



## **JAMAICA MILLENNIUM MOTORING CLUB**

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August 9, 2019

Mr Matthew Lee  
18 Pleasant Farm Village,  
Ewarton, St. Catherine

Re: Letter of complaint, JRDC Carnival of Speed

Dear Mr Lee,

The JMMC has concluded its investigation into matters referred in your Letter of Complaint, JRDC Carnival of Speed, and provide the following for your information.

- The fire extinguishers utilized by the Marshalling Club of Jamaica (MCJ) were all provided by the JMMC. This is accommodated at each Jamaica Race Drivers Club (JRDC) event through an existing arrangement between the JMMC and the JRDC. The JMMC bears sole responsibility for the availability and condition of the fire extinguishers provided through this arrangement; neither the JRDC nor the MCJ can be faulted for any failure of the extinguishers.
- A report received from the MCJ indicates that the fire was noticed when your car was entering Corner 3. Corner 6 marshals then prepared to respond if required. When your car stopped at the exit of Corner 6, a waved yellow flag was displayed by the Corner 6 flag marshal. The other available marshals proceeded to your car as race traffic permitted.
- The report notes that the fire extinguisher issued to Corner 6 did not operate, which is corroborated in your letter.
- The report notes that a second fire extinguisher, provided by a Corner 2 marshal also did not operate after it arrived on the scene.
- The report notes that Corner 7 marshals arrived on the scene and successfully extinguished the flames with their fire extinguisher. Smoke continued to emanate from the engine bay. A fourth extinguisher, from Corner 1, arrived at the scene but was not utilized.
- JMMC notes that 2 of 3 extinguishers did not operate as expected.

### **JMMC Executive Committee: 2018–2020**

**Chairman:** Stephen Gunter; **Vice Chairman:** Marcia Dawes; **Exec. Secretary:** Wendy Dressekie-Gordon; **Treasurer:** Tiffany Bryan

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- Post event, all extinguishers were sent to Evans Safety for their inspection. They noted the discharge of three extinguishers. The term “discharged” means that the propellant was no longer in the extinguishers.
- Evans Safety suggested that the malfunction of two extinguishers may have been caused if persons attempted to “test” the extinguishers prior to use. However, there is nothing to indicate that any MCJ personnel attempted such a “test”.
- Evans Safety noted that the dry chemical material in the extinguishers may harden over time. This is not a possibility that the JMMC was aware of; we have had a maintenance procedure in place for many years without any such occurrence.
- Based on additional information received from Evans Safety, the JMMC has a new policy in place for Inspection (every six months) and Servicing (every four years) of all fire extinguishers in our stock.
- In regard to the MCJ response to your incident; while a quick response to any incident is always desired, Marshals do have to exercise caution for personal safety when attempting to give assistance on a “live” track. The Corner Captain may only order the display of a yellow flag, and does not have the authority to display a red flag unless expressly ordered by the Clerk of the Course to do so. It appears that the confusion caused by the malfunctioning of the two fire extinguishers consecutively arriving at the scene and subsequent reporting by radio of the ongoing situation resulted in a delay of the red flag order. There was certainly no intent by any marshal or official to delay assistance to you.

The JMMC unreservedly apologizes to you for the malfunctioning fire extinguishers and their effect on your situation. With new guidance received from the appropriate authority, we have taken steps to mitigate any similar occurrence in the future. We also believe that the many valuable lessons learned from your incident by marshals and officials will serve to improve the standards for all.

Regards,



Stephen Gunter  
Co-Chairman  
Competition Subcommittee