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## **BARR RACE GRADING SCHEME**

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The prime aim of BARR is to act as a membership organisation whose activities are focussed upon improving the standard of road races within Britain.

First came **membership criteria** to ensure that all those events that joined the association adhered to a minimum set of organisational criteria.

Then came the **BARR Race Grading scheme** with its Gold, Silver and Bronze awards to events that operated to an even higher standard.

These standards are assessed with the aid of BARR Race scrutineers who attend an event and prepare a post race assessment of what was found on the day along with any recommendations for improvements that the scrutineer feels are necessary to bring the event up to the required standard.

Those of us who were organising events 25 years ago thought we had it hard but if we were honest would have to accept that the range of regulations and standards required of an event today, are far, far higher and wider than back then. We took it for granted that the police would freely help with traffic control and we had never heard terms such as Risk Assessment, Health and Safety, The Food Hygiene Act, The Children's Act, The Disability Act, etc – all of which now have to be addressed routinely by every event.

The vast majority of events are still local or regional, mainly organised by clubs or local charities who do everything voluntarily in their own time – possibly just on an annual basis. Many such teams would admit to not having the time - or interest, to keep up with an escalating number of changes and innovations now needed to meet the various requirements or permissions now required. More than a few race directors are currently puzzled by demands that they now have to have "Chapter 8" trained marshals at points on their course.

With so many external agencies constantly raising the requirements to stage an event on the highway and ever escalating costs, the need for BARR to assist members with technical information has become that much greater so in November 2010 we introduced for members a bi-monthly technical briefing newsletter (the TNB's).

We hope that these will assist members not just directly but also encourage those with uncertainties not to ignore the situation but either use the content of previous issues or approach either their BARR Regional Representative or go directly to Roland Gibbard who chairs the BARR Technical sub-committee, Don't risk issues that might compromise or invalidate your race insurance.

BARR is here to help any race organiser – however small or large their event.

Let us know if there are issue on which clarification or examples could be of benefit and we can include that advice in a forthcoming issue. So, **if you have any uncertainties or need technical advice BARR is your first point of call either via a back issue or by calling your Regional Representative. BARR is here to help**

### Summary of some of the contents in back issues.

2009	Nov	TNB 01	Death in a race. The Law and UKA Race Licence Standards, General Risk Assessments, Children's Act, Disability Act, Food Hygiene Act. Good Practice Safety Guide for sporting events on the highway, Who are vulnerable adults?
2010	Jan	TNB 02	Race Cancellations – your problems and options.
2010	Mar	TNB 03	iPods and MP3's – Accept or ban them? Membership of BARR.
2011	May	TNB 04	Do you have effective emergency actions plans? Feedback from one event that experienced a death on their course.
2011	Jul	TNB 05	Feedback on iPods/MP3's & Children's Act. When is a record not a record? A plea from a CLO, Can wave starts improve your finances? What's it like having a BARR Race Scrutineer at your event? On-line entry systems.
2011	Sept	TNB 06	Making best use of limited manpower.
2011	Nov	TNB 07	Race entry forms- is yours up to scratch? Could curbing race ambition also help curb race entry fees?
2012	Jan	TNB 08	Improving first aid communications. Race HQ – risk assessment In case of fire. Event Adjudicators and Regional Panels.
2012	Mar	TNB 09	Course sabotage; a novel form of road closure. Practical alternatives to medals, plates and coatlers? Where should that sign go?
		TNB 09 Sup	Report of the Runbritain Medical Group – A Guide to Good Practice – a personal review of the proposals and comments,
2012	May	TNB 10	Traffic Management Operatives (TMO's) and Chapter 8