

THE PRESCOTT MARSHALS' CLUB



NEWSLETTER Autumn 2019



HELP!

It has become apparent that membership numbers in Prescott Marshals' Club have declined this year and numbers of marshals on the hill have also dropped. If you know of any reasons for the lower numbers, your Committee would be very interested. Please send any comments you may have to any of the Committee members (contact details are found at the end of this newsletter) as we are very keen to learn your views. If we aren't aware of issues or complaints, we can't take steps to rectify problems.

If you have friends, family or colleagues who may wish to marshal at Prescott, please do encourage them to come along as we would be delighted to introduce new marshals to the Club. Any ideas you may have to attract more marshals would be most appreciated. We really do need your help!

And on a similar note, here is a plea from our Membership Secretary, John Lusty -

Please find enclosed with your newsletter your PMC renewal form for 2020.

Can I please ask if you could return the completed form to me as soon as possible to enable me to compile a lunch list before the start of the 2020 season.

Thank you for your continued support and see you all on the hill soon.

John Lusty
Membership secretary.

More diary notes from John Felix's busy schedule -

Brands Hatch for a two day club racing weekend. Journey down took an extra hour due to M25 traffic. I love Brands but not the journey. Excellent weekend of racing. Half hour barrier repair. The incident happened on last lap before lunch. Everyone had lunch except for circuit staff. 2CV racing still very good. Had several cars roll but no injuries. The wheels dig into the gravel and due to their narrow tread can cause a roll. M25 journey home no different on a Sunday.

Clerk of Course VSCC Donington. Many memories for me as I was with Tom Wheatcroft when circuit was built in the seventies. Lunch time grid walk was very well received. Coopers, ERAs and Connaught. When spectators had left the grid, had to give ten minute countdown to warm oil. Busy weekend for marshals as much oil to be treated. An excellent and enjoyable meeting.

MSA steward at Shelsley Walsh. Nice to be close to home for a change. Terrible weather Saturday which was not good for motor cycles. Sunday was a vintage day and it was beautiful weather and no incidents.

Next came Chateau Impney hillclimb. As senior clerk I was there from Tuesday before event for nearly a whole week. Much safety had to be in place before the event and it was built that week. Difficult day Saturday due to many incidents. Sunday finished on time. Many thanks to all officials who worked tirelessly to keep event running. I like to be in the office early Saturday and Sunday and to look across the paddock at six in the morning gave me great pleasure to be part of such an event with all these priceless cars around.

Rescue unit to Loton. Very pleasant weekend with very little to do. Came second in marshals' raffle. Excellent refreshments for all.

Myself, Simon Nettell and Lorna Murphy-Welch took a Midland Rescue to Cadwell Park. Thankfully Simon did all the driving. He was picking me up at Chateau Impney but due to traffic the two o'clock start got near to four o'clock. We picked Lorna up at services on M1. Arrived at hotel at quarter past eight just in time for dinner. From home roughly an eight hour journey. Have to accept Friday delays. VSCC on Saturday was wet which is not the best weather for that type of racing. We were only going to do VSCC but BRSCC were short of a rescue unit on Sunday so a week before

the event we all agreed to do the Sunday event. I am so glad we did because the cars were 1960's sports and saloons in fifteen minute sprint races. Plenty of overtaking and close finishes. The weather did not help as mist kept coming and the event had to go on hold as one marshal's post could not see each other or flags. Journey back was through torrential rain until we got to Birmingham when sun came out. Home for 9.15pm and supper after a very pleasant weekend.

Clerk of Course for VSCC Prescott. A very enjoyable weekend with many incidents. I must thank all officials who did their allocated jobs with dedication to make the event run smoothly and efficiently. It was noted that the spectator car park had more vintage cars than the paddock. Thanks to all the work we finished on time both days.

On Midland Rescue at Shelsley. Only one incident for us, but driver ok. Records broken in some classes. Made it an enjoyable and interesting weekend.

Clerk of Course for twenty four hour 2CV race at Snetterton. It is now a mixed race with certain minis also allowed to race. Start of a long weekend with Friday early evening daylight qualifying and then night qualifying till eleven.

