



Bemsee Marshals of the Year 2021

GARY TIMPSON and CAROLINE DAPRE



A HUGE congratulations to our worthy winners of the Marshal of the Year trophy for 2021... **Caroline Dapre and Gary Timpson.**

What to say about these two? Whilst they both have great individual qualities, one thing they both have in common is that they're huge team players. Neither one of them expects or requests ... they both simply ask.



Both Caroline and Gary are happy to be placed wherever they are needed, and in whichever capacity (e.g. as IO or Marshal). They are both, quite simply, great contributors to the Marshalling team.

Sadly, Caroline couldn't make it to the Annual BMCRC 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, usually 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, Linda, 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' won it between 2001 and 2003 and Norman Lowes 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 soppy 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 Higgens

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 team work, and the value of team work 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 team work.

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 team mate(s) for a job well done.

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