

TTMA NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new year and may I take this opportunity to wish you a (belated) Happy New Year and best wishes for 2016.

With January already behind us, the TT is approaching fast with people telling me almost every day exactly how many days to go!

The usual meetings and discussions with the promoters, organisers and Government departments are already taking place to prepare the course for the event which looks to be as good as ever with the change to the schedule meaning we will see both the Senior and Sidecar winners decided on the last day.

In addition to these meetings we have the usual monthly Chief Sector Marshal meetings and, since November, have introduced meetings with the Deputy Sector Marshals as well. I have been very pleased with the response to these and some good ideas have come from them. It has also highlighted some common issues throughout many of the Sectors which we are going to address over the coming months.

It has also produced some suggestions such as the car-sharing idea which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are expecting to launch the online signing-on in the next week or so and I urge you to complete this as soon as you possibly can so we can get an early idea of the numbers around the course.

This year, we are trying to address the problem where some locations are over-manned whilst others struggle to meet their minimum manning levels. This is especially true on the mountain section of the course and in the rural sectors four and five where there are no large communities.

With this in mind, please consider making 2016 the year to explore some of the other locations around the course – you may be surprised by how good some of them are!

To help this, we are hoping to develop a system for the website and for display in the office which will show the areas that need Marshals on a day-to-day basis.

Watch out for both this system and for the notice about online signing-on on the website.

As well as all of that, we have the first of our three social nights starting this week in Ramsey with others to follow in St Johns and Douglas as well as our new training nights on the 4th & 11th April and of course, the Incident Management Courses continue throughout the year both on and off the Island.

Although it is a very busy time for many of us, it is rewarded by seeing everybody come together to provide the Marshalling services to the greatest road race event in the world and is something we should all be very proud of.

Robert Crane

Message from the Clerk of the Course

Well with 117 days to go, TT 2016 looms ever nearer. As I sit typing this, Storm Henry gains faster strength and pace and the TT is the one light in the near future we can look forward to (unless of course any of you will be joining me at Scarborough for the Spring Cup..... ;o))

I know Robert Crane has been the Chairman now for three months or so, but even though this is belated I would just like to publicly offer my support to Robert. I have known him for quite some time and have always admired his tenacity, professionalism and ability to get things done and I very much look forward to working alongside him on issues that affect Marshalling on the TT Mountain Course, be that before and during the TT or the Festival of Motorcycling.

Coming from an Army background I am well aware of the relationships that build up over a period of time and by this I mean that someone may have been marshalling at a given location for some considerable time and might not wish to marshal at another place if asked to do so – I call this ‘the Platoon syndrome’. However, for the good and benefit of both events, it is important that we have that flexibility, particularly during the early part of practice week at the TT and during the early part of practice week and towards the end of the event at the Festival of Motorcycling. It became apparent during TT 2015 that we had in excess of the minimum manning at certain locations around the Course and at the same time were struggling to fill other slots, particularly in Sector 9 on the Mountain. We need to address this because delays in practice whilst we move Marshals around just puts everyone under pressure and more importantly eats into the practice session thus making the competitors anxious – particularly if we have had practice session affected by weather and thus lost time.

I ask for your cooperation in this and hopefully moving forward we can be in a position to start the practice sessions at ‘bang on’ 6.20pm without having further delays whilst we juggle with moving Marshals around the Course to fill any gaps that might occur once roads are closed.

I very much look forward to working with everyone at both events on the TT Mountain Course this year and if anyone is marshalling at the events held at Scarborough (Spring Cup, Cock o’ the North, Barry Sheene Festival or the Gold Cup) by all means dig me out of Race Control for a chat over the weekends at Oliver’s Mount.

With best wishes for the forthcoming season

Gary Thompson MBE BEM
General Secretary

Training Report

We have now started our training courses for 2016. Many thanks to everyone who attended in 2015 and a bigger thank you to all those who helped deliver the training around the country. Without your support and help we would not be able to deliver the course to the high standard that we do and we look forward to working with you all again this year.

We are now planning our trips to the UK, the first being Gloucester on the 20th and 21st February. For the rest of the dates for this year, please refer to the website www.iomttma.com . Please check when your IMC course needs to be renewed and ensure that you book nice and early.

