

THE ORANGE ARMY'S CHANCE TO GET ON THE ROAD

Debbie Barron, Marshall for 22 years and currently a Deputy Sector Marshal at Ballagarey, is moving up a gear and plans to take her sidecar team – 'Team Oscar Racing' to the TT. Although Team Oscar Racing have competed in the Southern 100, Jurby, Anglesey, Donnington Park, Mallory and others, it has been her dream for years to tackle the TT and she has decided that the time is right to make that dream become reality. We all know that the Marshals are the ones that make the action for the road races possible, but Debbie is hoping that the Marshals will go even further to support her than usual and put sponsorship money towards her dream.

Debbie will be the first female Manx born F2 sidecar driver to ride in the TT and she has supported the road races for most of her life. Her parents were both Marshals at Pinfold Cottage, Ramsey and she remembers going along with them to the races aged about 5 years old and that they were such a wonderful team in that sector. She says, "They would see me safely settled in a paddock area behind a great big solid gate. I had my pack of sandwiches and some sweets, but more importantly they made sure I had a radio and my push-bike. I used to race that paddock on my bike, with all the stickers from the Marshal packs stuck on it, listening to all of my heroes". Small wonder, then, that those early push-bike glories sewed the seed of her love of racing.

Living in Crosby in 1989 refuelled those memories and Debbie decided that she would become a Marshal. Her natural determination was very much to the fore when her first enquiry was met with a flat refusal. Debbie tells us that: "I woke up hearing the bikes go through the village and couldn't go back to sleep. So I went down the lane to watch them and enquire how to become a Marshal. A certain Marshal told me, in no uncertain terms, that they didn't have lady marshals in that sector, nor would they be having them." That acted like a red rag to a bull to Debbie. She signed on with the constable that same evening and has marshalled in Sector 2 ever since. When asked to tell of her best memory of being a Marshal, she finds it impossible to choose from her hundreds of memories. But what stands out for her more than anything else is the lovely people from all walks of life that she has met along the way, with whom she has shared laughter, sandwiches, stories and some sadness, catching up with them twice a year. She says "I feel so privileged to have worked in such an awesome team of people and have such pride in everyone involved. It's really humbling to see what people will do to help others without question when the **** hits the fan."

Raising sponsorship is an ongoing challenge for all riders and to get the bike to the start line for the new season, and especially to take part in the TT, Team Oscar Racing must raise a minimum of £10,000 a year. **This is our opportunity to raise the banner for one of our own!** So come on guys and gals, send what you can to the Team Oscar Racing cause. A little or a lot, every single penny is used and valued. Debbie explains that, "Helping a small team like Team Oscar Racing makes **YOU** part of our team and knowing that you paid for that back tyre or chain or race entry fee will give you a tremendous feeling when you see us race past your location. It will help us take one step further to the dream by keeping us on the track. You will be sharing in the triumphs and the woes of Team Oscar Racing and what a story you will be able to tell at the end of the race. For myself, to be able to race knowing that it is because the Marshals Association has made it possible would make my dream perfect.

Find out more about Team Oscar Racing and how to sponsor them at www.teamoscarracing.co.uk or write to Debbie Barron, Flat 4, 9, Clybane Road, Farmhill,

Braddan, Isle of Man, IM2 2LP. Cheques should be made payable to "Team Oscar Racing".