

TTMA NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello & welcome to the March newsletter.

I am not going to open with the number of days left until the TT as everyone seems to keep telling me - it's a bit daunting with the amount of work needed before it all starts!

On-line signing-on is now available so please get your applications in as soon as you can. Remember we need a minimum of over 520 marshals in all the right places before any practice or race can start so if the place you usually go to is often overcrowded, why not give some thought to trying one of the less populated places such as sectors 4 or 5 or the mountain sectors, 9, 10 and 11.

There's a lot of activity both in public with the Social nights, the Incident Management Courses both on and off the Island and the new training evenings in April as well as the 'behind the scenes' discussions with the Promoters and Organisers and our supporters who provide the services we need to help to run the event successfully. It's a very busy time!

I hope to meet some more of you at some of these events or during the TT itself.

Last (but definitely not least), I would like to welcome our new office administrator, Deana. She is getting to grips with the various systems we use although there is a steep learning curve before the TT which I am confident she will climb with a little help. I am sure you will all join me in welcoming her into the fold.

Stay safe

Robert Crane



TRAINING REPORT

We have now trained marshals in Gloucester and the next course is in Douglas on the 13th March. Then it's off to Bedford where there are still places available so please check to see if your IMC needs to be renewed.

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 and also which time of year and venue is the closest to you.

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

We look forward to seeing all our 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

TRAVELLING MARSHALS

For the 2016 road races the TM team remains the same 7; Tony Duncan, Jim Hunter, Ned Bowers, Ian McVeighty, Chris Fargher, Paul Corrin and Steve Grainger, an experienced team that are all fanatical about anything to do with motorcycle road racing. At this time, it has not been confirmed which motorcycle manufacturer will supply the 2016 bikes.

We have already undertaken our ACU Technical Officials course for a licence that enables us to examine the bikes that have been black flagged and stopped. We are now also ramping up our first aid and trauma care courses on the build up to the first race for us, the Pre-TT Classic race at Billown.

In a few weeks' time the first of the potential Manx Grand prix newcomers will be on the Island and most of the team will be involved in taking them around for course familiarisation in mini buses or cars. Jim and the Manx club do a sterling job to organise this event with valuable funding assistance from the Mike Hailwood Foundation.

Most long serving marshals will know what the role of a travelling marshal is already and some have had the unenviable acquaintance of ours at incidents that we attend. For those that do not we basically are the eyes and ears to the Clerk of the Course Gary Thompson. On modern short circuits a Clerk of the Course or Race Director will have video cameras on most corners and will be able to monitor events. Not so with the 37 3/4 miles of the TT course so that's where the team come into play. We begin by checking the course is fit to race on, barriers up and marshals in place. Once that is done the course is then live and the racing can

begin with the TMs on station at specific points around the course including The Grandstand, Ballacraire, Douglas Road Corner Kirk Michael, Sulby Bridge, Parliament Square Ramsey, Gooseneck and Brandywell.

If a red button on a TETRA radio is operated for an incident the nearest TM is sent by controller John Simpson. Air Med Red/Blue is either put on standby or scrambled depending on location or information received from marshals on scene. As we arrive on scene we have already carried out an assessment if the flagging is suitable to control the situation safely. A quick dynamic risk assessment of the situation is then radioed back to control with all relevant information including bike number, rider name/condition and if the road is safe to continue practicing or racing on. If there are medics on scene it makes our job a lot easier and we can concentrate at a supervisory level to call resources and secure helicopter landing sites for casualty evacuation, if needed. Other duties of TMs are dictated by race control and have included weird things like escorting wedding parties on closed roads to the Glen Helen on a race day, escorting ambulances or chasing livestock off the course??

With continued marshal training through the TTMA IMC courses (big thanks to Brett and Sam Hammonds) the TMs are now turning up to incidents that are being professionally dealt with by marshals on scene in often dangerous, hostile and unforgiving environments. Big pat on the back to all the volunteer orange army hero's... especially those on the mountain.....Sirs and Ladies you have the TM team's utmost respect and we look forward to seeing you in 2016.

Tony Duncan, Chief Travelling Marshal



SECTOR 3

Sector Three stretches from just after Greeba Castle and goes on until Doran's Bends, just before Laurel Bank. There are all kinds of track - straights, corners, cambers and jumps and riders can reach speeds of around 190 mph. It's a varied and interesting sector with very safe vantage points and a great bunch of experienced and friendly marshals there to ensure that the racing goes ahead safely.

