

# TTMA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello and welcome to the April newsletter, the penultimate before the TT! With less than two months now until the start of the TT things are definitely ramping up!

Although things will be much as normal for 2016, we have a new Promoter from 2017 (subject to Tynwald approval). We met with them last week and look forward to working with them over the coming year.

Signing-on has been available for over a month now and so far we have received over 500 submissions but that still leaves over 4000 active Marshals that could sign-on. Of course we realise that not all marshals attend both the TT and MGP and that some can't or don't want to use the online system, so the forms will be sent out in April although the forms are available now in the office if you are passing. Each postal form costs us around £1.00 so please consider using the online system to sign-on, even if it's only to tell us that you are not coming.

You may have heard a rumour that it was being planned to stop people from going to certain places when they were fully manned. This is not true. The idea was discussed as a possible method of curing the problem of some areas being massively over-manned while others were under their minimum manning level and delaying the start of sessions until Marshals can be ferried into position.

However, many were against the idea and it wasn't practical to automate so it will still be up to the Chief Sector Marshals to control the numbers around their sector. Hopefully, they will be able to convince some people to visit other places and we are still appealing to anybody that would like to try somewhere different this year to consider going to some of the less-populated areas like the Mountain section and rural sectors.

We are hoping to have a method of showing places that are undermanned. If we do manage to finish it before the TT starts, it will be available on the website and on a display at the TTMA office.

With the short-circuit season underway now, I hope you get to see some action before the TT but whatever you do, stay safe as we need you here in May!

Regards  
Robert Crane

## TRAINING REPORT

Sam and I are just back from Bedford where we had a great weekend training our Team Orange Marshal's but I must say numbers were down on previous years. In fact, numbers have been down on all the courses we have attended this year so far in the UK.

Unfortunately, if numbers continue to be low, we will have to consider cancelling the courses for financial reasons. The first one we will need to review is the extra course we had planned for Liverpool on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April. Currently there are only 7 people booked for Saturday and 9 for Sunday. If you are due to renew your IMC and are able to travel to Liverpool on these dates, please contact the office by telephone or email. The next venue is Redhill and Rugby where there are still places available on both.

Check the website [www.iomttma.com](http://www.iomttma.com) to see when your IMC course needs to be renewed and if you are not sure please speak to Deana in the office. Deana is the new administrator and will be happy to help. Please try to book early as we can then gauge how many trainers will be required to attend the courses. Also check the best time of year and venue most convenient for you.

The courses commence at 08:45 for registration and finish at approx. 5pm. There is a maximum of 24 places available on each course. Once the course is filled names will go on a waiting list and other courses maybe arranged to suit numbers. Please advise the office as soon as possible if you are not able to attend for any reason so that others can be allocated a space. The office will contact each attendee prior to the course as a reminder.

The two training nights planned for 4<sup>th</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> April on the island have both been cancelled due to a lack of response. The final social night is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> April at the Tynwald Inn, St John's, so if you do have any questions regarding flags or radios etc, please raise them with us then. If you are planning to attend this social night and have not yet advised the office, please ring or email as soon as possible.

So until we see you again, look after yourselves and each other

Brett Hammonds

## SECTOR 5

Well it really isn't all that far away now and I look forward to seeing our regulars again in May although some of you haven't signed-on yet! Please go to the online sign on site, sign-in and let me know when you will be available. Even if you are not coming, please sign-in and tell us - that was I can at least re-organise the rota accordingly.

To anyone new thinking of coming to help us out in the semi-wild (rural!) area between the end of Cronk-Y-Voddy and the bottom of Barregarrow, it would be great to see you and you will always be assured of a warm welcome and a brew (or two, or three...)

If you're coming to the Island for the event, have a safe trip and I'll see you on or around the 28th May!

Robert

## GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE FOR NEW TT PROMOTER

### **Promoter Selected for TT and Classic TT**

The Department of Economic Development (DED) is to seek the approval of Tynwald to appoint events company Vision Nine as the promoter of the TT and Classic TT Races.

Vision Nine has ambitious plans that would see spectator numbers for the TT and Classic TT grow significantly. In doing so, Vision Nine can help to play a valuable role in growing our economy, balancing Government's budget and contributing to smaller, simpler Government.

