



# Bemsee Marshals of the Year 2018

MIKE and 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 team mates 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 team mates... 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.



Mike & Nick Hodgins being presented with 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.

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 team mates, 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 team mates 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 team mates. 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 right).

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 team mates 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 in the year 2000, but there was no main trophy as such.

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 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 their 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.

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.

Karen Higgens – BMCRC Chief Marshal

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