

TTMA NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2016

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the latest newsletter and the first one after the finish of racing around the TT Mountain course for 2016.

A challenging MGP/CTT although without any serious incidents and without a single incident at all during Friday's Senior race!

The main challenge from a Marshalling point of view came from ensuring all sectors were manned and ready to start on time be that for a practice or a race. We managed it on almost all occasions, even starting 3 minutes early for one evening practice but it is still difficult to persuade anybody to move from their 'usual' location. Of course, we fully understand wanting to meet up and be with old friends and of course there is always the advantage of being familiar with a given location but we tried hard to ensure the places which are normally well-manned (or, often, over-manned) asked their Marshals to move to less-populated areas – even if it is only for one session. It means the racing can go ahead and, you never know, you may like the change! Thank you if you were one of those that moved.

With all that said, I must say thank you to EVERYONE that Marshalled whether it was for the full two weeks or just one session. Without you, the racers cannot do what they love – to ride the TT Mountain course and I am sure they would join me in thanking you.

Many people made comments on the changes in the TTMA office including both the layout, the people and the new display system which we hope to enhance for next year and, possibly, make available to everybody on the Internet. We appreciate your kind comments as myself and my fellow directors worked hard to bring some much-needed changes to the whole experience of signing on. Don't forget, we are all volunteers too and do this in addition to our Marshalling duties as well as having a day-job as well!

We will continue to make improvements and changes over the coming months and we hope to launch a simpler, cleaner and easier to use system for signing-on for 2017 (which will commence early in the new year). We are encouraging more people to use the online system as this not only makes it a bit easier for us to manage and gives the Sector Marshals a chance to update their rotas earlier but also saves us considerable money.

For the TT, we sent out 2300 forms and for the MGP we sent out 2230 but only 396 were returned for the TT and 348 for the MGP. As you can see, this isn't cost-effective which is why we are trying to persuade everybody to use the online system. We recognise that not everybody is able or willing to use any online systems so we will continue with the paper forms for now but we must address this low return.

While we continue to do all this, I once again thank you for your continued help and support and I hope you enjoy the autumn and the lead up to Christmas (sorry, it's a bit early to use that word just yet!)

best regards
Robert Crane

MESSAGE FROM THE MANX MOTORCYCLE CLUB

We were certainly lucky with the weather this year – except, of course, for the first Saturday, which was a bit of a downer and not the way that we were looking to start the racing fortnight. However, once we got going we had some excellent and exciting racing which, most importantly, was without major incident.

From the MGP perspective there were many highlights in all races. For me the two main highlights were the exciting and safe Newcomers Race; and, the finale Senior Race won by 0.674seconds after 150 incident free miles!

Everybody reading this will be well aware that racing on the Mountain Course could not take place without the huge number of volunteers who give up their time to take on the many essential roles. The largest individual group is the TTMA. As I said at the Marshal's supper and at the TTMA debrief, the Manx Motor Cycle Club knows how much effort went into Marshal recruitment this year. This effort was repaid by the result – practice sessions starting on time and one session starting earlier than scheduled! Then, ultimately, the racing was not affected by any TTMA issues. We understand the concerns being expressed about the increasing workload being imposed on the TTMA volunteers. Working together with DED we hope that a satisfactory outcome can be achieved.

In conclusion, the Manx Motor Cycle Club wants to place on record its grateful thanks to you all for the pre-event effort and for the manning of the course during the event. THANKS, on behalf of the Club, the riders and the spectators.

Yours in Sport,
Harvey Garton
Chairman Manx Motor Cycle Club

SECTOR 2

Firstly, I would like to start by thanking everyone that helped me out before, during & after the Classic TT/MGP. You could say I was thrown in at the deep end with taking on the responsibility & learning the role of CSM, however, I could not have done the job without the help I received from everyone (too many to mention) but particularly the DSM's in the sector.

Classic TT/MGP obviously threw up challenges even before we began, particularly with the number of marshal's available compared to TT, however, we were able to move people around in time for all practices & races to start. So thanks to everyone for their flexibility & to all the new faces in the sector - I hope to see them back again next year.

Unfortunately, I was not able to get around the sector as much as I would have liked, but I am confident TT will give me this opportunity & I will get to experience and learn from the different parts of the sector and get to meet you all. I will be spending time over the next few months to review the sector, manning levels, checklists, etc. so it should hopefully put us in a good position for TT 2017.

