

CATERHAM GRADUATES RACING CLUB NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO BOARD

BENFIELD, John



Work wise I am a contract project manager working in IT and Banking.

Racing wise I've only raced Caterham's, first with the 750MC and then with you ugly lot. Whilst with the 750MC I actually attended the clubs first outing to Spa as a guest. I've been with the club since 2012 in Mega's and finally got onto that top step of the podium last year. Unfortunately, not been back since but I will keep trying.

As some of you will remember, I introduced my then girlfriend at the Rockingham pre-season trackday in 2014 which resulted in us both having an unscheduled overnight stop at Corby general hospital. We are now away celebrating our 2nd wedding anniversary, so it just goes to show I know how to make an impact on people.

Oddly I am not sure what I can bring to the club. Given my job I tend to be a planning and details type of guy and I feel that there is a myriad of things that go on behind the scenes that I can assist with and provide support to the board and members as a whole. We all know that racing numbers are dropping and there is stiff competition from other clubs to attract them, so we need to make sure that the CGRC the best option for them.

JOHNSON, Mark



During weekdays I'm typically found on different client sites delivery IT Projects to both national and international organisations. Typical budgets range from £1m, all the way to £10m and in rare occurrences beyond. This enables to me to add a multitude of skills and attributes to a club environment. These include but are not limited to negotiations, time management, communication strategies, and of course managing projects of all sizes.

I'm relatively new to motorsport "when it comes to the driving part" as most of you know I only started racing in 2017.

Whilst my time in the club is not extensive, I've suggested many ideas already. Some of which I'm sure I was not alone in, such as using circuit podiums/bottles of fizz/sponsored caps and encouraging the use of social media more at events, so I won't take any credit for those. But some of you will have noticed that I produced the 2018 Calendar reveal video. An activity I hope to do again for 2019, along with compiling the Spins and Wins video for the Awards Dinner.

I've also arranged our presence at Coventry Motofest, along with getting involved with items in the background such as the MotorsportsDays Live event later in the year.

All of these are areas that I hope to continue to assist with, along with getting more heavily involved with other aspects of the club. I also have some ideas around how we could follow suit of some other bigger clubs and see if there's scope to expand the clubs presence at circuits. Perhaps working with the circuits themselves to give passenger thrill rides during lunch breaks where the public enters a competition via social media.

JONES, Mark



I live on Hayling Island on the South Coast with my wife, Jo. We have 2 sons. I am the co-founder and CEO for one of the UKs largest roofing and waterproofing specialists, The Roofline Group. I am also a business entrepreneur and have successfully started/brought, built and sold several business ventures in my career to date.

I started racing with the CGRC in 2016 as my first entry in to world of Motor racing. I have completed 2 full seasons so far and will only be missing 1 weekend in this, my 3rd season as it happens to fall on the same date as my 25th Wedding Anniversary.

I have always been an adrenalin junkie. In my youth, I raced Motocross bikes with my father and I was also an amateur boxer. I love to Ski and I am a keen mountain biker. I am also still trying to like Golf due to continued pressure from 'friends'.

I never considered motorsport until Daren Ford talked me in to joining him for a track day (in the Mega currently shared by him and Chris) and I was instantly hooked on Caterham's. I'm not the fastest (or the lightest) and have not yet completed 40 races so I am still on a learning curve but I am loving every minute.

Since joining the club, I have met many people who have become friends. With Daren, Chris and some of these new friends, we formed 'Revolution Racing,' where 6 CGRC drivers share their knowledge, skills and workload. This has also become a social hub for many of us who stay in the paddock in the evenings.

From my very first meeting, I have found the CGRC and all its members to be a fantastic community with a culture that is so often hard to find with many clubs. I fully appreciate that this is driven by a dedicated board who put a lot of time and effort in to ensuring the best experience for every member. I think that after 3 years of membership, I would like the opportunity to offer my services and business acumen to help the CGRC and its elected board take the club forward and give something back.

MARSH, Peter



I joined the club in 2009 and have driven in Megas and Sigma-rsh's – or at least Sigmax's – I fully admit with NOT the success I had dreamt of, (although commensurate with my age and experience!). I have always maintained and race-prep-ed my own Caterham. I also restore 50s' classic cars which I use in other motorsport events.

I am retired from the Michelin Tyre Company where I worked in the UK and Europe and managed various departments and latterly the major Stoke Site Facility. I previously served on the club board from 2013 – 2016.

I successfully introduced and organised the annual awards evening for the first 3 years and was also responsible for purchasing all the furniture on which you sit in the club awning.

