

Sherlock Holmes Goes To Silverstone

By Bob Kocher

(The names and dates have been changed to protect those who were involved. It is a true story for sure.)

This story took place some ten or fifteen years ago and was told to me in bits and pieces by several different people somewhere in England.

For starters one needs to understand that in the country of England the government takes a much different view of the music industry and the people who make it happen and especially the ones who become real stars or celebrities.

Having said that, let's start this story by telling you that the English thought so much of this group that the famous Scotland Yards assigned a person to watch over the celebrities. The goal was to know where they were and what they were doing at all times and to be there if and when they might get in some kind of trouble--like drugs or driving under the influence. Scotland Yard was to help them diminish the effect of whatever they may have done. Nice! After all, this entire group brought lots of income and publicity to Britain. It was this Scotland Yard person that, in lieu of a better name, I will call Sherlock Holmes. Of course, like any Sherlock Holmes, he did a great job and was so smart.

However, the truth be known, even a Scotland Yard Sherlock Holmes could not be everywhere at the same time to look out for everybody. As you can imagine, these great celebrities could get out of hand from time to time. As this project got bigger and bigger, there were days when the chosen few just could not keep

it all together and would have run-ins with the law. Along came Sherlock Holmes.

A funny thing happened one day when a Sherlock stumbled on to a small tidbit fact. Surprise, it was that the stars of the day for the most part liked cars and great fast cars. Of course, many of them drove fast, fast cars.

The next part of this story is a bit nebulous. It's been difficult to pinpoint all of the details exactly, but apparently a few judges were involved with some other people. Out of this alliance, a new driver's club was born.

That's right, a new club came into being that was called something like Club 99. And it started out like this. If one of the chosen persons would get in trouble, such as driving under the influence, smoking pot, or even speeding, the person would receive an unusual sentence. They would be ordered to spend one day a month at Silverstone Speedway, the home of the British F1 Race. They were to learn how to drive safe and fast the right way. But remember each had to give up a day a month—really not a big deal.

Wow, what a sentence! The offenders also had to pay the cost of the Racing School, which soon became known as the "Club." You guessed it; all those sentenced loved going to Silverstone. Before long celebrities were finding ways to get in trouble so they could get a "sentence" to the Club.

Scotland Yard and Sherlock Holmes did a great job this time. I have no idea just how long this driver's Club lasted or how many celebrities got a sentence to become a member, but I've been told it was many and that they all had a fabulous time.

And you're right again. I had never heard any part of this story before and certainly no one had ever written it down. You might be imagining that you have heard this Club 99 story somewhere. Or you may think it was called something else. In either case, if I were you, I would not repeat this story to anyone.

Can you begin to think what would happen if a California judge were to sentence Hollywood stars to go learn how to become a safe, fast driver by visiting Laguna Seca Speedway once a month for a driving school. Wow, that would be a filled up class in no time.

Have a great day, buckle up, and drive safe!