

Norah McEllistrim

Trainer and father was a trainer at Wimbledon since the earliest days

Born 1946 in Wimbledon, her father was a pioneer greyhound trainer who brought Mick the Miller over to the UK. Her mother wanted her to do something else so she was sent off to a convent boarding school. Been holding a dog since she was a baby and the moment she got back from school she would be out in to the kennels.

Dad used to leave her in the racing office when he went down to the track. Minors were not allowed in. She would sit in there typing up the names of her Dad's dogs on an old typewriter. She left school for a job as a fashion buyer in Selfridges but despite her mother's protestations she quit after a few days and went to work for her Dad. When he retired she took over from him. Lots of good stories.

She remembers the great days at Wimbledon and is not sentimental about the site – the bookmakers ruined it. She remembers upmarket restaurant, Andrew Lloyd Webber had dogs with her father. Decline: early races and you don't get the crowds anymore. They are a quarter of what they used to be.