In 2015 I facilitated the first 3 Year, Club Board Strategic Planning exercise the result of which was unfortunately put on ice.

A new structure and approach very similar in principle to that proposed at that meeting in 2015 is now being put forward by the board executive. I would very much like to help implement this new structure to take the club forward and make our organisation "Fit for the Future", (whatever that may bring) – and help facilitate the mechanism of all board members in the team listening to the membership and contributing not only to the running of the club but also the "vital" topic of progress.

SMITH, Graeme



I have been racing with the Club – in the same car – since 1999, and have been part of its leadership structure since 2000 (including many years as Secretary and Chairman). This has given me a huge amount of experience of the workings of UK motor racing and long-term visibility of the efforts which have worked well for the Club (and also those which haven't worked so well & have cost us a lot of money!). I've also raced in a number of other series (Clubmans, 2CVs, Formula Junior and various motorbike championships amongst a few), which has let me see what they are doing better than us and, more often, what Grads is doing better. I made the initial advances about taking the Club to race overseas, and have contacts with a number of continental organisers. I've championed the continuation of the Classics class, and it has grown in numbers after a low-point about a decade ago.

OUTTERSIDE, Andrew



I joined the club in 2001, immediately after my Academy year. Since then I have raced with the club for 10 seasons, mostly in the Classic Class and more recently in the Sigma Class. I was 2nd in the Classic Class in 2013 and 3rd in the Sigma Class in 2015.

For me the Caterham Graduates Racing Club embodies the spirit of the Academy – close, competitive “level playing field” racing in a great car in a friendly and sociable environment. I strongly believe our club structure (run by members for members) gives us the best opportunity to achieve a successful formula for the future.

I have always enjoyed making a contribution to the club and previously held an executive position as Treasurer for a number of years. Following my return to racing in 2012 I was elected to the board as a Trustee Director in 2013 and re-elected in 2016. Following the 2017 AGM I was appointed to the newly created position of Commercial Director and during the last 12 months I have focused on delivering 4 key areas: -

1. Increasing Membership / Participation – introduction of the new race classes to accommodate all current (2014 onwards) Caterham Motorsport cars (with the exception of 420R), dealing with new member enquiries, forming relationships with drivers and race teams from Caterham Motorsport (CTS Motorsport and LFP Motorsport) by attendance at 3 Caterham Motorsport race meetings in 2017 resulting in 11 of the 17 new members and CTS Motorsport joining in 2017, marketing and securing guest racing entries for various events – Oulton (8) Castle Combe (5) Snetterton (6) and Spa (10 to date) with many from Caterham Motorsport.
2. Active Marketing / Promotion of the Club – production and launch of promotion videos, production of marketing material, race day commentary, increased Facebook activity (Facebook likes / followers increased by some 15% in the last 12 months). Securing commitment to promote the club at Motofest (June 2018) and Motorsport Days Live (November 2018) in partnership with CTS Motorsport and Torque Motorsport. Introduction of Caterham Academy drivers to the club at Silverstone (October 2017).
3. Improved Communications – introduction of Facebook Community page, increased pre-race activity on Facebook, updating and revisions to the club website, the use of MailChimp for member communications.
4. Improving the Race / Race Day Experience – introduction of race day administrator / coordinator, improved race centre / awning facilities and catering offer.

Over the last 12 months I have been directly involved in race and track day organisation, including being responsible for the planning and delivery of our “bought” races at Zandvoort in 2017 and Castle Combe this year, together with the 2018 pre-season track day at Silverstone (in conjunction with Harry Cramer’s Torque Motorsport).

I worked with Nick Haryett on the 2018 Championship Regulations to accommodate the new race classes.

Along with Charles Elliott and Barry White I was involved in the raising of sponsorship for 2018 and responsible for the production and distribution of club and sponsors decals, a role undertaken in previous years. I have been involved with the organisation of our awards evenings, including being responsible for organising and briefing our compere.

More recently I have worked with Barry White on the proposed changes to the management of the club, including new board structure and Director roles profiles.

I have a strong interest in maintaining and developing driving standards and have served on the Driving Standards Team (DST) for a number of years. In 2016 I took over leadership of the team and instituted a members' survey on the performance and future operation of the DST. In 2017 the DST introduced mandatory cameras and in 2018 a process for challenging the application the 3x licence points penalty. This year I have mentored the 2 new members of the Team. I am looking for a successor to lead the DST in 2019.

I am seeking re-election with a view to continuing my work in developing the club for the future and increasing membership. Should I be re-elected as a Director I will fully support the implementation of the changes to the Board and the club management structure and will seek the appointment as Commercial Director to continue my work in that role.
