

BARC North Western Centre report for BARC Magazine 2016 Autumn edition.

The NW Centre is as busy as usual at the height of the season and the Sports Saloon Championship is running as frantically as ever with full grids and some great racing at every meeting. However the main event for one of our Clerks, Phil Hosker has been a visit to Canada which took in the distant Ontario Centre. I leave him to describe his travels:

Canada 2016

On deciding on a holiday, take into consideration Toronto. A skyline as spectacular as anywhere you have seen and enough shopping and culture to keep anyone happy. Despite the propensity for signage in English and French when travelling around a lot of names are very familiar. All journeys seem to start and end on Queen Elizabeth Way, passing signs for Winston Churchill, Trafalgar and Grimsby!

What's this got to do with the BARC? Well those of you who read to the back of the BARC newsletter will know there is an Ontario branch of the club. So when we decided to visit Toronto I contacted branch President Pat McDiarmid with thoughts of meeting up and extending greetings from the North West Region. As it turned out our visit coincided with the regions monthly members meeting and we were invited to attend.

After a hot and sticky day at the zoo we called off at the Texas Lone Star Grill and immediately knew we were in the right place when in the car park we found a large red pickup sporting BARC logos. We then found Pat and the other BARC members in the upstairs room of the grill which, just to confirm we were in the right place sported a BARC shield on the wall.

We were welcomed by Pat and her husband Mike and sat with Doug and Pete who made us feel very welcome while we swapped stories and experiences from either side of the Atlantic. We were surprised to find that we were on an international table. We

were joined by Aleck and Vincent from China and Vietnam respectively, who are students in Toronto. We swapped stories with them too, their English being a lot better than my Chinese or Vietnamese.

We had several visitors to the table to chat with us all. I wish I could remember everybody's name. Scott was organising the Indycar officials, but still came and passed some time. Howard took some pictures and chatted. I hope all the others can forgive me for not mentioning them, but please feel free to contact me on Facebook.

We had brought some gifts from BARC NW and Oulton Park which went into the club raffle and seemed to be appreciated as it rounded off the social part of the evening.

Our schedule unfortunately meant that we were at Niagara Falls for the weekend of the IMSA race at Canadian Tyre Motorsport Park (That's Mosport to us oldies) and the weekend after we left Toronto was the Indycar race around the streets, poor planning I know! We did however manage to get to Mosport for the Friday practice and Mike got us passes and gave us a great tour of the venue.



We ran into Howard again and we even sat and ate lunch with some complete strangers, but who we discussed all the similar subjects we would do as if we were at Oulton Park.

In conclusion, if you fancy a break in Canada, try Toronto, but for Goodness sake plan better than I did! Be sure to look up the BARC, they are a warm friendly bunch who we will not forget and who we hopefully stay in touch with. This sport of ours is a great way to meet other people and see other places. Make the most of it.