



Mark Webber

Webber makes a point

Despite a serious setback the Australian drove faultlessly to win the British Grand Prix last Sunday.

ROD KINSEY reports from Silverstone.

TO say Mark Webber was not impressed with the team when his front wing was removed and added to Sebastian Vettel's car is an understatement.

However, the setback merely added fuel to his fire and he delivered an inspired drive to clinch an excellent win.

Webber is quoted as saying "not bad for a number two driver!" Vettel meanwhile was unlucky to get a puncture in the right rear tyre just after the start, putting him at the back of the field.

The puncture was apparently caused when Lewis Hamilton's front wing touched Vettel's tyre.

Vettel only came back into contention after lap 30 when the safety car came out while the debris from Pedro de la Rosa and Adrian Sutil's cars was cleared.

This allowed him to close in on the field and finish in a very worthy seventh place.

The 'Mac Mercs' were disadvantaged from Saturday's third practice when they decided to take off their newly fitted blown diffusers.

This decision came after the diffusers were found to be overheating certain components and delivering inconsistent down force.

The team is working on an upgrade ahead of the German grand prix at Hockenheim on July 25.

Lewis Hamilton compensated by giving more than his best, storming into fourth position on the grid behind Vettel, Webber and Fernando Alonso.

In the race, Hamilton made up two positions at the start, moving into second place right away, a position he did not relinquish the entire race.

His was as good a drive as the leaders, albeit in a below par car.

Jenson Button also did a very good job to bring his car home in fourth position from 14th on the grid.

McLaren was very pleased with both drivers.

Nico Rosberg showed that the Mercedes team has made great strides and he drove well to gain a podium position.

Michael Schumacher meanwhile showed occasional flashes of brilliance but still needs to get fully into the groove.

A group of us visited the Renault F1 factory last Wednesday where we were given an excellent personal tour by former South African, Pete Aldridge, the team's production data manager, just before the cars left for Silverstone.

We were therefore disappointed when Robert Kubica retired from his initial third place when his car suffered a broken side shaft.

Ferrari had a very disappointing weekend after qualifying (with Alonso in third and Felipe Massa in seventh) with both cars finishing out of the points after a

series of clashes and a rather harsh drive-through penalty for Alonso.

Rubens Barrichello in the Williams, Kamui Kobayashi in the Sauber and Adrian Sutil in the Force India all deserve a mention for good drives.

Results: 1 M Webber; 2 L Hamilton; 3 N Rosberg; 4 J Button; 5 R Barrichello; 6 K Kobayashi; 7 S Vettel; 8 A Sutil; 9 M Schumacher; 10 Nico Hulkenburg.

Drivers' points: 1 L Hamilton 145; 2 J Button 133; 3 M Webber 128; 4 S Vettel 121; 5 F Alonso 98; 6 N Rosberg 90; 7 R Kubica 83; 8 F Massa 67; 9 M Schumacher 36; 10 A Sutil 35.

Constructors' points: 1 McLaren Mercedes 278; 2 Red Bull Renault 249; 3 Ferrari 165; 4 Mercedes 126; 5 Renault 89; 6 Force India Mercedes 47; 7 Williams Cosworth 31; 8 Sauber Ferrari 15; 9 Toro Rosso Ferrari 10.



with Rod Kinsey

TORQUE