The courses commence at 08:45 for registration and finish at approx. 5pm. There are 24 places maximum available on each course. Once the course is filled names will go on a waiting list and other courses may be arranged to suit numbers. If you wish to attend one of the dates, please contact the office via email on info@iomttma.com. Once you are booked to do the training course I would ask you to make a real effort to attend as we have people who could fill these places, should you not be able to attend. So check and either make a note in your diary, put it in your phone, mark it on the calendar, to remind yourselves. Our office emails everyone a couple of weeks beforehand also as a reminder.

If you are due to renew in June, please try and renew before this date as the visiting marshals will have priority on the two dates in TT practice week. Please check which time of year and venue is the closest to you.

We are looking forward to seeing all marshals new and old that attend these training days. Time and time again they have proved so valuable when dealing with incidents on and off the course. All the skills we teach you can be used in everyday life. We have many marshals who tell us that it's our training that has helped them deal with situations they have found themselves in and having the knowledge has made a big difference. This is very pleasing for us and we would always like to hear from you with any stories you may have. Please contact the editor if you would like articles to be included in future newsletters.

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

Brett Hammonds

Social and Training Nights

We have three social evenings planned as follows;

Ramsey Masonic Hall Wednesday 3rd February 2016

Hydro Hotel Douglas Wednesday 2nd March 2016

Tynwald Hotel St Johns Wednesday 6th April 2016

Each evening will start at 7.00pm approx. and will consist of a news catch up, a quiz, film show or talk (depending on which venue) and anything else that you would like information on. We will

also provide you with a free drink and a snack. All current marshals and newcomers are most welcome to attend.

In the first instance for the Ramsey event can you please contact the office on info@iomttma.com if you are attending by Monday 1st February, so we have numbers for catering purposes.

The training nights are;

Ramsey Masonic on Monday 4th April 2016

Conference Centre at the TT Grandstand Monday 11th April 2016

These will consist of use of the Tetra radios and flag training in the main, but we will be happy to answer any other questions that you have. This is a new venture for use so please show your support by attending, changes do happen between events so it does no harm to refresh the memory.

If there is anything else that you would like to see included in any of the Social/Training nights, please drop us an e mail to the info@iomttma.com address.

Thank You
Terry

SECTOR 1

Well folks it's another month closer and I hope you are all booked up on ferries or flights, I believe they are nearly all booked already. The island has had some severe weather over the past few months and the course looks strange at the moment. It's hard to imagine riding a motorbike on it with the conditions as they are but it will be wall to wall sun for TT!!

If possible I would like to arrange a Sector 1 gathering during TT week so, please email me at alanb@manx.net if you're interested.

During TT I have an abundance of marshals at key locations and at times some sectors are short of marshals. It would be great if you would consider moving to another sector to help cover on these occasions. It doesn't mean move full time, just to help on those particular days. As well within Sector 1 you may be asked to move to fill the gaps at other points so PLEASE consider this as well.

Alan Blaney

SECTOR 5

The TT is always a very busy time and I expect it will be a bit busier for me this year having taken on the extra role of Chairman of the Association, something I am proud to have been elected for. This will probably mean there will be more work for the Deputies throughout the sector but I am sure they will cope and both our regular and new marshals will help where they can.

As I have already stated earlier, we sometimes struggle to meet our minimum manning levels but with the co-operation of yourselves moving around the sector to fill any gaps, we have avoided the need to call for a Response car.

I really do appreciate all the help you give us and I look forward to welcoming you back to the Sector in May.

Robert Crane

SECTOR 7

Firstly, may I wish you all a very Happy New Year, especially all the marshals in Sector 7. As I write this we are now nearly a month into the New Year and the online sign-on will soon be ready to go live. As nothing in Sector 7 has changed, may I ask those who intend to marshal for me in 2016 to sign on as early as possible, as this helps me and my DSMs plan and organise our rotas.

If you have not marshalled in Sector 7 before and would like to, please feel free to sign-on and contact me if you have any reservations about where to go. My deputies and myself are really friendly people who will look after you.

So just to finish off, I have put an early request in for 2 weeks of sunshine and high temperatures so we can have good racing!

