

MGCC Snetterton 4 hour relay

Sebba Sauntering Along - A report by Leigh Sebba on the adventures of team 5 – “Sauntering Along”

Traditionally the Snetterton Relay Race falls on the day after the final race of the Aero Challenge giving the opportunity for many to make a weekend of it at ‘Sunny Snetterton’. However the forecast was wet and windy and morning practice was very wet, but then the day dried out through the afternoon so that the last drivers were actually racing ‘in the dry’.

Half the teams comprised Morgans and some treat it as a serious team event to show the superiority of the latest factory models, whereas others treat it as a race, yes, but very much a social end of season event.

Mary Lindsay, veteran of the Snetterton 24 hour races of the early 1980s, enthusiastically entered two teams named after sadly deceased Morgan enthusiasts Terry Howes and Dave Saunter. Thus our team name ‘Sauntering Along’ was not entirely supposed to describe my style of driving, although it did.

I arrived mid morning to find the pit garage filled with perhaps 20 persons all chatting, drinking coffee, and generally socialising. Team manager Ray Jones had raced a 1960s Plus 4 back in the 1970s and the ‘pit crew’ comprised faces from back then to more present day such as Cain from Wolf Performance.

Our team comprised Kelvin and Alex Laidlaw sharing Daddy’s Roadster, Malcolm Dearnley from the ‘far north’ in his nice early 1960s 4/4, Paul Bryan in his 4/4, and myself in the +8 celebrating 40 years since I bought it new from Eric White at Allon White.

And we each ‘Sauntered Along’ for our forty-five minute stints, waving to the friendly pit crew, and rather boringly without mishap. The tortoise approach worked in that we beat all those teams that had breakdowns (including Mary’s team next to us) but we never really made much inroad into the final results table. But it is all tactics – finish near the back for another few years and eventually we will get a really generous handicap !