



Bemsee Marshals of the Year 2024

JAY HIGERTY and NICKIE GRANT



The 2024 Marshals of the Year award went to two VERY deserving team players ... Jay Higerty and Nickie Grant. I'm sure they won't mind me saying that they've both 'been around the sections a few times' and, although they didn't start out Marshalling together, they both share a common background (YPMs).

They prefer to work together on section but, as I've already said, they're strong team players. This means that although they may have their preferences, their priority is to do whatever and go wherever needed, even if that means being separated.

They are PASSIONATE about getting it right... and maybe that's more than partly due to the fact that their Husbands, Kevin Higerty and Den Grant, were Racers, not to mention Nickie's son, Scott... and I can relate to that. When you have loved ones out there racing, you want them to be as safe as they possibly can be, and that care naturally runs over into wanting it for all racers, even the grumpy ones 😊

Jay doesn't like the attention, but I still have to say that my trust in her abilities as an IO and Marshal is well founded. She's proved it time and time again.

She started Marshalling in 2014, after Kev had a big crash in the YPMs. She started off as an Incident Marshal



and proved to be a great Marshal from the start. She eventually caved into 'friendly suggestions' that she should consider becoming an IO ... after all, many of us could see that she had the right 'stuff'. She's able to assess any given situation calmly, and relay clear radio calls in stressful and dynamic situations. Not only that, she can get stuck in with the rest of them!

Nickie started Marshalling in 2006 and was previously awarded Marshal of the Year in 2011, and the fact that she's still a worthy winner says it all!! IO's who have Nickie on the flags can breathe a sigh of relief, as it's one less thing for them to worry about... they can get on with their role, knowing the flags are covered by the best. If ever I need to cover an important and difficult flag point that requires a 'top notch' flaggy, Nickie will always be one of my first choices.



And don't be fooled by her stature – she once threw Steve Dent to the ground when he threatened to steal her packed lunch – you would mess with her at your peril!



Pictured with MD in the Kentagon at Brands Hatch

Despite hearing rumours, spread by Jay and Nickie, that they don't like people, if you were to ask anyone to come up with a word that best describes their contribution to Marshalling (which is what I did...), they would be words such as HELPFUL and USEFUL. Almost sounds a bit boring... but, in truth, Jay and Nickie are far from boring. They bring a large helping of humour, tinged with sarcasm, making them both very popular and ALWAYS welcome members of any team, on any corner, at any circuit.

Jay and Nickie are *amazing* Marshals, who bring their best to every one of our meetings, time and time again, over a number of years.

Basically, if you ever find yourself on the same team as these two, you know you're in good hands and in good company.

**Well done YPM Marshal extraordinaires ...
we thank you, for all you do xx**



Marshal of the Year 2023

ANDY COWLING

Since he started Marshalling with Bemsee in 2018/19 he has proved time and again that he is a big team player. From the offset, he has been keen to give his best and do whatever is needed. It's an understatement to say that this is richly deserved... as many great team players, he gives without expecting anything in return.

Andy has a good sense of humour and, Marshals being Marshals, this inevitably means that he has to endure regular jibes, and he takes it all in good stead, often giving back as good as he gets.



This all helps to create a great team rapour – essential for good Marshalling, in my view!

What many may not realise is that Andy has a bit of a past... he raced Motocross in Canada and America for 10 years when he was a bit younger than he is now... in 1921... okay, it was really in the late 70s and early 80s... and in 1981, as a sweet and probably not so innocent 16 year old, together with lots of broken bones (which probably explains quite a lot), he also earned the accolade of becoming the American and Canadian Score Series Champion in Motocross... I think he still has a bit of that spirit in him... you can see it in the picture above!

Andy started Marshalling with Bemsee off the back of a conversation with Chris Foster (Flag Marshal extraordinaire), they were both passionate about bikes and racing, so it was inevitable that Chris would broach the subject of him joining the Marshalling fraternity. But it probably wasn't just the chat that fired him up to be so passionate about giving so much to his chosen hobby, and not just his racing history... I suspect that the fact that his Father also has a history with Bemsee may have something to do with it too. Andy's Dad raced a Norton with Bemsee in the 50's and is no doubt as interesting as his son, although maybe a bit less dodgy Eh?

With his endless supply of team spirit and his supportive, friendly approach to all that he does – Andy is worthy indeed. He may not always know his IN's from his OUT's, but he knows how to make the right calls.

Nice one Andy !!



Marshal of the Year 2022

MARK COLLINS

Every year, there are always more than a few Marshals that would deserve this award. But, it kept coming back to Mark. From day one, he has proved that he is a team player... always willing and able to contribute in whatever capacity is needed.

He started out as a keen Marshal, learning quickly on the job... he was thrown in the deep end and worked on

corner with Ben Wheeler, who was, invariably, put on busy corners!! I know Ben loved having him as a part of his team and it soon became apparent that he would make a great IO as well as a Marshal.