Minister for Economic Development Laurence Skelly MHK commented:

'The TT is a huge part of our local identity and brings the Isle of Man both recognition and visitors from around the world. In recent years, the Department has greatly improved the events' marketing, operations and safety as well as their economic benefits and Government income. The Department is convinced that additional expertise and investment is necessary if we are to improve the visitor experience, grow our coverage and reach a wider audience and so ensure the events continue to grow sustainably.

'Subject to Tynwald approval, Vision Nine will work closely with the Department and the many other partners who make these exciting events possible including riders and teams, volunteer organisations, Government bodies and private businesses, both local and international. Vision Nine will also bring valuable new partners including the world leading sports TV distributor IMG who will help raise the image and awareness of the events globally. Vision Nine has industry-leading skills in developing events and will bring substantial investment to fund essential innovations that will attract more visitors and generate more spending in our economy.

'I also believe their appointment will further drive growth in the Festival of Motorcycling including the Classic TT and Manx Grand Prix with the continued support of the Manx Motor Cycle Club.'

David Cretney MLC, the Department's political member with responsibility for Motorsport, commented:

'This decision is essential for the continued growth and evolution of the TT races. As a lifelong supporter, and having been central to the decisions which have seen the current success of the TT, I believe we now need to take the next steps. The appointment of a promoter partner will give the TT the investment and innovation needed for it to thrive and grow for the next generation. I will be working closely with Vision Nine and their partners to make sure we retain our core TT audience as well as increase visitors to the Island via a new, global fan base.'

Gary Thompson MBE BEM, Clerk of the TT Course, said:

'On behalf of ACU Events Ltd, we would be pleased to work alongside Vision Nine who have been identified as the preferred Bidder for the Isle of Man TT and Classic TT festivals. While there may be some changes with regards to the promotional aspects of the TT, the Race Organisation, the delivery of the practice and race schedules and the overall safety and marshalling of the event will not be compromised and from a Race Organisers point of view it will be 'business as usual'.

'ACU Events Ltd will continue to carry out the Risk Assessment process, review the safety of the TT Mountain Course prior to the event and deliver the TT Races in the same way and we look forward to working with Vision Nine in taking forward the TT Races into a new era.'

Julian Topham, CEO of Vision Nine, commented:

'We are very pleased to be identified as the preferred partner to drive the Isle of Man TT forward. We will be working alongside the Department of Economic Development and all key stakeholders to enhance visitor experience and grow the TT races and their coverage. We will also continue to work with the army of volunteers who bring such a significant contribution to the event.'

The selection of Vision Nine follows a formal tender process, commenced on 2nd November 2015, to identify an independent partner to take a significant level of operational, promotional and commercial delivery responsibility for the TT and Classic TT races. The proposed contract is for a period of 10 years with an option of a further 5-year extension. Their appointment would begin in 2017. The 2016 TT and Classic TT will be unaffected.

Tynwald will be asked to approve the appointment of Vision Nine at the April sitting of Tynwald.

## [PRESS RELEASE REGARDING MEDICAL SERVICES](#)

### **MANX ROADRACING MEDICAL SERVICES APPOINTED TO PROVIDE COVER FOR ISLE OF MAN MOTORCYCLE RACES**

The Department of Economic Development has appointed Manx Roadracing Medical Services to provide medical services for the Isle of Man TT Races, the Isle of Man Festival of Motorcycling and the races around the Billown Circuit, the Southern 100 and the Pre and Post TT Classic Races. The appointment was made following a tender process.

The Manx Roadracing Medical Services team will be in place from this year's TT Races and have already made the necessary appointments to provide comprehensive medical cover. It will be based in the 'Hogger' in Nobles Park.

Manx Roadracing Medical Services has been set up by three experienced practitioners with extensive knowledge and experience of Isle of Man Motorsport events. Dr Gruff Evans, who is a General Practitioner on the Isle of Man, heads up the organisation. He has been providing medical services to motorsport events for 15 years, both in the Isle of Man and the UK and has been involved with the TT and Manx Grand Prix since 2002.