Normal race meeting Saturday with 24 hour race starting at five o'clock on Saturday evening. We have enough clerks to work shifts and I finished at two in the morning to be back at eight Sunday morning. Got back to find two had rolled just after daylight but no other action. Both drivers ok. My shift finished at two o'clock in the afternoon and as there were sufficient clerks, I headed home to a Sunday roast which I never usually get.

August Bank Holiday Saturday clerking for VSCC at Brands Hatch. As it was Bank Holiday I was worried about traffic. Went via M4 leaving home at mid-morning Friday and met no delays at all. The entry for the race meeting was quite low. We decided to run a sprint in the morning. Sixty cars doing one and a half laps and with one practice and two timed runs we finished at twelve o'clock. Marshals' lunch break and race meeting started at one o'clock. Practice and six races all done before six o'clock. The entry for the race was much more than we expected as the drivers who did the sprint also entered the races. No problem apart from the odd tow-in. Both marshals and us in control had to adjust to sprint and race as, as you can appreciate, they are totally different. Drove back Sunday morning

with virtually no hold ups. I was surprised and relieved as the Brands journey usually has traffic problems somewhere.

John Felix

A message from our Chief Marshal

Cornwall's Comments

As I write this yet another season has less than a month to go and again I am left wondering where has this year gone to?

We have seen a drop in marshal numbers this year, sometimes giving me a bigger headache than normal as to how to man the hill. If anyone has any ideas why this is happening then please let me know - more marshals make my life a lot easier and if necessary we can implement changes as to why people aren't attending! Also if you know anyone who is potentially interested in marshalling, friend, family member or work colleague perhaps then feel free to let me know and they can come along for a taster day to start off.

For those who have their 2020 diaries a date for you! It is Prescott's turn to hold the Midland Marshals training weekend on 7/8 March 2020. It will be based in the Clubhouse with a few different topics for those of you who have attended the last couple of years at Loton and Shelsley. One day will be for newer and trainee marshals and one for more experienced and post chiefs. Full details will be sent out with the availability forms early in the New Year.

I will see you on the hill.

Kevin Cornwall
Chief Marshal

Summer in the life of 'Yellow Trousers on Tour'

Saturday 22nd June Porsche at Prescott Friend of Prescott

Summer came, the sun came, Porsches came and the crowd came. The Orchard was full of Porsches and the Overflow Car Park overflowed with spectator cars leading to an excellent atmosphere wherever you went. I helped in the Friends of Prescott Shop but in all fairness spent the morning talking and socialising. Had long chat with Dick Craddy, the MSUK Steward, and Bill Pardoe and a lot of others. Great also to see Alex Summers helping out the family. Coffee taken in Marshals' Pound for a short talk with Dave and Michael on breakdown. My wife joined me for a viewing of the Porsche on display, the 956/007 of Stefan Bellof and the 4 litre 997 RSR, which competed five times at Le Mans, before an excellent lunch in the Clubhouse. FTD to the Empire Evo 2 of Matthew Ryder with Caroline was still buzzing on the Sunday. Marshals kept busy at Esses with a very hard "in" by a Westfield and at Pardon by Dave Nursey beaching his borrowed A35. Only 28 baked potatoes served at lunchtime as marshal numbers down. Did not realise we had a barbecue scheduled for the evening but hope all those attending had a great day.

Sunday 23rd June Midland Championship Prescott Club Steward.

Not quite so sunny and a light shower mid-afternoon. Joined fellow Club Steward Ron Warr for an enjoyable day's sport and socialising. Walked the hill in the morning and enjoyed chatting to so many of you. Had coffee on way up with our President, John, and enjoyed one of the excellent cakes one of our guys had donated, thanks for your generosity. Thanks Angie and Bridget for the baked potato and chilli for lunch. Interesting meetings round the Paddock catching up with Trevor Willis having a day off, Simon Fidoe helping out Eddie Walder on the Mic, Rich Danby providing live feed, Richard Ames, ex. British Sprint Champion, son Alex Ames taking the Bugatti Class in a 35B, and Dave Harries, who used to hillclimb a Mini and act as Club Steward at Prescott before joining the WRC Timing Team and now lives in Australia. Richard Ames was competing in an interesting FF, set up for Heritage FF, the ex-Canon backed Van Diemen RF88 raced by Kozo Orita from Japan in British FF. FTD to Sean Gould in the Gould GR59J in 36.72 taking the first run-off. With Sean and Robert Kenrick having mechanical problems on their second class runs, the second run-off went to the Gould GR59 of David Warburton in 38.54. All done and dusted by 5pm but a shame the prize presentation was not very well attended by those who had gained awards.