It's a bit of a joke amongst some of the Marshals, that Mark is a bit of a magnet... his first meeting as IO saw him being challenged unexpectedly... before the bikes were even on circuit!! In my view, most Marshals are worth more than their weight in gold, but I somehow managed to give him a couple of Marshals who were decidedly 'below par' (I think that's fair to say). Mark rose to the job at hand and dealt with the difficult situation admirably and it set the tone for following meetings... he continued to be a magnet for trouble and ALWAYS rose to the job at hand!!



I know I chose well... when he was awarded Marshal of the year, the smiling and appreciative faces of his fellow Marshals proved it!!

Mark is pictured, on the left, with his wife Michaela, who joined him on corner this year. It was supposed to be a nice, serious photo of them together, but it's not hard to see that his fellow Marshals know he doesn't take himself too seriously 😊

I know that many of the Marshalling team agree that he's a great team player and is humble, hard-working, a great Marshal and IO, as well as a good all-round guy, whether it be on corner, or in the paddock/campsite.

Thank you for everything you do Mark and a very big well done... well deserved, even if he is a bit of a magnet!!!

The Racers love him too 😊

Marshals of the Year 2021

GARY TIMPSON and CAROLINE DAPRE

This proved to be a difficult year to choose one worthy winner, so I chose two!!



Whilst Caroline and Gary are both great and unique individuals, one thing they both have in common is that they're huge team players. They are happy to be placed wherever they are needed, and in whichever capacity (e.g. as IO or Marshal). They are, quite simply, great contributors to the Marshalling team.

Sadly, Caroline couldn't make it to the Annual BMCR Championship Awards night, but she wasn't forgotten on the night.



Whilst it's always great to be given the trophy again at the dinner dance, in front of all the riders, it is particularly appropriate that the trophy is initially awarded at the last meeting and day of the racing season,

Brands Hatch, in the Kentagon, at breakfast... in front of many fellow teammates dressed in orange. The picture here shows Caroline Dapre at the last meeting, in the garages, with the racers... this photo hints at one of the potential reasons for Caroline's abilities... she's involved, in more ways than one, and she cares a great deal.

Caroline hadn't been marshalling for long before it was recognised that she had the 'stuff' of a brilliant IO and Marshal. She needs to get it 'right' and is capable and humble. Not only that... she's not afraid to get 'stuck in', whilst leading by example.

If you turn up on corner and watch her at work, you can't fail but be impressed. She's always thinking outside of the box and looking at the bigger picture whilst being mindful of her team's and corner's needs. Nice one Caroline!!

And what of Gary Timpson, pictured below with his lovely wife, Donna... Gary is a strong silent type but with a twist... he's not known as *The Panther* without good reason !!

He's one of those Marshals who will get stuck in and do what needs to be done, whether as a Marshal or IO. He may have his preferences, but he wouldn't tell you unless you tortured it out of him. He's a gentleman and a natural team player.

Gary's your man if you want a capable Marshal on corner or someone who might support/help an IO or Marshal. It's a

testament to the man that many would agree that having Gary with you is like being given a nice warm blanket on a cold winter's day. To me, that's probably one of the biggest compliments I can pay a Marshal... he's exactly the sort of person you want on corner with you. He knows his stuff and is there to help. Go Panther!!!



Marshal of the Year 2020

GORDON BARNES

Our worthy winner of the trophy for 2020 was Gordon Barnes.

We would struggle to find someone as helpful as Gordon, both trackside and in the paddock before, during and after duties. With his truckload of *tricks*, he is always available to help his fellow Marshals wherever and whenever he can.

Not only is he an EXTREMELY useful and experienced Marshal, he's a true team player... always happy to Marshal in whatever capacity and whichever section he is most needed.

We would usually see him cooking up a storm on the Club BBQ and he even does the food shopping! However, this season has been a very strange one for all of us, with the Covid-19 situation (as can be seen in the photo, with Gordon wearing his mask at the presentation). But this trophy doesn't just cover everything he's done during the 2020 season... it covers many seasons of hard work prior!!!

But that's enough from me... here's an example of some of the things his Marshal colleagues said about him winning the trophy this season, taken from over 100 posts of congratulations, which says it all:

Ben Wheeler **Congratulations** buddy, extremely well deserved... and just to prove Karen's point, you were there for me this weekend to help with my tent dramas and you didn't even hesitate... thank you 🎉🏆👍👍

Den Grant Well done Gordon, well deserved 🏆

Anne Bridger Well done Gordon well deserved for your enthusiasm and always willing to help.

Joelle Laws **Congratulations** Gordon, well deserved! You'll always be a respected mentor to me 😊👍



**Thank you for everything you do Gordon....
Top Man and Marshal!!!!**

Marshal of the Year 2019

CHRIS BLOCK

Where to start with the reasons for Chris winning in 2019? The list of reasons is endless!!

