joint BTCC/BMMC initiative in conjunction with the enthusiastic group of volunteers known as Team Wilson.

The spectacular success of Team Wilson continued throughout the season, and as we went to press they took their 1000th name at the BTCC meeting at Brands Hatch in an unprecedented recruitment campaign

Alex Townsend from London, pictured with Martyn Bell, was rewarded for his interest with a bottle of Champagne signed by TOCA Director Alan Gow, a 'Team Wilson' cap and t-shirt, plus a year's free subscription to the BMMC.

Alex said, "I have always been interested in motorsport, so when I saw the Marshal Recruitment stand I thought I would see how I could get involved in marshalling. It was a surprise when I found out I was the 1000th person to sign up with Team Wilson for more information."

Team Wilson will be recruiting at the remaining rounds of the BTCC Championship.

Series Director Alan Gow said, "The BTCC cares tremendously about the need to attract new volunteers into our sport, at all levels. Without them, motor sport events simply would not happen."

Volunteers in Motorsport

VIM RECRUITMENT AND SUPPORT MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE TO ALL CLUBS

If you run a motorsport club or event and are looking to attract new volunteers, ViM can help you.

A wealth of support is now available to assist in the recruitment and retention of marshals – all free of charge.

There is a recruitment DVD featuring some of the biggest names in motorsport, as well as an audio CD with four 'adverts' that can be used at shows or exhibitions. The audio clips can also be downloaded from the Volunteers in Motorsport website.

To make a big impression, ViM display stands can also be loaned free of charge. They provide a great point of attention and have proved very popular – with over 150 outings last year. Book early to avoid disappointment.

A selection of leaflets, brochures, adverts and artwork is also available, with either generic 'Volunteers in Motorsport' contact details or space to add your own club or event information as necessary. There are also postcards, useful for recording the names of those who express an interest or participants in a prize draw. ViM business cards can be used by all clubs and marshals, and can be easily personalised or issued to anyone with an interest in marshalling.

For those looking to publicise an event, press release templates and examples are available.

All of the above can be ordered free or downloaded via the ViM website.

Please contact Richard Nunn at the MSA on 01753 765 000 for details or log on to www.volunteersinmotorsport.co.uk

VOLUNTEERING IN MOTORSPORT – THE VIEW FROM TRACKSIDE

If you haven't got the finance or the inclination to be a competitor, one way of becoming actively involved in motorsport is to be a marshal or official.

Marshalling as a hobby can be extremely enjoyable, as you can get close to the action and you perform an essential and worthwhile job - in fact without sufficient trained marshals there would be no motor racing at all.



Colin Whitter, British Automobile Racing Club NW Centre Rescue Unit Chief, started 'on the bank' as a marshal around 27 years ago. Four years later he was asked to work on the rescue unit which was used at the time. Here he gives an insight into the running of the unit today.

"The Rescue unit attends about fifty days per year attending events. This includes club meetings, the British Grand Prix and BTCC meetings. On top of this there are between five and seven days training each year. Some of these days are spent in a scrap yard cutting up crashed cars and a number are spent in a specialist Training Centre acquiring the necessary medical knowledge.

"The unit attends all the meetings run by the North West Centre and as many as can be fitted in for BARC nationally, the BRSCC and any other motor club which may request its attendance. This service is not provided free of charge, and the hire fees earned generate income for the NW Centre to help cover running costs and to replace and renew essential equipment.

"The crew are volunteers like all marshals and officials, but putting the unit together in the first place and then maintaining it in top condition is a complex business. There is a laid down specification for a rescue unit and its crew, which should have a minimum of three members and cannot operate without a qualified doctor or paramedic. The regulations governing rescue units require the crews to attend a minimum of two training days per year. Also, every three years the unit is assessed by the MSA when the crew is put through a mock rescue scenario and checked for its rescue and medical competence.

"The most typical accident we attend at a race circuit is where a car has hit the barrier. The race is stopped because the driver is still in the car and disorientated, but after a few minutes they are fine and walk away and thankfully that is it. We call it 'shaken but not stirred'!

"The image of a rescue crew hovering near a crashed car with their cutting gear at the ready has encouraged many a would-be trapped driver to miraculously escape!!!

"The unit also had some very high profile activity, which has been seen on TV all over the world, an example was when it attended Michael Schumacher's crash at the British Grand Prix".

Anyone interested in further information about the BARC NW Rescue Unit, should contact Margaret Simpson on 01942 217339. You can contact Volunteers in Motorsport on 0-8450 94 00 94 if you're interested in any other aspect of marshalling.

IN THE COMING MONTHS

The MSA and Motorsport Development UK are now in the final stages of agreeing the work plans for the remaining seven months in the third phase of ViM. Points of particular focus during this period will include:

- working to develop additional support material for clubs to use on their events to further improve recruitment, and work with the MSA to enhance the retention issues that remain so vital to the sport
- helping to widen participation further by developing schemes for under-represented groups, including schools, colleges and universities
- completing the updating of the MSA Marshals database to make access and analysis of individual marshal records easier, and to be able to better accommodate future anticipated changes and areas of growth.
- working with the MSA Volunteer Officials Advisory Panel to ensure the previous elements of work of Volunteers in Motorsport which they are now tasked with looking after can continue to progress
- the training and accreditation of further MSA Buddies