

TTMA NEWSLETTER JULY 2016

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello and welcome to the July newsletter.

With a great TT behind us and one that blessed us with some excellent weather overall, it doesn't seem possible that the Manx Grand Prix/Classic TT is only a matter of weeks away!

For the TT, we had enormous success in ensuring every practice and race was fully marshalled and ready to go at the expected time and this is thanks to the Chief and Deputy Sector Marshals for moving people around into the strategic places and, of course, for the vast number of marshals that obliged by moving!

Our new display in the Marshals' office caught the attention of most people with the graphic display of places where we needed marshals the most and it was great to hear people offer to go to places they had never been to before – and in some cases, had never even heard of before! However, marshalling the MGP/CTT is always more of a challenge as fewer marshals sign-on so it will be more important than ever to be prepared to move around if requested to ensure we get all places manned and can start on time. This has more impact at the August event as the nights get darker earlier and even a short delay can mean the difference between some riders getting a lap in and not!

We must of course, sadly, remember there were some serious incidents and our thoughts and condolences go out to the family & friends of those who lost their lives and we wish a speedy recovery to those injured, including our own Travelling Marshal Chris Fargher.

Signing-on is now available online by visiting our webpage and selecting the 'online sign-on' option. Please do this as early as you can, even if you are not coming to the event as this gives us an early indication of how many marshals we may have and allows the Sector Marshals to start planning their rotas.

I look forward to seeing you during the MGP/CTT and whether you are a new marshal just starting out or a seasoned veteran, I hope you have a safe, enjoyable and incident-free event.

regards
Robert Crane
Chairman

SECTOR 1

I must start by thanking all marshals for your time and effort during TT. If am not mistaken the last time we had two weeks of sun during TT week was 1976. The weather was fantastic and good for all you campers. I did my best to meet as many of you as possible but I am sorry if I missed you.

I would like to thank my DSMs Paul Thompson, Julie Rounce, Lindsey Riordan, Gill Woodard, Steve Cook and Derek Kelly. Also a big thank you to all medics around the course, well done.

I had the pleasure of having some of the crew from HMS Ramsey on my sector. They were a fantastic bunch of guys and girls and they all enjoyed themselves, especially when the bikes came down Bray Hill. We hope to see them back for TT 2017.

Well what did you think of the marshal's supper? Personally I think it was one of the best ever and there was a good turn out by marshals. It was great to see the riders and the food was great. A thank you also needs to go to the compere for the night Terry Holmes. A good night was had by all.

Well it's all go for the Festival of Motorcycling (MGP) and the Classic TT. We are going to have 250 two strokes racing and I just love the sound and smell of two strokes. It makes me think of my GT 750, the kettle as it was known, but a lovely bike.

Don't forget to sign on using the on line service. It won't take you long to do and helps all CSMs start on the rotas early. If you haven't signed on using the online process before, please have a look on the website.

Well I look forward to seeing some of you back for the races in August and here's hoping we have the same weather. Don't forget Jurby day on the middle Sunday as this is another fantastic event during the FOM, if you can make it you won't be disappointed.

Take care all and see you again soon.

Alan Blaney

SECTOR 5

Although I have already been in individual contact with everyone that helped in Sector 5, I wish to repeat that thanks to a wider audience as without the dedication, help and support of them all, it would not be possible to run the sector as successfully as it is.

The Deputies did an excellent job of ensuring all places were manned well in advance of the scheduled start times and we managed to get enough marshals for each day meaning we didn't need to call for a response car once.

The new minibus service also provided us with a couple of extra marshals so hopefully the service will be expanded for the MGP and for next year's TT.

If you are tired of going to places that seem over-manned, why not consider moving out to one of the more remote locations such as Burnside (just after the end of Cronk-Y-Voddy), the 11th Milestone, Handleys Corner or the Top of Barregarrow, all of which will give you a warm welcome and be glad to have you as part of the team.

Whether you decide to join us or go elsewhere, I hope you have a fun and incident free event and lets pray for weather as good as the TT!

Robert Crane

SECTOR 7

Firstly, I would like to say a big Thank You to the Marshals who worked with me this TT, you all did really well, as the Sector Marshal I felt proud that we got all the sessions away on time. Shaun the new DSM at Quarry Bends seemed as if he had done it for years, well done Shaun, good to have you on board. The marshals at Sulby I could not give enough praise to for the way they dealt with the serious incident we had, they know who they are so once again well done and many, many thanks.

Moving on swiftly to the FOM, for anybody wanting to marshal in Sector 7, would you please sign on as soon as possible as the online sign-on is now open. It really helps us to get the manning levels sorted if you sign on early. If you are a first time marshal, do not worry, you will not be left on your own as all first timers are put with experienced marshals.

In case you do not know much about Sector 7, it runs from Alpine House through to the Ginger Hall. It includes places like Ballaugh Bridge, Ballacrye, Quarry Bends, Sulby Bridge, and Ginger Hall. All of these are really great places to marshal so come on now and get signed on, you will be doing something worthwhile.

Hopefully see some of you soon.

