

# The MMP Newsletter



The Motorsport Marshalling Partnership (MMP)

with support from 2 and 4 Wheels

## Rewards galore!

Hello again! This month we have some exciting stories about MMP rewards that marshals, like you, have been enjoying. We also have some important information about training and rewards...

Firstly, it has been a very busy time, and our winners of the BRC trip to Rally Isle of Man and Catalunya WRC have all enjoyed top rallying on their tours.

Secondly, we hope you are looking forward to another cracking reward day at Kirkistown. With another super line up of competitors ready to take you on a thrilling high speed lap of the race circuit, it promises to be the highlight of the year for many people.

Memories of this high speed reward will certainly keep you smiling through many damp and cold days next season! So keep 28 November free – and let us know if you intend to come along. But remember, you must have marshalled on at least 1 event, and attended 1 training event during the year to actually get a passenger ride.

While we are talking about rewards, don't forget to return your card and claim your reward for 2009. Depending on how many signatures you have, you can claim an item of MMP clothing or a voucher to go enjoy yourself at Superdrive.

Also, dependant on how many signatures you have obtained, your name will go into draw for the BRC OR WRC trips, and of course, the top three marshals will receive their awards at the ANICC prizegiving on 30 January.

Finally, for this edition, a big thanks from all the motor clubs involved in the MMP for your help, support and commitment. This has been a fantastic year for marshalling. Hopefully as we move forward into 2010 we can build on your experience, enthusiasm and dedication so we can all enjoy the craic at safe and exciting events.

Plunkett Boyle (Chairman)

## The Motley crew in Spain!

A motley crew of eight (Jenny Heath, Andy Frater, Richard Lynam, Eric McCombe, Davy Morrow, Andy McVeigh, Chris Livingston and Carol Kennedy) all set off on 01 October to Spain to see the 45th Catalunya WRC!

On the Friday, after a hike up a steep winding road, we arrived at SS1/4. We had a great view of the finish for the first run, and then walked into the stage for the second pass. Here the cars approached from a fairly open right hander before passing straight in front of us and making their descent to the finish line.

That evening, we headed to the service park in Port Aventura. Eric very kindly managed to get us into the Ford/Stobart service area. On arrival, we were all issued our Ford Abu Dhabi VIP passes – which will no doubt be treasured for years to come!

We watched the cars being serviced and then had team photos taken with Jari-Matti Latvala, Malcolm Wilson and Luis Moya. Chris and I also managed to blag photos with the very charming Chris Atkinson (my favourite Aussie!) who just happened to be there too.

After rubbing shoulders with the drivers and VIPs, we helped ourselves to some of Ford's hospitality before heading out to investigate the sights and sounds of the service area.

