

BARC North Western Centre report for BARC Magazine 2020 Spring Edition

At the time of writing the NW Centre is emerging from the familiar winter round of tidying everything up from the previous season, training, seminars and preparing for the new season. 2020 is significantly different from previous seasons as we have all been dealing with the issues around the financial losses created by too many small grids. This means that there are fewer race meetings in 2020 as belts are tightened and we hope that this results in greater financial returns.

This is a frustrating situation for our CNC Heads sponsored sports saloon championship as it is around 20 years since it ran a grid that did not at least cover its cost. The number of rounds in 2020 has been reduced from 14 to 12 due to the lack of availability of meetings on offer and for the first time for some time the championship will run at a Croft meeting which is not run by the BARC. Driver registrations for the championship have already reached numbers which would fill 2 decent grids so we hope this translates into another good racing season.

The last weekend in January is when the NW Centre holds its awards event the Real Night Out. This year it was well attended as usual although several major award winners were not able to be there as a result of business, work and holiday commitments. 4 times previous champion Paul Dobson decided after a poor start to the season that he would end up nowhere in the results so booked a special family holiday in the sun only to then find top form and win his class, an award for finishing 10 rounds and 2nd overall at the end of the season!

The fun and social activity was not dimmed by this and marshals and drivers received their just rewards for a successful 2019. There will be a batch of trophies to give out at the first race meeting at Oulton Park on April 4th.

The 2019 final results are:

Overall Champion and winner of class E Robert Burkinshaw.

2nd Paul Dobson and winner of class B.
3rd Danny Bird and winner of class C.
4th Dave Harvey and 2nd in class C.
5th David Bird and winner of class F.
6th Garry Wardle and winner of class D.
7th Steven Parker second in class E.
8th Chris Maries and 3rd in class E.
9th Guy Carter and 2nd in class F.
10th Jamie Cryer 4th in class E.

Full results details can be found on our website: <http://www.barcnorthwestern.co.uk/>

Thanks to Peter Scherer for his season's reporting and photographer duties at the awards event, two of which accompany this report.

Recruiting is probably an activity which all in the club put some thought and effort into. It is vital that we find and encourage young people to train up and eventually take the places of officials who retire.

The following words by Margaret Simpson our Chief Marshal show how successfully she and her colleagues have trained Cadet Marshals for a wide variety of posts.

The BARC North Western Centre's race meetings have traditionally attracted many cadet and 16-18 year old marshals. One of the, hopefully many, things that I have learned as the Centre's Chief Marshal is the value of our under 18 marshalling family. These young people are an important part of our future generation of marshals and officials. There are rules to follow of course. The BARC operates a strict safeguarding policy. Cadets must be 14 plus years and marshal on a 1:1 basis under the direct supervision of a parent/ legal guardian or a temporary carer over 21 years of age nominated by a parent/guardian. The same criteria also apply to 16-18 year olds who are allowed "on the bank" but not on a live track. 95% of our cadets marshal with a parent with the added bonus that several parents are also introduced to marshalling.

Retention rates are high. Many former cadets are now undertaking incident, flag, post chief or specialist duties and one has recently obtained a Clerk of the Course licence.

We are fortunate to have an excellent Chief and Deputy Chief Assembly/Paddock team who appreciate the enthusiasm and energy that these young people bring to the sport and, in return, are rewarded by a conscientious marshalling group who operate at an extremely high standard.

Cadets perform a variety of duties including controlling entry to the assembly area, chasing up “missing” drivers for their practice/race sessions, assisting the Environmental Scrutineer with noise testing, checking scrutineering labels, race control runner, experiencing a timekeeper’s role (one cadet will have a provisional timekeeping licence this coming season) and using the paddock address system.

Several cadets have successfully used their marshalling experiences as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Last season two cadets summoned help for a medical emergency in the paddock. Parents report that marshalling has enabled a significant increase in their child’s self-confidence and provided numerous life skills. They are working with people from all walks of life and this has a huge impact on the development of their communication and cooperative skills working as a team, acting as role models for new cadets and the art of giving polite, respectful but firm instructions!

Our current cadets have worked with senior paddock/assembly marshals and parents on training day and during the 2019 season to devise a detailed personal record card which includes all their many and varied duties and is additional to the MSUK PRC. They use their specific Cadet PRC for all clubs operating at Oulton Park and Anglesey.

I’m looking forward to the 2020 season and the opportunity to work, once again, with such a talented group of young people. They inspire all of us.

Peter Gorrie NW Centre Secretary