Chris has contributed so much to Marshalling and to the Club. If you have a question about Marshalling then Chris is your 'go to' person... he has a wealth of knowledge and he can walk his talk... but don't expect him to run!

You will generally find Chris running corners and he's like a well-oiled machine. His calls

are ALWAYS spot on and you would be wise to listen to his assessment of any situation because he knows what he's talking about. Just don't ask him to do flags as he's self-confessed at being rubbish on flags.



You'll forgive me for throwing in a few of his faults as part of his attributes... that's another thing that makes him a great Marshal. He doesn't take himself too seriously and could win awards for taking the Mick out of his teammates. He's certainly GOT me on many occasions and pay back needs to be BIG!!

Let's talk about his contribution towards training... he's the Man!! Not only did he play a HUGE part in contributing to the production of the Marshal Training material, he

also delivers the material in presentations AND the incident handling practical training.

And what about his expertise in everything camping related... well, he's your man for that too!!

All I can say is thank the lawd he's got his flaws... thousands of them 😊 (payback is sweet). But, when all is said and done, it pains me to say, his opinion is always valued and the Orange Army just wouldn't be the same without him. He brings sooooo much to the table!

Well done, that man. Well deserved!!

Marshals of the Year 2018

MIKE & NICK HODGINS



The first names to appear on the new Marshal of the Year (Eddie Glover Memorial) Trophy are those of **Mike and Nick Hodgins** (pictured right to left). To say that they are worthy winners would be an understatement. They both give their all to the Club and Marshalling and Mike was the previous Chief Marshal and remains a Director of the Club. Nick has tried his hand at racing for the first time this season and has proved to be none too shabby on an MZ, way to go Nick!!

Mike and Nick can just about turn their hands to anything required trackside, whether it be on the radio, as an Incident Officer, picking up bikes or protecting their fellow teammates and riders with the flags. They are both often the last to leave the circuit, and if you find yourself in need of support, they will often be the ones to appear at your shoulder to help, wherever they can. They don't wait to be asked, their mindset has a default setting of "what is needed?"

It seems appropriate to add, that although there are only two names on this sparkling new trophy, those two names bring with them a whole lot of history... Mike and Nick are a part of a long line of family members who have contributed to Marshalling at Bemsee since 1948, starting with Lil and Charlie Hodgins (Mike's Auntie and Uncle). The Hodgins clan have been Marshalling at Stirlings (on the Brands GP loop) for the best part of 40 years. Clan members have included Dave, Chris, Martin, Lynda, Val, Marilyn, Gary, Nick's sister Claire and more.

Many of us, who Marshal today, will fondly remember the duo as a trio. Lynda was the backbone of it all and was always there to support Mike, in his duties as Chief Marshal, and Nick, on corner, as a flag Marshal. Lynda sadly passed away earlier this year and, as if this wasn't enough, so did Mike's brother Martin. The Hodgins Clan ... we salute you!!!

Mike and Nick... from your fellow teammates... thank you for all that you do. Your support, both on and off track, strengthens and enriches the Marshalling team beyond measure. Stirlings, Murrays, Surtees, Vale In, Redgate, Mountain Bottom... to name but a few, just wouldn't be the same without you.



The first presentation of the Marshal of the Year trophy 2018 by Joyce Glover & Daughter

The Marshal of the Year (Eddie Glover Memorial) Trophy



The Eddie Glover Memorial Trophy saw its initiation in 2018, after Eddie sadly passed away in 2017. It was donated by Eddie's family, including his lovely wife Joyce Glover.

To me, the inscription 'Eddie Glover' is not just a name... Eddie symbolizes everything that Marshalling is all about. Eddie gave his heart and soul to the sport he loved, he was a team player and he stood out on corner, come rain or shine. He was not choosy about the circuits he marshalled at, to him he was doing what he loved, no matter where. He loved his fellow teammates, he was without pretention and he had as much grit as the gravel traps that he waved a flag over.

Eddie Glover was a previous recipient of the Marshal of the Year award (see section on previous winners) and is fondly remembered.





Marshal of the Year 2017

BEN WHEELER

In truth, I've rewritten this several times and each time it comes out reading like a school report. How does one list the qualities of the person who has warranted winning BMCRC Marshal of the Year without it sounding such??

Ben will squirm to read this, which is testament in itself, to his humble nature!

So, here's your school report for 2017 Ben...

Ben is a person who has stood out as a BIG team player. He is always prepared to do what is needed.

He works hard and will help whenever he can. He is kind and caring and built like a brick s*&t house!!!

It is not unknown to see Ben leaping through mile long gravel traps, picking a bike up under one arm and still having the ability to check that his fellow teammates are alright. He CANNOT sit back and watch anyone struggle!!