On the Saturday, after a police escort to get the

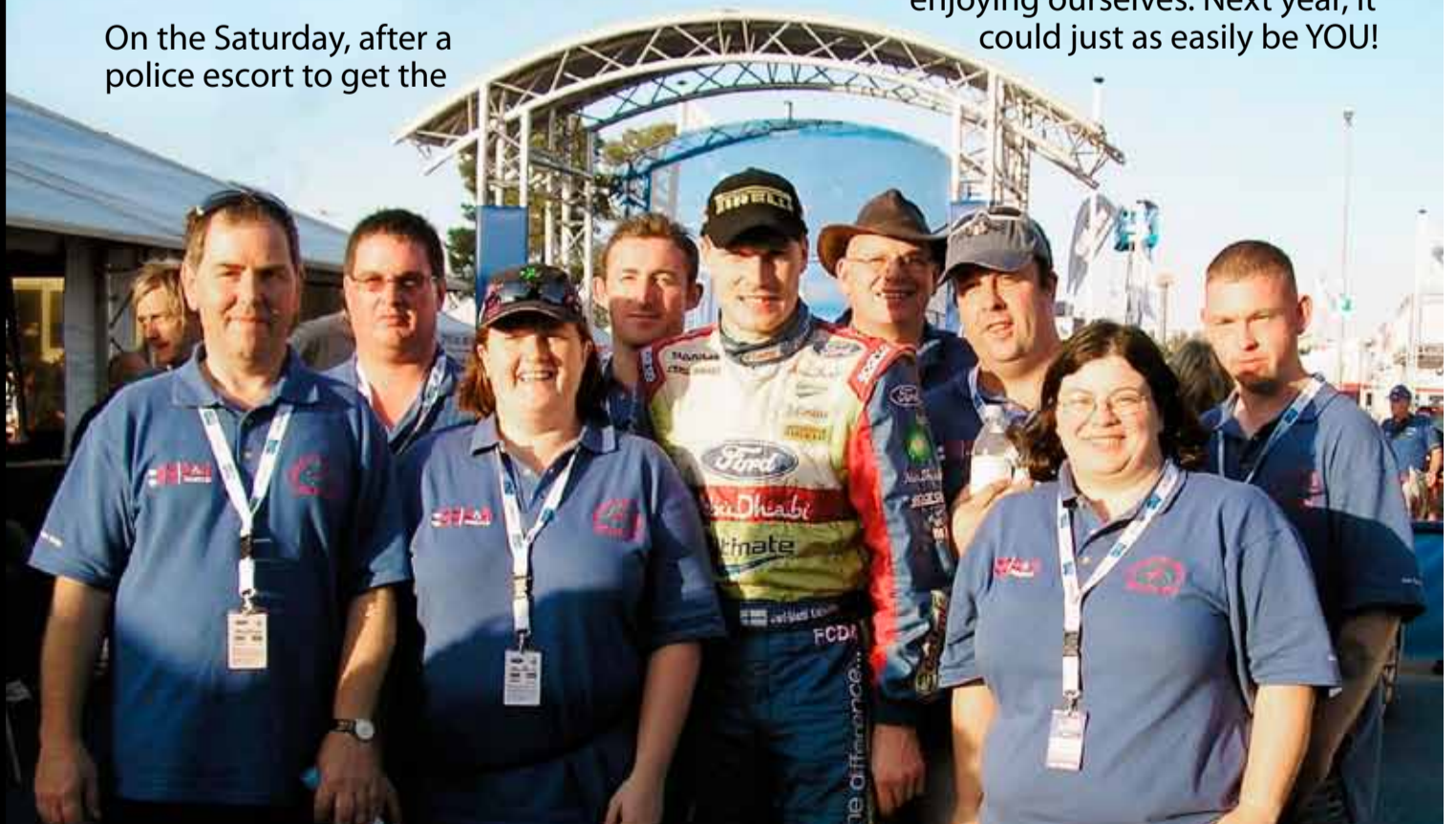
Skylark (our Citroen Jumper mini-van) closer to the stage, we still had to climb like mountain goats to get to our viewpoint! We were on 'La Llana', at a wide open junction scattered with traffic islands!

Then, on the Sunday, a tired but happy team, assisted by some cunning planning from 'Uncle George', managed to drive within a stone's throw of the 'Riudecanyes' stage. We had a brilliant view, and it was a great way to finish a fantastic weekend!

Each one of us had a truly fantastic time and we have all come home with some treasured memories. It was amazing and we all want to thank the MMP and the other contributors who made the trip possible.

On a final note, we would also like to thank Eric for his help and leadership. Without him, his enthusiasm and his knowledge of the stages, we wouldn't have seen as much as we did – not to mention getting up close to the drivers in the Ford service area. Eric will probably always regret forwarding the EasyJet confirmation, which let us know his middle name. He is now 'Uncle George' to all of us!

If you don't already have enough signatures to enter into this year's draw, there are still some events on the MMP card for this year. The MMP scheme is the only reason we were all in Catalunya enjoying ourselves. Next year, it could just as easily be YOU!



Words: Carol Kennedy

Images: Carol Kennedy, Jenny Heath, Davy Morrow



## MMP Marshals' Manx Tales!



The sixth round of the Irish Tarmac Championship moved to the Isle of Man on the 10th & 11th July. For years the Rally Isle of Man has always been a popular event for the Irish contenders. But this year with the event reverting from the normal three day event to two days, saw a significant drop in Irish entries.