The team also includes Dr Gareth Davies and Dr Sally Simmons. Gareth has provided medical services for the TT and Manx Grand Prix for over 20 years. He is a Consultant in Emergency

Medicine at The Royal London Hospital and is also Medical Director of London's Air Ambulance.

Dr Sally Simmons, a General Practitioner in Devon, is an ex Armed Forces doctor and has been providing medical services to the TT and Billown Courses since 2013. Sally will be acting as Chief Medical Officer for all the Billown Course events. All three have already operated as Senior Medical Officers at the TT Races and Festival of Motorcycling.

The appointment comes as Dr David Stevens MBE is stepping down after nearly forty years of providing cover for the Island's Motorsport events. The new organisation will continue to work in partnership with established local providers including Hogg Motorsport as well as the Red Cross, St Johns Ambulance and the Rob Vine Fund.

Commenting on the appointment, Dr Gruff Evans said:

*"We will look to work in partnership with experienced individuals and organisations based both on and off island in order to ensure that the high standards that David set over his thirty years are maintained."*

David Cretney, the Isle of Man Government's Tourism and Motorsport representative commented:

*"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank David for the major contribution he has made to motorsport on the Isle of Man. His commitment and professionalism has elevated the service that we provide to competitors to another level. It is reassuring that we have such a strong successor in Dr Gruff Evans and on behalf of everyone associated with Motorsport on the Isle of Man I'd like to welcome him into the role."*

For more information or to register to provide services go to [www.mrms.im](http://www.mrms.im)



Dr David Stevens (left) and Dr Gruff Evans (right)

## LAXEY BRIDGE UPDATE



Department of Infrastructure engineers are inspecting the riverbed in Laxey before a new bridge is built in the village. Planning approval has already been granted, and the department says the site investigations are needed before a detailed design can be produced.

In particular, engineers want to check the foundations and abutments over two days before building work begins at the end of the month. The new single-span bridge with two lighthouse features was chosen to replace the Manx stone arch structure which collapsed during December's storms.

At the moment the progress on the bridge is slow, so for anyone staying in this area during the TT fortnight, please ensure you know where your alternative routes are and also allow additional time for your journey in case the bridge is not completed.

## DOUGLAS CARNIVAL HELP REQUIRED

On Sunday 17th July the Douglas Carnival is taking place. A full closure of Douglas Promenades is planned so that the parade can travel the full length of the promenade. In order to do this, assistance is required with the closure of the roads and maintaining the closures.

Douglas Borough Council need in the region of 30 marshals (although the more the merrier) to assist with road closures and the experience of your marshals would be valued. We are still working on the timings for the event but we would anticipate that we would need marshals from about 2pm until 6pm but this will be flexible depending whereabouts on the Promenade they are manning a closure.

If you would like more information and are able to help, then please do not hesitate to contact Danielle Atkinson on [datkinson@douglas.gov.im](mailto:datkinson@douglas.gov.im) or 01624 696313.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Samuel Irwin from Sector 3 wanted to thank Malcolm and Carole James from Ballig Bridge for supplying lunch/refreshments at TT and the MGP. They have recently moved to Glen Vine and Samuel wanted to pass on the appreciation of all the marshals who have benefited from their kindness. There are a lot of residents around the course who help in the same way and it all adds to the unique atmosphere of the TT and MGP.

As Robert has already stated above, there will only be one more issue of the newsletter before the TT and this will be issued in mid-May. If you have anything you would like to submit for the pre-TT newsletter, then please send articles or pictures to the newsletter address by Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

## CONTACTING US

You can contact our office by various means;

### By Post

TTMA Office  
The Grandstand  
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### By Telephone

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### By Email

To ensure your emails are dealt with promptly, please use the relevant email address below;

General Information [info@iomttma.com](mailto:info@iomttma.com)  
Training [training@iomttma.com](mailto:training@iomttma.com)  
Newsletter Articles [newsletter@iomttma.com](mailto:newsletter@iomttma.com)  
Website issues [admin@iomttma.com](mailto:admin@iomttma.com)

The website address is <http://www.iomttma.com> where you can find details about training opportunities and links to other sites