Eddie Christian

Frank Simpson and his Marshals at Ginger hall would like to thank Debbie and Gary Cain proprietors of Ginger Hall Hotel and Public House for their support and generosity in providing the Marshals with coffee and snacks during the TT and MGP in 2015. This is most appreciated by all and we look forward to seeing you again in 2016.

Many thanks

Jim Stenhouse

Marshal Sector 7

SECTOR 10

Happy New Year to you all. Being the closed season I have nothing much to report at the moment regards racing. As some of you may know I have a fondness for two stroke bikes, in particular Yamaha's RD350LC. This year the LC owners club are planning an event on the Island over the first weekend in July, appropriately called 'Smoke the Rock'. Hopefully there will be a good turnout of bikes running around. This also means that I now have 5 months to get mine, that I have carried from house to house for the last 15 years, from several boxes of bits to a runner again. Nothing like a bit of incentive!

All the best

Mike Brown

SECTOR 12

Hello to everybody in sector 12. I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year. There is not much to tell you all at present. Discussions are ongoing about how to solve the overmanning problems in a few places. I am sure there will be more info as we get nearer to TT 16.

The online signing on will open for TT 16 very soon, if not already. Please try to sign on as soon as possible so that rotas can be organised early and hopefully we can see shortages in advance and work earlier to get them filled.

I am sure you are all starting to look forward to this year's road racing, and to those of you that I haven't seen over the winter, I am looking forward to meeting you all once again.

That's it for now, look after yourselves.

John Walsh

TT CAR SHARING

There has been a suggestion of a car sharing scheme to help Marshals that live or stay in Douglas but are willing to go to the less-populated areas.

If anyone would be interested in supporting this idea, please send your details to the office stating where you travel from and where you travel to and we will try to put you in touch with someone who is looking for a lift and could possibly contribute towards your fuel.

Equally well, if you are visiting the island and need a lift, let the office know.

Please forward your details, including a contact telephone number, to info@iomttma.com

STORY FROM THE STATES

Hi fellow Marshals! I'm Vic Paladini from sunny Arizona, USA. I have attended the TT five times in the past ten years, have volunteered as a marshal for most of those years and loved each year's event but have never attended the MGP/FOM. My wife passed away many years ago and in 2013 I met a wonderful little lady (Janet) that I dated for a year or two. During our dating time I often mentioned the unique and romantic IOM, their friendly citizens, and their world famous TT/MGP/FOM events. {Yes, Janet rides a motorcycle too!}

The time came in December 2014 for me to propose to her so I took her to the Grand Canyon in the Northern part of the State of Arizona to ask her for her hand in marriage. While looking over that wonder of the world I asked her to marry me and she said, "Yes!" My reply was, "Great! Let's get married in August!" She looked surprised and said, "But that's eight months from now..." "Yes, but the MGP is in August 2015 on the Isle of Man." She rolled her eyes, laughed, and purred, "Okay, you're on!"

Fast forward to August 2015 ... we were married, flew to the IOM for our three-week honeymoon and arrived a week before the MGP/FOM. Of course, even if it was our honeymoon the TTMA always needs marshals so (with her enthusiastic permission) I again volunteered to assist TTMA and we were assigned to Joey's for all the MGP practice days and most of the racing days too. Joey's DSM and the rest of the marshals at Joey's made us feel 'right at home', were a fun bunch to be with, and made our "working" honeymoon something to talk about!

Where else can you go on a honeymoon, volunteer to assist a world-class race event, in beautiful mountain-top surroundings, overlooking the town of Ramsey, and see motorbikes wiz by you at breakneck speeds?

Did Janet like marshalling? You bet! We will be back for TT 2017 and again plan on assisting TTMA wherever!

Vic Paladini

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I hope you have found some of the information in the newsletter useful and maybe even entertaining. If you have any photos or tales you would like to share, please send them to the newsletter address below and I will do my best to include them in future issues. It is always good to receive articles from people who marshal in different parts of the course and have different experiences. All I ask is the stories are short and family friendly!!
The March edition of the newsletter will be issued at the end of February so if you have anything to send in, please do so by Saturday 27th Feb at the latest.

Amanda Wightman

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General Information info@iomttma.com

Training training@iomttma.com

Newsletter Articles newsletter@iomttma.com

Website issues admin@iomttma.com

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