The Rally Isle of Man was to experience a rally with no WRC cars, the top ten consisting of Group N cars, four of which were Irish drivers in Mitsubishi Evos, such as Keith Cronin, Alistair Fisher, Jonathan Greer and Alan Carmichael.

Despite the lack of Irish WRC drivers, this didn't spoil the opportunity for the eight lucky MMP winners. The fully paid trip to the island for four days was amiably accepted for their efforts and contribution to motorsport in the previous year, either through marshalling or timekeeping.

The eight lucky winners, Gilbert Martin, Denis Arundel, Kevin Lynam, Steven Evans,

Warren Rea, Barry O'Neill, Gerry McConnell, Derek Craig, assembled for the first time at Belfast International Airport on the 9th July for the outboard flight to the Isle of Man.

Everyone arrived in reasonable time and the introductions were made, some new faces, some not, but on first impressions every one got on amicably. As they checked in and made their way to security, the chat was light and boundaries were starting to be made.

It took sometime for all eight to get through security, some like Kevin put on their charm and slipped through nice and easy, others like Denis almost got the full Monty!

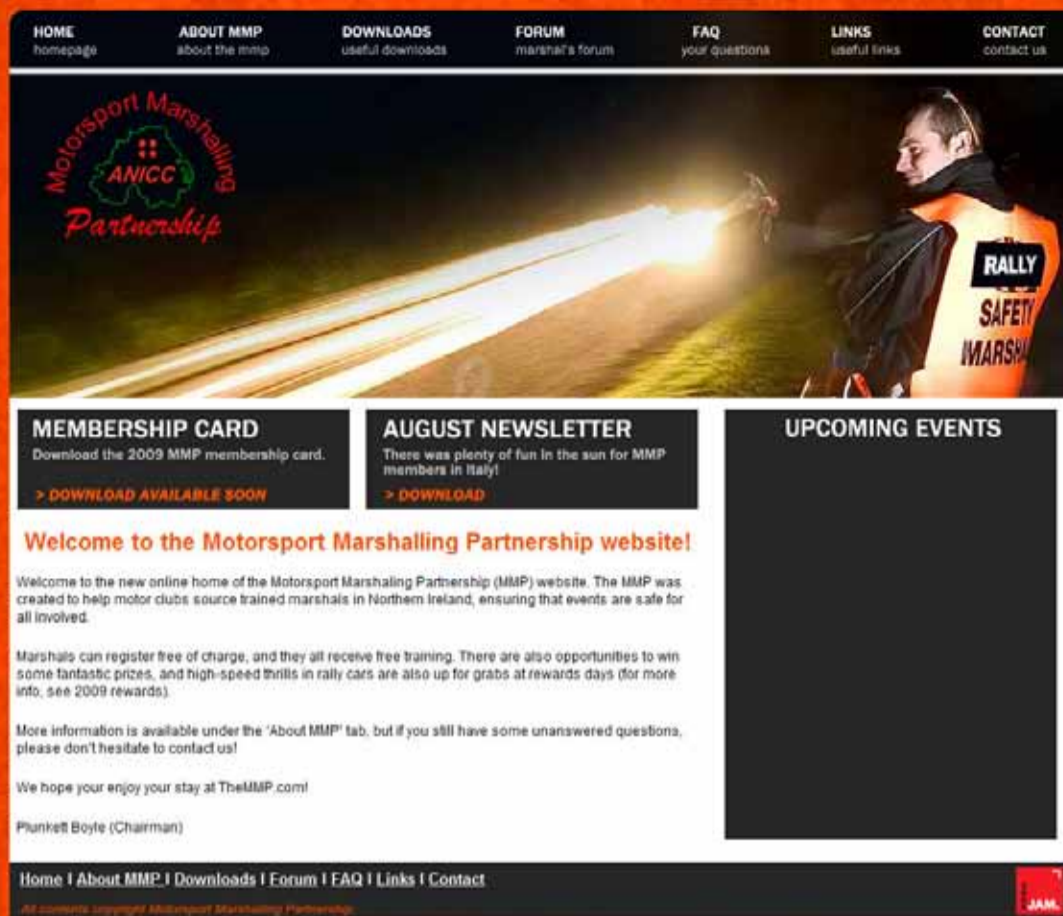
Eventually all congregated at the nearest coffee shop for refueling as in-flight beverages were unlikely. After a delay of almost an hour, the eight MMP representatives made their way to the departure lounge.

