

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

January 25, 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

The first meet of the race calendar for 2019, the 'JRDC Carnival of Speed' was held on Monday April 22, 2019; it was sanctioned under the JMMC and safety aspect was overseen by the Marshalling Club of Jamaica (MCJ). I, Matthew Lee, was a competitor at this event driving a Subaru STI Type R in the MP4 class.

In race two of the MP4 class, my vehicle began to develop a fire on the first lap. I was unaware of the fire until my car shut down at corner 6, more commonly known as the 'Pepsi Hairpin'. There was no black flag shown to me nor signals by the marshals on the track for me to stop racing and leave the track. My car began to lose power and I pulled from the racing line to allow other competitors to pass. When my car came to a stop, I immediately drew for my fire extinguisher on board the car, exited the vehicle, and used said extinguisher in an attempt to control the blaze, but it proved insufficient. The first marshal on scene arrived with a fire extinguisher, however, it malfunctioned, even after his attempts at hitting it on the wall of the corner of the track.

I had to open my bonnet and utilise all means in an attempt to extinguish the flame; including throwing dirt from the side of the track on the blaze. Another marshal approaching with an extinguisher was sluggish in arriving to the scene, so I ran to him, took the extinguisher and proceeded hastily back to the vehicle. I pulled the pin and handed it over to the marshal that arrived on scene and he started to get the blaze under control. There was a total of 6 marshals on scene but only 3 assisted me in quenching the flame; the others seemed reluctant to my succour.

The race was allowed to run for 2 more laps before it was red flagged, and even a fellow competitor halted at a safe spot of the track to come and try to help me, though when he realised I was out of the car and safe, he resumed the race before the red flag was issued.

I am appreciative to be able to race under the JRDC and the JMMC as a competitor and grateful to the marshals that assisted me. I do believe that the rigorous scrutineering that the competitors undergo to be able to race should go the same for the marshals and the safety equipment used on the race day. To ensure my safety, and the safety of all competitors, crew and spectators present on race day, I sincerely hope that a situation such as this does not recur, and the respective parties be remedied accordingly.

Yours respectfully,

Matthew Lee

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25/4/19

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