Saturday 6th July Members Meeting Prescott Motorsport UK Steward

Great to see two local drivers Julian Harber, in his Mini and Phil Fisher in his 1971 Mallock Mk. 11 win their classes. Also for me to catch up with, after 35+

years, Bob Blackstock competing in a MG TF in the B licence championship. In 1968 I navigated for Bob in a TR7 on the Manx International Rally driving the car over and back from Cheltenham. Great memories with Tony Pond in a TR8 winning that year. Back to present and my Club Stewards were Sue Ward and Michael Billingham whilst Chris Rogers C of C, accompanied by David, Andrew and Diana. Very enjoyable day - walked the hill in the morning and had a chat to most of you, even Kevin was marshalling at Pardon, following breakfast! Checked out the Rescue Unit all fine as expected. Hope you all enjoyed the generous lunch break enabling a tour of the Paddock following the baked potato, thank you ladies. Last car on the hill by 16.16 with FTD going to the 2006 Pilbeam MP88 in the hands of Tim Davies.

Sunday 7th July Garden Party Prescott Friends of Prescott

Did a morning shift helping out, or should I say socialising, at the Friends of Prescott shop. Diana was clerking, assisted by David, Chris and Andrew allowing members young and old, plus us marshals, freedom of the hill. Jon Beard took a few marshals for a scubie experience and Michael Billingham was not hanging around in his AC Ace. Had a nice Pimms and snacks whilst looking at some great Bugatti pictures, thanks who sponsored this. The weather was excellent with a great variety of cars and picnic hampers. Who was manning the hill? Well John and Bridget looked after the Paddock, Dave O the Start, Margaret P the Bridge, first corporate day I have known this to be manned, Dave S Ettore, Pat F at Pardon, Mike D at Esses, Peter S at Semi and Graham W at Cattle Grid.

Sunday 14th July Shenstone & DCC Double Lap Curborough Sprint Motorsport UK Steward

Whilst you were enjoying watching Chateau Impney, Lewis won the British GP again. After five hours of tennis, England won the World Cup, great to get home for the last few overs, or even the Women's Netball World Cup, I was at Curborough for a sprint. Curborough was the place to be if MG ZR is the car of your dreams for 11 entries were among the full entry of 70+ cars. From my perspective a quiet day except for catching up with people firstly Jeremy Edwards who was Club Steward, whilst his daughter Lottie assisted in the Paddock. Have not seen Jeremy for twenty odd years, when he mixed hill climbing with Clerking duties, so a lot of the good 'old' days to discuss. If memory serves me right he married at Shelsley Church. Next up it was Stubbsie having a break from BTCC duties by taking in the Nicky Grist Stages Saturday and Curborough Sunday. 5 years now he has been involved with BTCC but still paramedics at Loton when available. Lot of BTCC and MSUK talk and surprised to learn Loton is the only Hillclimb course he has been to. Also spent time on Post 2 putting the world to right with Pat Fennessey who had marshalled both days at Prescott the previous weekend. And a good crowd thanks to the free entry and excellent value for money catering. All over by 17.15 with FTD to the 1000cc

Jedi of Stuart Bickley in 51.59. Left at 17.45 for an expensive fast ride down M6 Toll and a slow crawl down the M42, just where does all that traffic come from?

