



# MARSHALS POST



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This issue of MARSHALS POST is appearing earlier than planned, principally to bring to Members' attention a proposal to hold a meeting later this month. Details appear below.

## Proposed Marshals' Training Day

At the Club's 1983 AGM, held at Edinburgh Post House on 29 June, a wide ranging discussion took place between the Members present, after the formal business had been concluded.

The discussion started with the observation that the number of Members currently marshalling at rally special stages for which the Club is responsible is falling off. For instance, on the Club's stage on the 1982 RAC Rally over 60 marshals were present, even though the stage took place in the middle of the night during the week and during winter. By comparison only about 15 marshals appeared to man the Club's stages during the 1983 Scottish Rally. While some of these were located at some distance from most Members' homes, these were during the weekend and the other stages during the second half of the rally (Elibank and Knockhill) were sufficiently close to most marshalling Members not to have provided insurmountable travel difficulties. This falling off of marshalling numbers is by no means confined to rallies.

Those present at the AGM recognised that the expense of travelling to locations where Members can marshal does tend to restrict many Members from attending the majority of events in which the Club is involved. One solution would seem to lie in recruiting new Members and in persuading existing Members to marshal at different events. Improving the actual number of marshals is not a complete solution and those attending the AGM recognised that new recruits must be given a better opportunity to learn marshalling skills than is available to them at present.

It is sadly the case that the training of marshals in Scotland falls far short of what is provided for marshals south of the border. A primary cause must be finance. Grids at events in Scotland are not nearly the same size as in England and thus Scottish events do not generate sufficient income in the hands of organising clubs for them to contemplate financing a marshal training programme. While the RAC/ACU Training Trust does provide finance for all elements of marshal training, it is also the case that the Trust would only wish to give financial backing to a training programme in Scotland which is well planned and which can produce the desired results.

The Club's AGM also discussed what kind of training could be provided by this Club. It was recognised that SMMC has the capability and experience to run a special stage marshalling training day but that a training day for circuit and speed event marshalling would involve a much greater/

greater degree of planning, resources and facilities than is available to SMMC on its own. The Club has already received an informal approach to co-operate in a race marshals training day. Those present at the AGM recognised that, to be wholly effective, such a training day would have to be backed by the two clubs in Scotland which organise race meetings (Scottish Motor Racing Club and Scottish Sporting Car Club). It was agreed that SMMC should give full support to any race marshals training programme but that the initiative for this lies primarily with the two major event organisers. Despite this, it was felt that SMMC could instigate the basic planning for a race marshal training programme even though this would involve detailed "committee work" with the other two clubs.

Meeting - Tuesday 19 July

The discussion at the Club's AGM ended with agreement that a further meeting should be held to discuss marshal training generally and that all the Club's Members should be given advance warning of the meeting. It was also agreed that, because of the Club Committee's commitments, it would be necessary to form a special sub-committee to plan and implement any training programme.

To discuss all these issues in detail another Club meeting will take place as follows:

Date: TUESDAY 19 JULY 1983  
Time: 7.30 pm  
Location: The Motor Club  
28 Nelson Street  
(off Drummond Place)  
Edinburgh

All Members who would like to attend this meeting are most welcome to do so.

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