If you need to leave your marshalling point before roads open or get there after they have closed, there are marshalling points where you can get out onto open roads without committing an offence - for example at Ballacraire or Ballig Bridge.

All marshals are very welcome where they are prepared to roll up their sleeves and get involved. We are very lucky to have a number of trained paramedics and first responders who provide very experienced and welcome medical assistance.

I look forward to seeing you in Sector Three, the place to be in TT.

Dave Dentith

SECTOR 4

Hello troops,

Well this is my first article in the newsletter so please go easy on me if I forget anything. Although I'm across the water, work is continuing on the sector and we continue to try and improve the visibility at several locations. I'd like to thank you all for the help and emails keeping me informed on the developments.

We are working to improve the visibility at Laurel Bank 1 and hopefully thanks to Martin we may soon have an answer to the issue. We will also have some changes at the Blackdub as the property has been sold and we may have spectators back at the dub. We are still working to solve the poor visibility issue at the 9th milestone and hopefully when I come over in March this will be sorted.

I've submitted the "Ideal" manning levels to Robert and hopefully we will no longer have the one person points that have worried many of us in the past if we can continue to recruit the troops.

Last year several marshals acted as our own response team and this worked really well so I would like to use this again. If anyone would like to volunteer to move around the sector when required, please let me know.

Once again thank you all for your help and I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon and if anyone is going to Scarborough in April please give me a call and we will meet up.

Regards

Neil Smith

SECTOR 5

Another hello to all of our regular Marshals that visit us in Sector 5. For those that might not know, the sector starts at the end of the Cronk-Y-Voddy straight ('Molyneux's bend) and includes the 11th Milestone, Handleys corner, Shoughlaige which is better known as McGuinness's as he has said in the past that it's his favourite corner on the course. It continues through the Barregarrow Crossroads and down the hill to the Bottom of Barregarrow before the start of the next sector at the end of the run past Cammall Farm.

As it's a rural area, we sometimes struggle to get enough marshals so if you're thinking of trying somewhere different from your usual place, why not give us a try. I promise you'll find a very warm welcome and excellent hospitality (even if I do say so myself!)

Whatever you do and wherever you go, I hope you have a great TT and I hope to meet you if you do come to our sector.

Regards

Robert Crane

SECTOR 9

Mostly quiet on the northern front, apart from the weather that is. Intense rainfall at the end of last year washed a few bits of mountainside onto the road (thereby closing the road & forcing yours truly to go down Tholt-y-will on the bike (through a raging torrent carrying football sized cobbles down the glen, most interesting but not highly recommended). Expect rearrangement of scenery!!

Only other change of note is that somebody has finally pulled their chainsaw out & removed a lot of vegetation from the inside of Gooseneck bend. Changes to the marshalling status equipment in the TTMA shed (sorry – high tech ligneous office) will be documented elsewhere but I am hopeful this will push a significant number of extra marshals in our direction & thus alleviate our all too regular shortages.

Having gone back to source documentation, equipment should be a better fit to our needs in future so all we need now is a couple of months of persistent sun to dry out the bog and we can look forward to a cracking TT 2016.

Look forward to talking to old friends & new in less than 90 days' time!

Vic

SECTOR 10

Brandywell

It will be all change at Brandywell for 2016..... Dick Hodge has been DSM for many years but now, in his 70's, he will stand down and his young successor, Darryl Hill, is to take over. This decision was helped when on the last 2015 MGP race day, Dick asked for volunteers to help out at the Bungalow and, with everyone having good reasons to stay at Brandywell – he went there himself together with Steve Hodson, leaving Darryl in charge of Brandywell. It turned out that Brandywell was one of the points that had a serious incident in the Senior Race – and Darryl and his team coped admirably. Dick & Steve had a peaceful day in the Bungalow sunshine!! Dick will still help out at Brandywell but now he will be in charge of the teapot etc.

Darryl, as many of you will know, is the IoM's young snooker professional as last year, he won the European Under 21 title and, along with a great big pot, he won the right to turn professional at the age of 19...!! He has since been visiting airports and hotels all over the world and, at the time of writing this article, he is looking forward to playing the World Champion, Mark Selby, in China in a few weeks' time. What a way for Darryl to earn a living!! Dick will deputise for Darryl if he is away playing snooker.....!!

You may like to know the story of the IoM Champion of Champions tournament held recently – Darryl won again!! But, on the way to the Final, he scored the IoM's highest ever break of 137. That was a special moment for everyone present. This is what the IoM Examiner reported:

After several weekends of competition, it was John Kennish and Darryl Hill that had made it through to the Final which was contested over two sessions in a best of 15 frame match.

