

The Mark and Bernie show

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This year's honoured guest, Bernie Ecclestone, received a boisterous reception on Sunday afternoon as he joined Lord March on a fast run up the hillclimb course, chased by a cavalcade of Grand Prix icons. The racer turned team manager turned entrant (via his purchase of Brabham) and latter-day F1 czar was then joined outside Goodwood House the by grandees of Formula One, past and present. These included the likes of Brabham old boys John Watson and Herbie Blash, former F1 team boss Peter Sauber and reigning F1 World Champion, Nico Rosberg.

Former Red Bull driver Mark Webber interviewed him in front of a packed crowd. "Lord March's attention to detail is incredible. You have to admire the way he fixed the weather," Ecclestone said, laughing. "I started racing on two wheels and it went from there. I used to race motorcycles at Brands Hatch – on the grass in those days against guys like John Surtees and then got an upgrade and switched to cars."

Webber recalled later: "I remember phoning Bernie up in 1999 when I was trying to break into F1. His PA said: 'Mr Ecclestone will call you back in 20 mins. I thought, 'Yeah, sure', but he did call me back and said, 'Sometimes, Mark, life is just unfair. You may not make it.' Yeah, thanks for the motivational pep talk, Bernie. That said, he gave me great support subsequently as he has to a lot of other people in F1."

(ENDS)

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