Saturday 20th July Pre-War Prescott Hill Marshal

Off the sub bench for this one and posted at semi out. What a great day just like the VSCC Long circuit without the hassle and a large entry of pre-war cars and bikes driven by happy owners, giving family and friends a trip up our hill, all waving as they passed your post. A tremendous collection of Wolseley Hornets were present and before the afternoon runs we were treated to a cavalcade of Wolseley Hornet Seber Specials. The hill was buzzing from 10 till 4 keeping John and Bridget busy in the paddock, Dave on Start, Margaret at Ettores, Phil at Pardon, Michael at Esses, me at Semi and Russell at Cattlegrid. Our clerks were Dave and Ron, assisted by Chris B. Other than the cars what else did we spot today? The railway was running a mix of steam and diesel, the only planes spotted from the air tattoo was an American bomber accompanied by four fighter planes. Should have been able to name the bomber having been to a recent lecture on current American planes, don't ask why, but could not. The fly past of the Hurricane, which looked like a Spitfire to me, lasted only two passes due to thunderstorms scheduled somewhere on his route but the sound certainly made up for its short stay. Excellent programme with a fair bit of interesting reading. Weather overcast but warm with just a short light shower early afternoon. Friends of Prescott reported a successful day.

Wednesday 31st July Porsche Drivers Day Prescott Hill Marshal

Porsche all day with a single run by a BMW and an Aston in morning and a single run by another BMW in afternoon. James was also there with his Riley giving 'lucky' raffle winners a rare treat in the passenger seat for a run up the hill I am sure they will never forget! The four instructors Steve, Dave, Sandra and James spent most of the day in the passenger seats giving one to one tuition. The only incident of the day was a 360 spin leaving Orchard the lucky lad missing anything solid finishing on the grass just beyond the short course. Who was there? Roger and Simon manned the Paddock with Dave on the Start, Richard Ettores, myself Pardon, Mick Esses, with John and Jon on Rescue, Malcolm Semi and Graham, together with dog lead, at Cattlegrid. A very good 911 day with the weather behaving itself together with an excellent lunch.

Sat/Sun 3rd /4th August VSCC Prescott Friends of Prescott

Pleased to say we again managed to raise money for Prescott and I now realise that someone's rubbish can soon become another person's proud possession, judging by the amount of nuts and bolts sold! Very impressed with the James Baxter 'All Welcome Hill Walk' during lunch break Saturday attracting about 50

people. Judging by the response could be a welcome addition to our members meeting. Great also to see so many marshals enjoying a lift to and from their posts by wonderful vintage motorcars, managed to talk to a few of you, including Mick and Malcolm, taking Dave's place on breakdown. Large crowds both days and hope the overnight campers behaved themselves this year. Sorry to hear the Esses marshals and Rescue were kept busy Saturday and Sunday and we wish the guys and girls who tested the Esses Armco a quick recovery both for themselves and cars. I certainly enjoyed the weekend thanks to the large variety of cars, most driven hard, and no I did not buy that Bugatti, on show in Geoff's Folly, with the guide price £1m to £1.5m!

Saturday 24th August Vintage Hot Rod Association Prescott Hill Marshal

It was not Dave's day Part 1 - tear up marshal allocation for most of those reporting for duty bearing no resemblance from original list. My office for the day was Ettore's with call sign 'Ettore's Clear'. Joined on the hill by Michael at Cattle Grid, Graham, yes the steps are steep, at Semi Out, Mick and Landrover at Esses, Simon, our Chairman, at Pardon, Dave on start with John, our President, and Bridget in the Paddock. Angie was also in attendance keeping everyone amused as only Angie can. Overall Chris Bound clerked. Enjoyable day with a wide range of cars, mainly V8 and V4 Flatheads, so I was informed. Great to see a good split of Guys and Gals enjoying our hill, some very enthusiastically! My favourite bit was just before the hill closed a Convoy run of all those who had taken part during the day. It was not Dave's day Part 2 - 200 m down the road home I came across Dave with a flat front near thanks to a very large hole in the side wall. As usual you could have done with a larger jack but luckily along came Chris and Fiona and Chris was straight in to action to be joined by Mick and Graham. Chris soon had the spare on encouraged by the five of us watching and Dave was on a slow run home on the space saver.