All were aware that the plane was going to be small, but none of us realised you could put wings and match sticks on to a sardine tin! The excitement, or maybe it was nerves, were starting to get to a few individuals - the craic had begun!

As you entered the plane, it was like a scene from the film, Memphis Bell... limited sound proofing, small doors and an open plan cockpit. The plane wasn't designed for comfort or room and all 20 passengers squeezed in.

For one particular passenger, it was definitely a squeeze! Unfortunately, the belts were not designed for people with a large frontage, so Denis took it upon himself to use the belt extension (for the demonstration) to secure him into the seat...

Want to know more? Log on to the MMP's new website at [www.TheMMP.com](http://www.TheMMP.com) to find out all about the MMP prize winners' antics at the Rally Isle of Man!



New Motorsport Marshalling Partnership website now online - [www.TheMMP.com](http://www.TheMMP.com)

## New Motorsport Marshalling Partnership website launched!

A brand new website for the Motorsport Marshalling Partnership has been launched!

You can log on by visiting [www.TheMMP.com](http://www.TheMMP.com) to find out all the latest news from the world of the MMP.

Over the coming months, more content will be added to the site, making it your one stop shop for all things MMP related.

This newsletter is available to download from the site, and soon the 2010 MMP

membership card will also be available for download.

The MMP has also teamed up with RallyForums.com, the number one Irish rallying discussion forum.

The dedicated marshal section on the forum gives the opportunity for all MMP members to air their views, and a direct link is provided from TheMMP.com.

Additionally, the marshal section on RallyForums.com is sponsored by the MMP, ensuring that even more

people are aware of our organisation's efforts.

There is also a useful contacts section, and an FAQ section.

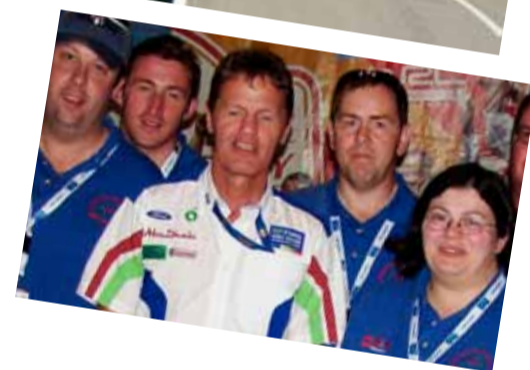
Soon you will also have the opportunity to add your email address to the MMP mailing list, so you can receive all MMP updates direct to your inbox!

In the meantime, have a look at the site and let us know what you think!

[TheMMP.com](http://TheMMP.com)

### MMP's WRC Images!

Some more photographs from the MMP's trip to Rally Catalunya!



### The MCAR Show!

The MMP recently paid a visit to the King's Hall MCAR Show. Raymond Campbell, aka 'Big Slim', was on hand to fly the MMP flag, and the stand attracted many visitors during the course of the show. Hopefully, MMP membership will receive another boost as a result!

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

### MMP KIRKISTOWN REWARDS DAY

The MMP's annual rewards day, held at Kirkistown Race Circuit, will this year be held on Saturday 28 November!

High speed passenger rides will be available to all MMP marshals who have attended one training day and marshalled at events during the 2009 season.

This is quite simply the highlight of the rally season for many, and with numerous top line drivers confirmed, it will be another one to remember for the MMP marshals!

So make sure you don't miss out! Come to Kirkistown on 28 November to experience some real rally action!

31/10 - OMC Rally Time Trial  
 31/10 - NAMCC Rally Time Trial  
 07/11 - Townparks Glens of Antrim  
 14/11 - BADMC Clubman Stages  
 21/11 - EMC Multi-use Rally  
 28/11 - MMP REWARDS DAY  
 28/11 - Gullion Stages  
 29/12 - Maiden City Multi-use Rally