Ben started using the radio this year and is quickly establishing himself as having the 'stuff' of a good Corner Commander/Incident Officer. His ability to learn is fed by his ability to listen, ask questions, take responsibility and his eagerness to do the best job he can. In one word... he CARES!

Whilst his Super hero qualities are to be admired... Ben was awarded Marshal of the Year for 2017 primarily because he is a MASSIVE team player. The response to him winning this award from his peers is testament to how highly thought of he is by his fellow teammates. Well done Ben... extremely well deserved!!!



Ben Wheeler pictured with his family, holding the Marshal of the Year Trophy 2017

Marshals of the Year 2016

CLIVE & LINDA KING and TONY BRENNAN

Clive and Linda King receiving the Marshal of the Year award for 2016, presented by the Chief Marshal at the time, Mike Hodgins (pictured centre).

Tony Brennan was also Marshal of the Year in 2016 but is not as photogenic and missed the presentation!

Tony Brennan would be the first to admit that he deserves the previous comment, but in truth, Tony continues to travel to most of our meetings

from the Isle of Man (a greater distance than many would even begin to contemplate travelling). He is always prepared to go and do what is needed and continues to be an invaluable member of the Team. As to Clive and Linda King... Clive's cakes continue to bring smiles to many a Marshal and Officials bellies. They can both be found at prominent flag points, protecting our racers with their professional attitudes towards ensuring the flags are deployed efficiently and effectively, protecting their teammates and racers alike... always there with a friendly smile ☺



A photo of Tony Brennan in action whilst Marshalling!! ☺



A Bit of Bemsee Marshalling History



The previous Marshal of the Year trophy (the Alcohol trophy) had only been in existence since 2004, an extremely short period of time when you consider the history of the Club (since 1909). In truth, I am not entirely sure when the first Marshal of the Year would have come into existence and this may be a task for the future, to hunt out ALL previous winners... I know Gina Waller and someone nicknamed 'Trouble in Orange' (moi) won it in 2001, and the great Norman Lowes won it in 2000, but there was no main trophy.

The Alcohol Trophy was initially awarded to racers and was changed to the Marshal of the Year award because Dave Stewart (who was then CEO of the Club), considered that there were two special Marshals who warranted a special trophy. They had worked together on corner for many years, one as a Corner Commander (at that time, this was the title for the person with the charge of being the eyes and ears of Race Control for a section of a circuit), and the other as her Flag Marshal. They were Mary Downey and Eddie Glover (pictured above). The trophy was presented by our then Chief Marshal, Ron Humphries.

Maybe you will forgive me for digressing at this stage, for the purpose of a small tribute. Eddie Glover sadly passed away this year (2017) and it is important for us, as Marshals, to remember that there were many Marshals who laid the groundwork for the work we do today. Mary Downey for example... well, she was a MASSIVE inspiration to me. The first female Corner Commander that I was aware of and a great one at that!

Our Club is rich in the history of those who went before us, whether they were Racers, Marshals, Techs, Recovery or Officials... ALL are important... and, at the risk of being a bit sappy and hairy fairy... sometimes, whilst standing on particular corners at particular circuits, the feeling of the history of those who raced and walked before us, can be felt... adding to everything that is great about our sport!!

The ALCOHOL TROPHY

The Inscription includes:

Presented by Associated Motorcycles Ltd

The actual piston from the 7R AJS ridden by R.L. Graham which established the 350cc Class Record in the Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb 1948

Previous Winners

2004 Eddie Glover & Mary Downey

2005 Lee Yeoman & Tracey Travers

2006 John Downes & Tony Holland-Martin

2007 Steve Saunders & Arthur Senk

2009 Andy Humphries & Karen Higgins

2010 Jenny Withers & Bob Cornell

2011 Nickie Grant & Mike Price

2012 Dave Abbott & Caroline Knox

2013 Anne & Alan Fowkes

2014 Den Grant & Vic Purse

2015 Sam Marchant & Steven Dent

2016 Tony Brennan & Clive & Linda King

2017 Ben Wheeler



Team Orange

As current Chief Marshal, I would like to express my appreciation for ALL the Marshals – especially the regulars! They all contribute to the safety of the sport, enabling racers to fulfil their passion. And whilst they hope the racers don't throw their machinery at the scenery, they are there when they do. They are there to pick up the pieces in all weather, and they limit the dangers in the sport we love.

This can only happen with teamwork, and the value of teamwork is not to be under-valued. It is a priceless commodity which is given with the heart. I would like to say that it is a true pleasure to work alongside so many who understand the meaning of teamwork.

There are many, at Bemsee, who are deserving of the award of Marshal of the Year, and each year it is awarded to one or two individuals who have stood out, for whatever reason. It's an opportunity for the Marshals to applaud their fellow teammate(s) for a job well done.

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