Eddie Christian

SECTOR 10

Hi All

Thanks to all of you who marshalled this year's TT, another international effort with marshals from all over the world. Once again we did not need the services of the response car, the willingness of those who moved to a different point when asked is much appreciated, as is your patience when the mist came down on the Wednesday and Friday of race week. For us it was a successful fortnight and our thoughts must go to those for whom the event was not.

The electronic sign on for the Manx GP has now been open for a couple of weeks, thanks to those of you who have already signed on. If you are intending to marshal this year's event could you please sign on early if possible so I have plenty of time to organise cover, thanks.

Congratulations to Eamon Dorrian (one of the Manx GP Brandywell marshals) on finishing the Longest Day Longest Ride mountain bike in aid of the Benjamin Gautrey Foundation. A solo effort, at the end of the 24 hours, Eamon finished 36th out of 77 starters despite having to stop for a while due to high winds and lack of visibility in the night hours.

Hope to see you again either in August or next year.

Mike Brown

TRAINING REPORT

TT doesn't seem that long ago to us but the FOM is now looming. This year our marshals were tested by some serious accidents where despite your best efforts the outcome was not as we would have liked. You all carried out your duties with total professionalism and made the difference, we thank all those involved in any of these incidents.

There are spaces available on the two courses in practise week and there are spaces on all the other courses left this year. Please check if you are due to renew your IMC, select one which suits you and then e-mail or speak to Deana in the office. Check out the website www.iomttma.com for all the dates available.

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 maybe arranged to suit numbers. 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 or mark it on the calendar to remind yourselves. Our office emails everyone a week beforehand also as a reminder.

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

Brett Hammonds

IOM TT MARSHALS ASSOCIATION AGM

It is currently planned to hold the Annual General meeting of the IOMTTMA at the end of OCTOBER this year.

The exact date will be confirmed to all Life and Annual members of the Association closer to the time along with any necessary documentation.

MINI BUS SERVICE

New for 2016 TT was the provision of a mini-bus that operated in course-direction to transport marshals from highly-populated areas such as Douglas to less populated areas such as Sectors 4 and 5. This was in addition to the mountain convoy which already has such a service.

This proved quite popular so we hope to continue it during the MGP/CTT and for next year's TT and discussions are under way with the promoters to provide us with suitable vehicles. Due to the popularity, we are also considering a ticketing system which is still being discussed and designed.

BAG PACKING WITH HELP FROM THE SCOUTS

Sunday morning found Scouts, Explorers and parents at the TT grandstand helping with the preparations for this year's TT races by packing the marshals 'goody bags'.

A production line was set up and the 'packers' after picking up a plastic bag walked the length of the table placing each different item in the bag before handing it to the 'box filler' at the end. When the box was full a Scout would then load it into the associations van. In this way just over a 1,000 bags were filled, boxed and loaded in 1 hour 28 minutes.

A brilliant and worthwhile job done by everyone which was greatly appreciated by the TTMA as, without the Scouts help it takes them about a week to do the same job along with all the other things they have to do.

To keep the insanity at bay it was worked out that by the time the Scouts had packed all the bags they had walked the same distance as the TT start line to Quarter Bridge. The Scouts then had a picture taken on the winners' podium. On finishing their work, the Scouts were all given a goody bag of their own with TT Beany hat and insulated mug along with other items.





PACK NIGHTS FOR FOM

There will be an additional pack night for any marshals in and around Laxey on Sunday 14 August. The location and time will be announced nearer the time. This is as a result of feedback received after the TT pack nights. Please also check the website for the schedule for the rest of the pack nights in a couple of weeks.

LEWIS CLARK

We have received the following from the mother of Lewis Clark who was tragically killed in an accident last year. Lewis had just started marshalling with us and clearly had a love for the racing.

'An innocent young man who was tragically killed at the Black Hut 30/08/15. Lewis loved the TT races and was a valued member of the marshals. He loved life and always lived for today. He died doing his favourite thing.... riding his bike on the mountain road. RIP Lewis. Gone too soon, fallen but never forgotten, forever riding high.'



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Well the TT has disappeared over the horizon but all of the directors have been busy, along with the Chief Sector Marshals, attending debrief sessions so that any issues identified can be rectified prior to the Festival of Motorcycling. The TTMA works alongside many other teams to ensure the whole event is successful and this year was especially good as not one practice session was delayed due to marshalling issues. This is a great credit to everyone who signed on and moved to alternative locations prior to the sessions. Thank you to each of you from all of the TTMA directors, it really was a huge team effort.

As you can see from the pictures of the scouts above, they were of great help in assembling the packs you collect when we issue the warrant cards. They saved us a massive amount of time and I hope they enjoyed themselves as well! It was hard work keeping the supplies filled up once they had got into a rhythm and I was running around trying to find empty boxes on several occasions. We are hoping to have their assistance again for the FOM bag packing, so keep your fingers crossed.

There will be one more newsletter prior to the FOM and this will be issued around mid-August so

that any information required for this is sent to you. If you have any articles or pictures you would like to be considered for the August edition, then please send these to the newsletter email address by Monday 8th August at the latest.

Amanda Wightman

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