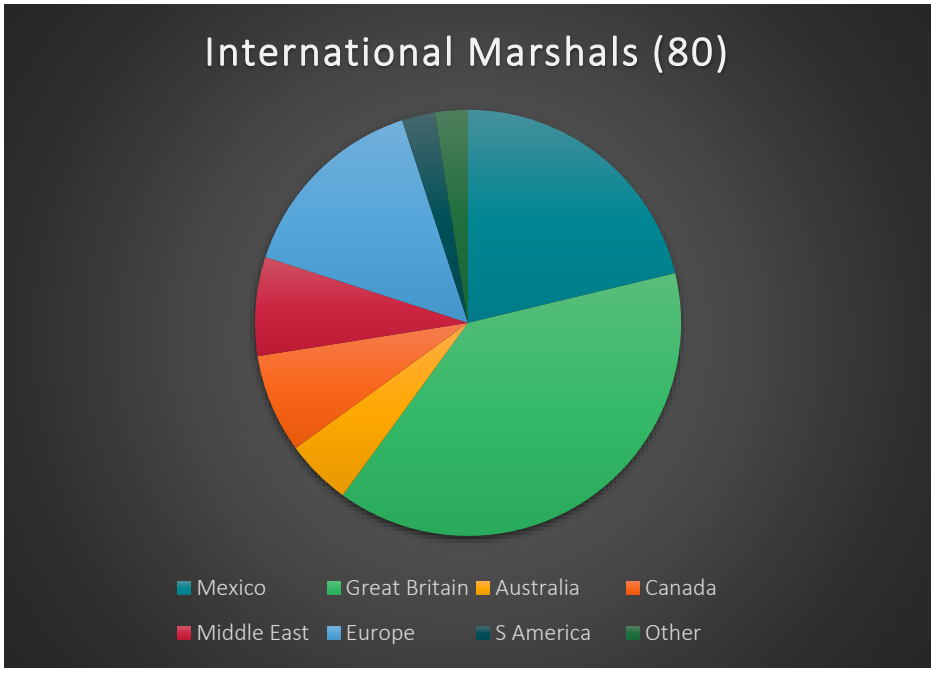


THE OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

DEMOGRAPHICS

1 – Foreign Marshals

Of the 580 volunteer marshals here this weekend, we are pleased to welcome 80 international visitors. The largest contingent is from Great Britain (31), followed by Mexico (17), then Canada (6) and Australia (4). Other representations are from Azerbaijan (1), Brazil (1), Columbia (1), France (3), Hungary (2), Ireland (2), Italy (2), Netherlands (2), Saudi Arabia (1), Singapore (1), South Africa (1), Turkey (1) and UAE (3).



2 – Specialty

- 4 starters
- 8 moto taxi
- 28 scrutineers
- 33 hospitality
- 44 pit / paddock / grid
- 216 F&C
- 251 intervention









LYNNE'S WANDERINGS



Thursday was hot - 87 F with not much wind, warmer than Wednesday. The Pit Lane especially was hot with all that concrete and no shade. This is Thursday so the F1 teams all have their garage doors open unblocked, for the most part. FIA gives the teams one day for there to be visibility. The rest of the days the garages can be incognito. And they usually are.

Midday, when most of the on-site Marshals were up in Lot M, having lunch, getting ready for Intervention Training, and hanging out, they had a surprise visitor. Guenther Steiner, Haas Team Principal. He brought with him Haas bandanas, to hand out to the workers. He spoke about his admiration and appreciation for the Marshals, their volunteering and all that they do. Guenther said the F1 teams needed to come visit with the Marshals, who are valued by the teams. The Marshals are a big part of what makes the sport run.



After his talk, Guenther stuck around and signed autographs and posed for photos. The Netflix 'Drive To Survive TV' crew was present, doing a lot of shooting.

The infamous F1 Swipe gates are in full swing, for the several entrances into F1 territory, and the Media Center has one of its own to enter the main work room. I pity the security guards at these points, listening all day to that inane high-pitched beep from every swipe.

The activity still isn't frenetic. There's no lines queueing to the FIA Tech Shed for scrutineering purposes. It's all done on the honor system now. Most of the mechanics are inside the garage. The Timing stands are all set up in Pit Lane. I found another team with foreign designations on the tire warmers. Ferrari - of course. Usually the teams use English - Right and Left. AlphaTauri also uses a foreign language. McLaren uses the driver's names.



The Medical and Safety cars did their hot laps in the afternoon, as part of the systems test.

No car are seen outside the garage per se, just stacks of wings and lots of tires. Late in the afternoon the Marshals had their Pit Lane Walk, but I'm not sure how much they got to see. The Pit Lane was packed tighter than a sardine can. Not only the Marshals, but supposedly anyone who had a ticket could be there. It was worse than a Track Invasion when the Security people tried to get people to leave at the end of this particular walk. People being shoved, herded and directed towards Pit Out, and crowds of people trying to go the other direction. Chaos. I hope the Marshals made it out in time to catch their Bus up to Lot M.



And speaking of all those people, even the shuttle drivers and other locals were amazed at how many fans there were for a Thursday. After the crowd was cleared from the Pit Lane for the 4 p.m. walk, another huge throng streamed across the track and into the Pit Lane for their chance. I fled.

In the Pit Lane as the afternoon wore on, with the sun beating down, more and more activity was taking place. Several teams were having Pit Stop Practices. The Medical and Safety crews were having their Extrication Practice, with observers including FIA Medical Delegate and Chief Medical Officer, Dr Ian Roberts and Track Safety Director Roy Spellman. It was held in the Williams pits with a female member of the crew playing driver. All this in the relentless sun.



Inside the Williams garage, the team was filming the two drivers, Logan Sargeant and Alex Albon doing some kind of show and tell, with Alex explaining something to Logan. I must say I prefer the new brunette locks on Albon. The pair are wearing dark driver's suits this weekend.

On the back side of the F1 garages, the shadows were deep and there was a breeze whistling through the pathway between the garages and the hospitality suites. Here's where one found drivers. The AlphaTauri drivers were meeting with Media on a pre-set schedule outside their garage. Daniel

Ricciardo got most of the attention and held forth with all his geniality. As one observer said of his appearance in Nashville last Sunday - Daniel smiles and the whole area lights up. Yuki Tsunoda was less popular with the media.



Meanwhile at the near end of the Hospitality Suite Row, the Media Bull Pen was in swing, with drivers Pierre Gasly, Nico Hulkenberg, George Russell, Sergio Perez, Oscar Piastri, Carlos Sainz, Charles Leclerc and others. Approximately half the field, in designated time slots, so to speak. They were in the shade. The Bull Pen, as it is called, becomes more elaborate every year.

Earlier, some of the F1 drivers had their usual F1 conference with the media. It was held in a Media Center meeting room, and the drivers were casual on a couch as opposed to the hard-back chairs one usually sees.



By the time my Newsletter team's day was over, it was about sunset, which was pretty. And the temperature was just lovely. Fridays high is forecast for 94F.














0659-TEX
INTERVENTION
MARSHAL
MORRIS


0609-TEX
INTERVENTION
MARSHAL
0673-TEX
INTERVENTION
MARSHAL
FIA
COURSE


0392-TEX
FLAG MARSHAL
0296-TEX
COURSE