

# The MMP Newsletter



**The Motorsport Marshalling Partnership (MMP)**

*with support from 2 and 4 Wheels*



## Happy New Year!

Hello again from the MMP in 2010!

Thanks again to everyone for the superb help in 2009. We had our reward day at Kirkistown in late November, and thanks to all the competitors who brought along their cars to give another brilliant day for all the marshals.

Congratulations to our top marshals from 2009, who were Stuart Oliver (35 events), Gerard McConnell (28) and Brian Wilson, Dennis Arundell and Lawrence Fair all with 27 events. It was a truly spectacular commitment, and they will receive their well deserved trophies at the annual ANICC prizegiving dinner.

So what is in store for 2010? Well, firstly we need to get out all our rewards for 2009. These have been ordered, and we hope to get them distributed as the season starts again. Secondly, the draw for the superb WRC trip will be made at the ANICC prizegiving, and we will have a full list of prizewinners in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Also for 2010, look out for the launch of our Cadet Rewards to promote marshalling to our next generation of helpers.

So looking at 2010 and beyond, we would like to find out what you think of the MMP, and how, together, we could improve it for everyone involved in the Partnership.

If you have any ideas on recruitment, training or rewards for marshals, then we would love to hear from you. Call me on 07808 762 937 or drop an email to [contactus@theMMP.com](mailto:contactus@theMMP.com)

The 2010 cards are now available, so contact your local club rep or let us know if you need one. It gives you a full list of events that qualify for MMP rewards, as well as the training dates and Kirkistown Reward Day.

Finally, I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable time in motorsport in 2010.

Plunkett Boyle (Chairman)

## The Future is Young...

As motor sports popularity grows and the profile reaches new dimensions, the sport still evolves around volunteers from the young to the old.

For generations, motor sport enthusiasts have given their time and dedication for the sport that they love, which is still paramount today. Without these volunteers, motor sport would cease to exist.

Over the last decade, several schemes have been introduced by different governing bodies to increase the number of volunteers within sport. In motor sport the biggest profile under the MSA was the 'Volunteers in Motor sport' in the UK and now this has been enhanced by 'Go Motor sport'.

In Northern Ireland, the MMP works on similar principles, but involves 12 motor clubs. The aim of the MMP is to promote & recruit volunteers i.e. Marshals, Time Keepers, Radio Communication personnel, Rescue etc and reward these volunteers for their efforts throughout the motor sport season.

For many years this has been geared to individuals from 16 years of age and older. But now another 'NEW' scheme has been officially introduced to encourage young motor sport enthusiasts from 11 years old to get involved in the sport.

The NEW scheme known as 'CADET MARSHALS' has been in existence in the UK for a few years; but has never received the necessary acknowledgement or benefits. This year will see TheMMP.com focusing on

recruiting cadet marshals from 11-16years to get involved in motor sport.

A Cadet Marshal can be involved in motor sport in a variety of limited ways. Cadet Marshals must be appropriately supervised by a parent/guardian or temporary carer. They are encouraged to undertake as many roles as practicable as long as they remain in particular areas.

To qualify as an MMP 'Cadet Marshal' you must have an MSA Cadet Marshals licence verified by an official MSA Trainer. This can be obtained at any MSA or MMP organised training events throughout the year. (See Training Day dates)

Training will be provided for you and for even your parent/guardian, so experience is not necessary. Your rewards will be determined by the number of events that you attended and you must ensure you obtain that necessary signature on your MMP card from an event official to verify your attendance.

By receiving similar rewards as other marshals, you can also get the chance to be in the passenger seat of rally car and get a spin around Kirkistown race track at the MMP reward in December.

Excited? Interested? So what's stopping you? Why not be part of the action!

For further information contact an MMP Representative and they will send out the relevant information or simply email your details on line.

Check out our website for the latest events - log on to [www.TheMMP.com](http://www.TheMMP.com)

Images: Graham Curry





## MMP Kirkistown Rewards Day

As the posse approached the cold bleak cabins at outpost Kirkistown, there was a warm air of anticipation to fight the November cold. These marshals were clutching their woolly hats, rather than their Law Enforcement badges!

It was impossible to conceal the grins as they marched in to sign on the dotted line. The dotted line was the start, but the end game was a different line...

It was the line between fear and enjoyment, the line between a huge drift and a spin, the line between breathing or holding on until successfully drifted out of this corner, the line between quietly swearing to yourself or being unrestrained and cursing out loud - but ultimately it was the line between the pit lane and the track everyone wanted to see!

