

MARSHALS TRAINING DAY

**Saturday 16th July
J4 (Darwen Services) M65**

'Back in the Day' I learned what I had to do as a marshal just by turning up at an event and sometimes someone told you what you were supposed to do but more often than not nobody told you anything. You went where you wanted (and if it was not a 'good spot' you wandered along to somewhere that was) and learned by your mistakes and you made a lot of mistakes before you started to get just some of the things right and an awful lot of time before you had any real idea of what you were doing or supposed to be doing. Not exactly best practice but it was what we had and we just got on with it learning as we went along. These days we need to be trained.

Last year I registered on line as a marshal with the msa and then this year did the on-line training course. I must admit it took me longer to find the correct page on the msa website than it did to complete the training. Back in February I received an email from Steve Johnson (NWRDO) that indicated that he would be running a 'Marshals Training' Day in conjunction with a PCA Training Day for the U17MC. Then a Fire Training Day on the 20th of August. Once the dates were confirmed I signed up for both Training Days

The weather forecast for the Saturday was not good and in the reminder email that I received on the Wednesday before the event I was warned to wear suitable clothing as this would be a practical session and not stuck in a classroom doing theory.

Turned up on the Saturday and was surprised to see the local Police Sergeant and 6 Police Cadets were also on the course. After the initial briefing telling us what was going to happen we were split into three groups. Each group had an instructor who took us through the Whats, Whys and Wherefors of what we had to do and why. All good stuff.

After lunch the three groups took turns at Timing and marshalling and a little bit of documentation whilst the 6 crews undergoing PCA training 'batted' round the course.

The thing that impressed me the most was the Police Sergeant who took it upon himself to act as Public Relations Officer (abandoning his cadets to the instructors) and set about telling the gathering crowd (it took place at a motorway Service Station and there were plenty of onlookers) what was going on and how they could and should get involved in motorsport.

M Ellison— proving an old dog can learn new tricks!

Steve Johnson - organiser, would like to thank staff and management at the Blackburn Extra Services for the welcome the motor clubs and their members receive. The local clubs, Accrington Motor Sport Club, Under 17 Motor Club Northwest, Clitheroe and District Motor club and CSMA NW Motor Sports Group have been using the M65 Junction 4 Services for over 10 years.