

## WEC 4 HOURS OF SILVERSTONE 30TH AUGUST - 1ST SEPTEMBER 2019

Leaving our caravan at Silverstone on Monday after the Moto GP meeting, we came home for a few days before returning on Friday for the WEC meeting. We were just settling in around lunchtime when our friends Gwen and David Noble arrived with their caravan putting it in their usual place on the campsite near to us. We made the decision to go out to dinner that evening and we enjoyed a delicious Chinese meal in Buckingham.

On Saturday morning we went to the BRDC Clubhouse where we met other motorsport friends, amongst them several past and present members of the Doghouse Owners' Club. Someone, I think it was Dianne Smith, suggested that it would be good to have a photograph taken of us all together and most agreed. After lunch we gathered together to have this photograph taken.



Back Row Standing - Liz Piper and Eloise Rulon Miller  
Seated left to right - Elizabeth Parnell, Andrea Ham, Gwen Noble, Dianne Smith,  
Me and Julie Kincade.

David had told us that the four of us had been given passes for the Grid walk on Sunday. Sunday morning brought warm and sunny weather and we went to the BRDC Clubhouse for coffee before we, and several others, were collected by one of the courtesy buses to be taken over to the Wing. Firstly we went to the President's suite in order to see what was happening on the track where the cars were lining up ready for the grid walk.

Just before the gates were due to be opened we made our way downstairs to wait until we were allowed onto the grid.



Me with Gwen and David on the Grid walk

We hadn't been on the grid walk very long before Tony had to leave me with Gwen and David. The three of us made our way along the line up of cars meeting Allan McNish on the way. He very kindly agreed to pose for a photograph with me and Gwen. What a lovely man he is!



Gwen and I with Allan McNish

When we had seen all the cars we stood to watch and listen to the drummers, their drums being painted oil drums beaten with quite hefty sticks. It was a very energetic and loud performance

As we were leaving the grid we couldn't resist the opportunity for a last photo when we met Zara Rimmer who deals with the BRDC Social Media and Events



Zara kindly agreed to have a photo taken with us

We then returned to the President's suite where Tony was waiting for us to watch the start of the race. He was at the front of the balcony so I had a brilliant view of the rolling start and I watched the first few laps from here before going inside for a cup of tea and to watch more of the race on the TV.

I was very sorry when Paul de Resta in his United Autosports car was out of the race, due to what I believe to be electrical problems after only two laps. It must have been very disappointing for him and his co drivers Philip Hanson and Filipe Albuquerque. Shortly afterwards the Team LNT Ginetta with Michael Simpson driving lost a rear wheel but fortunately the team were able to rejoin the race and complete 112 laps.

We returned to the BRDC Clubhouse where we were to have a late lunch. We watched more of the race then on that beautiful sunny day the rain appeared forcing the drivers into the pits for a change to wet weather tyres.

Lunch was served at 2.30pm with still another hour and a half of the race to go. Unfortunately from my seat I couldn't see much of what was happening on the track and the TV screen showing the WEC was behind me and I found it difficult (and rude) to keep turning away from the table to look at the screen. However, I could see the TV showing the F1 Grand Prix from Spa and although Lewis didn't take first

place, what a brilliant win for Charles Leclerc - a young man to watch! Sitting next to me at the table was Liz Brundle, wife of Martin and mother of driver Alex who was sitting opposite.

Before the end of the WEC race the rain had stopped and with the track drying out the drivers were back into the pits for another change of tyres.

We had a super weekend of motorsport and in keeping with the ethos of the Doghouse Owners' Club we cemented old friendships and made new through motorsport. We stayed at Silverstone until Monday morning when we left for home bringing our caravan with us.

Tony and I now look forward to a special family event in September - the birth of our granddaughter who is due at the end of the month. I am really looking forward to welcoming her into our lives.

The next meeting we are planning to attend is the BTCC meeting but everything depends on the arrival of the new baby and if we are required to look after our grandson James. hopefully we'll be there with our good news.

With very grateful thanks to David Noble and Tony Fletcher for giving me permission to reproduce their photographs in this article.

Mary Fletcher