And so started another MMP reward day at Kirkistown! With a dry day, the track was going to be a bit grippier than everyone secretly hoped for. But that was not going to

deter the competitors who were determined to give the gathered marshals a big slice of "thanks".

That "thanks" was going to be served up how the marshals wanted it - "fast" or "sideways". Needless to say, "sideways" was definitely the order of the day!

As the hum of rally cars grew louder, so did the stories of the on-track antics - and the question coming through every grin was - "Who was the most sideways?" Was it the FWD chargers (with generous dollops of the hand brake), Mk1, the swarm of Mk2s, the G3, or even the hard charging 4WD brigade? Everybody had their own favourite.

For those that were there before, it was another chance to taste the sport from the inside. For the first timers to a MMP reward day, it would be a day to remember.

For everyone, it was a great day to join in partnership - competitors and marshals -

to say thanks for helping to run the stages, and thanks for entertaining.

John Boyle from Omagh could not contain his excitement - even though he managed to co-drive his driver into the same tyre twice!

"It's a great day's craic," Boyle said, "It's something that the marshals have been talking about and looking forward to. Hopefully it will continue for many years to come!"

As the Wagon train started to head for the hills, the grins were bigger, but the memories and excitement of Kirkistown will hopefully keep the blood flowing long after the grins have faded.

To every one who helped during the year, whether you made it to Kirkistown or not, and all the competitors who came to give rides, we say a huge thank you from the MMP - and hope to see you all back here at the end of 2010.



Harry Burke brought his rallycross car to Killicomaine Junior High where 450 pupils received a Go Motorsport presentation.

## Go Motorsport makes a mark at schools in Northern Ireland!

Go Motorsport, the UK's first ever centrally co-ordinated campaign to encourage new people into motorsport, continues to make an impression at schools across Northern Ireland!

Between October and December 2009, Go Motorsport visited Down High School (twice!), Coleraine High School and Newry High School, while 450 pupils at Killicomaine Junior High received a motorsport presentation during their morning assembly!

These school visits are also getting plenty of coverage in the local press, which can only be a good thing for motorsport as a whole.

So what's it all about? The Motor Sports Association is funding the initiative, which is designed to stimulate greater interest in the sport.

Its aim is to show a wider public audience - beyond motor racing enthusiasts - what a great sport it is and how easy it can be to become involved at all levels.

And that's great news for the MMP - the more new blood enticed into the sport, the more marshals there will be, keeping our sport safe for all involved!

If you would like to find out more about Go Motorsport, then log on to [www.GoMotorsport.net](http://www.GoMotorsport.net).

Or if you would like a Go Motorsport visit to your school, why not contact Jonathan MacDonald on 07989 283055, or email [gomotorsport@mediajam.co.uk](mailto:gomotorsport@mediajam.co.uk).

### Marshals wanted!

North Armagh Car Club are looking for marshals to come down and help at the Pedro Pet Foods Stage Rally, Kirkistown, on 27 Feb!

There will be a breakfast for anyone signed on by 8am and hot lunch provided. A prize draw for the marshals will take place at the end of the day.

For more details, contact Ashley Boulton on 07724386945. Hope to see ya all there.!



### Training Days!

Three training days have been confirmed for 2010. The BMMC training day will take place at Kirkistown on 20 March, and MMP training days will take place at Loughrey College on 17th April, while another is planned for 21st October (venue TBC). Motor clubs should liaise with Barry O'Neill for additional training which counts for the MMP.

**STOP PRESS! Cookstown Motor Club have decided to withdraw with immediate effect from MMP, on the grounds of cost. Unfortunately this decision was made after 2010 membership cards were printed. All rewards and prizes are paid for by the member motor clubs. This means that Cookstown MC events will not count for rewards or prize in 2010. To avoid any confusion, please ensure Cookstown MC events are removed from your 2010 MMP card.**

### CALENDAR

- 13/02 - Mid-Antrim Stage Rally (Tel. Henry Campbell 07801 598 525)
- 20/02 - Omagh Fivemiletown Spring Rally (Tel. Barry O'Neill 07740 510 551)
- 27/02 - North Armagh Pedro Pet Foods Stages (Tel. Ashley Boulton 07724 386 945 or Eric McCombe 07850 351 111)
- 05/03 - Enniskillen Navigation Rally (Tel. Declan Gannon 07746 643 802)
- 13/03 - Ballynahinch Multi-use Rally
- 20/03 - BMMC Training Day, Kirkistown

Contact the MMP - email [contactus@TheMMP.com](mailto:contactus@TheMMP.com) or call/text Simon on 07831 399 428