Lastly, (but not least) I have had some good feedback from the DSM's following the Classic TT/MGP and will be taking this forward, however, if anyone else does have any feedback, then please feel free to contact me over the winter either directly or via the TTMA.

I look forward to seeing everyone again at TT 2017.

Cheers

Helen

SECTOR 4

Here we are again at the end of the racing year and we have had some really good racing on the mountain circuit. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the marshals and medics on sector 4 for the effort and commitment with many managing to attend extra sessions when they realised we were going to be short for some sessions. We again had a great response to the request for marshals to move to locations that were short and our own little response team could cover the sector on time. This was appreciated by the control team who have asked me to pass on their thanks.

It was nice to get some feedback from one rider who crashed during race week. Just 2 days after crashing he was back to the scene to try and work out what happened and when he looked over the wall and saw the drop into the river he asked "what would have happened if I had landed in the river?" He was surprised that we told him we would go in to get him out. He said he had not realised how much we all do. He asked for me to pass on his thanks to everyone.

I would like to thank Bryan Shepherd for all his help over the years at the helicopter field. Bryan is stepping down and moving around the course but he has said he will be back on sector 4 at some time so I'm sure you all will wish him all the best. Our loss will be other sectors gain.

I hope you have enjoyed this year's racing as much as I have and I hope to see you all soon.

Regards
Neil Smith

SECTOR 5

I'd like to say a massive thanks to everybody that helped in Sector 5 during the MGP and CTT. With your help and by being willing to move around to cover areas that were short we managed to ensure we were ready every day.

It was great to see all the regulars as well as some of the 'old regulars' we haven't seen for a few years. All of the new Marshals that I spoke with said they had a great time and said they will be back next year which is good news!

A special thanks to the usual Deputy Sector Marshals, Andy, Jane, Robert & Peter and to Michael for stepping in at late notice to run Burnside. Without these people, the Sector simply wouldn't be able to function.

Thanks for your help this year at either the TT or the 'Manx' or both and hope to see you all again next year.

Robert Crane

SECTOR 6

Just a quick note to thank everyone who marshalled in Sector 6 for the Classic TT and MGP. Also, a thank you to all of those that moved from their chosen points and allowed the racing to proceed, it really is appreciated.

See you all in 2017.

Kevin Quinn

SECTOR 8

Hello Everyone,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the help you gave myself and Richard Stopps, together with our DSM's during the 2016 Festival of Motorcycling, it was very much appreciated by us all.

It is fair to say that we had some challenges with marshalling numbers in some locations during the event, but we managed to resolve the majority of the shortages before roads closed each day. Over recent years we have managed to put together a group of marshals within our sector, who are happy to go anywhere, sometimes at very short notice. This added flexibility and assistance, is helping to reduce the risk that a lack of numbers could lead to a delay to the start of a practice or racing. It is also great to see that where numbers were on minimum, you all worked together to ensure the show could go on. I am very grateful to you all for this assistance and understanding. It certainly makes my life a lot easier!!!

There were a number of novice marshals in the sector at the start of the event, and it was great to see so many of you attend enough sessions to lose the 'novice' tag by the end of race week. I sincerely hope you were made to feel welcome at your various locations, were looked after by the experienced members of the team, and will return to assist us again for future events.

There were unfortunately a number of incidents in the sector during the event, and every single one of them was professionally and safely handled by the marshals on the scene, ensuring the safety of the other competitors, spectators and most importantly themselves. I am especially grateful to the Marshals from both Churchtown Memorial and Pinfold Cottage who came to assist the marshals at Churchtown Caravan and Sky Hill after the incident during the Thursday evening practice session. It is a credit to you all that you act so responsibly and professionally in sometimes very difficult circumstances, and shows that the marshals training program really does work. If you haven't already been on an Incident Management Course (IMC), and would like to know more details about them, please email Deana at the TTMA office at info@iomttma.com and she will provide you with further details, including dates and venues, both on the Island and in the UK over the coming months.

If you have any suggestions for changes you would like to see, additional facilities that are needed, or any suggestions on improvements we could make, please do not hesitate to contact me, and we will see what we can do in preparation for 2017. Any input is always welcome.

Finally, it was great to see so many familiar and also new faces around the sector this year, and I sincerely hope that you were all made to feel welcome at your various locations. It has been a pleasure to work with you all in 2016, and I look forward to seeing you next year at either or both of the events.