Looking forward to September with Le Tour Panoramique, Three Shires Stages Rally, Prescott National, first visit to Mira, two days at Shelsey Walsh and finish in October with Prescott Autumn Classic. Just hope for good weather.

Maitland

Possible visit to the Morgan Motor Company in Malvern

John Lusty is hoping to arrange a visit to the Morgan Motor Company in Malvern next year during April or May.

Whilst this is a long time in the future, John would be grateful if you could register your interest by email to lusty344@gmail.com to ensure enough places are available. These visits are very popular and need to be arranged well in advance so email John now if you would like to visit the factory. More details later

PRESIDENT'S POINTS

My, how the time flies, but that is better than being bored!!

"THE PARKES DEPARTMENT"

Well after sterling work and support, Phil & Margaret Parkes have moved to Poundbury, Dorset. Due to the distance to and from Prescott they have reluctantly decided to step down. I, for one, will miss them as they were very willing members of the Club and Committee. I do hope they will make an appearance as and when they can.

As we come to the end of yet another year at Prescott I'm pleased to see old & new faces on the Hill. But no matter how hard we try the younger generation are not coming forward to marshal, answers on the back of a £5-00 note please.

The annual SKITTLES evening is 50% booked so contact John Lusty NOW as tickets are limited to the first 30.

See you at Prescott soon for the final meeting

Happy marshalling all

J.H.

A Message from Chris Rogers - General Manager BOC

One of the highlights of the season was to see so many of the guys and gals in orange shining out like beacons during the British Championship meeting this weekend. Many of you will know that I had concerns that maybe Prescott and the BOC had become a less attractive venue and that we were not giving you the support you all deserve so hopefully the increased numbers will allay my fears. Marshals are the lifeblood of our sport so if anyone has any concerns please tell us before a small issue becomes any larger than it needs to be.

The BOC will be holding its annual Prize Giving Celebration on 17th November. As tradition dictates, we are pleased to welcome one of your own, Jade Claridge as our guest of honour. Jade has stepped into the Chief Paddock Marshal role with such enthusiasm that nobody could fail to be impressed with the seamless handover from Bill and the way the paddock is so ably controlled. Jade and her team deserve our sincere thanks for the superb job they do. It was so nice to see Bill and Hilary back in the paddock this weekend.

Preparations for both the Midland Marshals' training days and Rescue training days are well underway. Your *Oberleutnant Grossen Fuhrer* Kevin Cornwall will keep you up to date with dates, times and itineraries. We look forward to seeing you all at the Prescott Clubhouse during the dark winter months for a nice warm around a burning car. Try to attend if you can as training is what makes you all the best marshals in British Motorsport.... bar none!

Can you believe that we are already planning for next season and beyond. The new Porsche at Prescott event we introduced last year will be bigger and better being held on the day before the Midland Meeting on June 20th. I know that many of you are great Le Mans enthusiasts so I can give you exclusive news that we will not only see the return of 956/007 but also the Porsche 956/103 Long Tail that was placed second in 1982.

(photo credit: David Merrett)



And finally, as we march relentlessly towards the end of the season, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your dedication, professionalism and loyalty to marshalling at Prescott. The compliments we receive after an event at the Club Office don't always filter down but believe me when I say that just about everyone that you extract from potentially catastrophic situations sing your praises loud and proud. When the team principal of a World Superbike team tells me that his injuries could have had unthinkable consequences had the Prescott Marshals not acted so professionally and that generally the international circuits could learn a thing or two from our marshals, you can't fail to be as proud as punch.

Keep up the good work, keep yourself, your buddies and the drivers safe.

PRESCOTT MARSHALS' CLUB REGALIA

Sew on Badge	£4.00
Enamel Lapel/Hat Badge	£2.00
Windscreen Sticker	£1.00
Mugs	£2.50
Baseball Caps	£6.50
Leather Rigger Gloves	£5.00
Double-sided Credit Card Holders	£1.00
Whistles	£1.00
Cans of Pop	£0.50

**AVAILABLE DURING LUNCH BREAKS AT THE SIGNING
ON HUT**

**Also available - good quality sweatshirts with club logo/your
name - £15.00 (special order only)**

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