The match began slowly with both players reluctant to give anything away and safety was order of the day. With very low scores the first two frames were shared and then the fireworks began as Darryl Hill knocked in a 106 break to take the third frame without reply. The fourth frame was much tighter and Darryl had to pot the final colours to take the frame and lead 3-1.

Darryl must have thought that he was on course to take the fifth frame also once he had made a 44 break but John hit back with a 30+ break to pinch the frame on the black. A similar story unfolded as Darryl made a 47 break in the sixth frame only to see John overhaul him with another 30

break to level the match at three frames each. This clearly upset Darryl as he immediately hit back with a very nice 95 break to take the seventh frame and lead 4-3 at the end of the afternoon session.

The evening session got underway with around 50 spectators. Unlike the earlier session Darryl seemed to settle much quicker than John and he ran out an easy winner in the first frame to take a 5-3 lead. The next frame was much closer and John certainly had a chance on the colours but having taken yellow to blue he just lost position on the pink and in missing a very fine cut into the black pocket he sent the white all the way round the table to leave Darryl with easy pots on the pink and black to take a 6-3 lead.

This seemed to deflate John and galvanise Darryl as he knocked in breaks of 49 and 77 in the tenth frame to take a 7-3 lead and the eleventh frame was pretty much one-way traffic as Darryl hit another break of 64 to take the match by 8 frames to 3.

So welcome to Darryl Hill as the new Brandywell DSM.....and the IoM Champion of Champions!!

Dick

Bungalow

We also have a change at The Bungalow this year. Again after many years' service the DSM, Norman Parkes, has decided it's time to stand down and let Bill Dearing take over. Those of you who have marshalled here will already know Bill and his partner in crime Vicki, Bill has a lot of experience in the racing world and until recently was one of the scrutineers at the Southern 100. I'm pleased to say Norman will still be a familiar face as one of the regular flag marshals at this popular spectator place.

All the best
Mike Brown

SECTOR 11

At the time of writing there are 90 or so days to go until TT 2016. Where does the time go? It was 12 months ago this week that I was appointed CSM on Sector 11 with a certain amount of trepidation. That trepidation was totally unfounded as I soon realised that there are wonderful DSM's, totally dedicated and knowledgeable, on the sector – as well as all the regular marshals. I look forward to meeting up with you all once more. The way the rota works out I should be able to visit each main point twice throughout the fortnight. Finally, I would like to thank Bill Wade, DSM at 33rd, who retired at the end of the MGP last year, for all his efforts over the years. Thank you Bill! We now welcome Mark Apps as his successor – welcome aboard Mark.

Frank Mitchell

SECTOR 12

Hi everybody from Sector 12 and beyond, again just a short note to you all to prove I am still awake and not hibernating. Regular meetings are ongoing between the CSMs to try and streamline everything for all you boys and girls to make your marshalling experience a happy and trouble free affair.

As the online sign on is now open I have been hearing from far and wide that people are already signed on and ready for this year's TT. Please do try to use this method as it makes life for all the CSMs easier in identifying possible shortages early on.

We don't like having to ask people to move from their favoured positions but if somewhere has a few people extra, please do consider moving a couple of posts up the road so that we can get events underway. A volunteer is always better and hopefully there are enough of you not to have to send the same person every day.

News from within Sector 12 is that after a long and thoughtful search I can tell you all that I have finally appointed a replacement Deputy at Governors Bridge following the very sad loss of Gary Stevens. Not to let the job leave the family his son Chris Stevens has agreed to take up the role with Jenni Grimly, the able and ever permanent face at Governors. I hope all of you will wish them well and work together with them as you all did with Gary.

Not long to go now as things are telling me it is around the 100-day mark as I write this.

See you all in May.
John Walsh

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Time is rapidly moving on and it will soon be Easter. Once we are past this bank holiday it is only a short time until the TT. All of the directors are working hard on various tasks to ensure we are all ready for the racing. As Robert mentioned in his Chairman's article, we would like to welcome Deana Corrin to the TTMA office as the new administrator. Deana replaces Muriel who retired last year. There is a lot for Deana to learn in the short time to TT and we will all be supporting her in this new and challenging role! If you have any queries regarding marshalling, training courses etc., please continue to send them to the info@iomttma.com address and we will respond to them as soon as possible.

I hope you all have a fantastic Easter break and let's hope there is a change in the current weather so the island has a chance to dry out before everyone arrives!



Amanda Wightman

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