Thanks for all your help, it really is appreciated, I really couldn't do my job without your help, dedication, and professionalism, thank you.

Regards

Dave Clarke

SECTOR 9

A successful MGP for sector 9 – enough whoopsies to justify our presence but nothing too serious. Many thanks to everyone who turned out to do their bit, a welcome number of sector virgins as well as faithful old hands; many of you showed a considerable degree of flexibility which was much appreciated. It makes my job so much easier and ensured that all sessions got away on time (near enough). New shed fittings at Guthrie's, 27th & Mountain Mile worked extremely well & made life far more pleasant – hopefully we will get Joeys to match for TT 2017.

A new tradition was started courtesy of long involved discussions in the Trafalgar; after the end of racing all decamped to Tower for a sector barbie/picnic/share out of uneaten biscuits. Helped by cracking weather, a good time was had by all, see (Mad) Mountain Marshals Facebook page for photos by long suffering Karen Smirthwaite on 5th September. Tower will not work as a venue for TT but we should be able to hold a similar event in Mooragh Park. It was really good to actually meet people who are normally names on a list and voices on the radio.

Please feel free to contact me at karenvic@manxbroadband.com if you have any queries or suggestions for improvements prior to TT2017.

Vic Smirthwaite

SECTOR 10

Like all the other contributors I would like to thank you all for volunteering to marshal this year's Manx GP. It was hard this year as the numbers at the beginning and end of the event were low in many places and it is a big help when those of you are asked to move do so. It is to everybody's credit that not once did the marshals hold up the start of any session.

Well done to those of you who dealt with the three incidents in practice week.

Some of you know that Elin Richmond who has marshalled at the Verandah for many years has had to retire. A big thank you to all the riders and team managers who signed the card for her, Billy of Billy's Art and Terry Holmes for donating the card and especially Jean and Ian Morris and David Birchall for walking the pits with the card. You could say that Elin was made up when she was presented with the framed card at the marshal's supper.



Hope you're all well

Mike Brown

Sector 12

Well that's racing on the road over and done with for another year. Just a short note to all you great boys and girls out there that make up Sector 12.

Many, many thanks to all of you for getting sector 12 running every day on time and with no calls for reinforcements. It was a close call a few days but with thanks to all the guys and girls that moved around and covered shortages. You truly are all a great set of superstars.

One sad note for you all is that Gavin, our dedicated flagman at Signpost has decided age is overtaking him and getting up to the flag box is becoming too much. I am sure you will all join me in wishing him a long and happy time watching the racing from different viewpoints. Enjoy them all Gavin, you have earned them. He insists that he will be continuing to join me at the Bus Stop at Jurby so we can both continue watching bikes together.

What can we say about the event? There was really good racing in the MGP part of the event but the classic TT needs to up its game and get some bigger entries to make it more interesting.

Have a great time over the dark quiet months and enjoy a well-earned rest, as you read this I will be on my holidays and enjoying being looked after.

John Walsh.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The AGM is due to be held on Thursday 27th October at 7pm. This will be held at the Conference Centre at the Grandstand and doors will open at 6.30 pm. Anyone who is currently a member of the TTMA is able to vote. If you are not currently a member and have marshalled this year, then you can become a member by being proposed and seconded by two current members.

On a rotational basis up to four directors of the Company are required to stand down for re-election. Members wishing to stand for one of these posts are required to send their details together with the names of their proposer and seconder to: The Secretary IOMTTMA Ltd, TTMA Office, Grandstand, Douglas, IM2 6DA to arrive no later than 14 days before the meeting. Application forms are available from the office.

The Association is looking for new people to join the board so if you are interested, details can be obtained from the Company Secretary (email secretary@iomttma.com). Ideally applicants should live in the Isle of Man and be able to attend monthly meetings as well as other, occasional meetings throughout the year.

The next newsletter will be issued for the start of December. As the racing season is now over (boo!!) the newsletter will be issued less often through the winter months. If you would like to submit anything for the Christmas edition, please submit your article to the newsletter address by November 26th 2016.

Finally, this picture was received from Jason who is a DSM on the mountain. It's taking the job a bit seriously I think!!



CONTACTING US

You can contact our office by various means;

By Post

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By Email

Please help us by using the proper email address so that it gets delivered to the person most able to help. These are:

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