
F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 28-04-2008 15:34

So, anyone doubting the efficacy of the safety of the current design of cars and tracks?

http://newsimg.bbc.co.uk/media/images/44605000/jpg/_44605606_kovalinenapcredit226.jpg

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 28-04-2008 15:38

I thought that after Kubica's crash in Montreal last year, but Kovaleinen's yesterday was even worse (the in-camera view is particularly terrifying).

It may well be the only thing that Bernie and Max have gotten right, but it is far from unimportant.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 28-04-2008 15:41

Yeah. I completely forgot to start a thread on the fortieth anniversary of Jim Clark's utterly unnecessary death earlier this month.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 28-04-2008 15:47

Clark is always the first to come to my mind at times like these and I'm sure he was foremost in Jackie Stewart's mind when Stewart said how lucky Kovaleinen was to be alive.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by dotmund - 28-04-2008 19:09

The cars particularly are hugely impressive in this regard. I also think that the HANS device is quite an unsung hero, especially in accidents like Kovalainen's, which feature sudden and massive deceleration.

It also proves that there's an enormous amount of providence at work every time someone has a big one. So much depends on variables - what corner, where, angle of impact, speed - that luck can never be discounted as another major factor. It's the reason that the FIA have taken the sensible attitude that they can never make anything TOO safe. Their tirelessness in this area has saved a pair of legs (at the very least) once again.

The biggest accident I've ever seen someone walk away from, incidentally, was Katherine Legge's at the Champ Car Grand Prix of Road America in 2006.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 28-04-2008 19:17

That's very true, another one I thought of last night was Earnhart.

Ursus minor and I go to Monza at least twice a year (once for the Grand Prix and on other occasions for "lesser" races) and have never seen anything remotely serious. I don't think I'd feel right about taking him if we were still in the pre-Senna world.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by And I am the Life - 28-04-2008 19:19

I can't figure out what part of the car she's in

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 28-04-2008 19:29

Crikey.

UA, did you get the chance to hear Stirling Moss's tribute to Fangio the other day? It's available as a podcast.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 28-04-2008 19:47

She's in the "fuselage" that cartwheels, but my oh my.

GO, no I haven't seen it. Where was it?

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 28-04-2008 19:54

It's here on the Beeb, under Great Lives.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by dotmund - 29-04-2008 10:42

The part of the car she's in is the exact right part, the survival cell. It's another good example of the car doing exactly what its designed to do when the shit hits the fan. Everything breaks off to dissipate the crash energy and the driver remains in the confines of the monocoque.

Of course, an accident like that in a European series would look more spectacular still, as what you have to remember is that the US single seaters run on Methanol, which burns with an invisible flame.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 25-05-2008 12:09

A wet Monaco. Excellent.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-06-2008 19:03

Do you not have red lights in the UK?

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 09-06-2008 09:33

That was funny, wasn't it. Maybe they should add a few more examples of urban driving to spice up Formula 1. How about random cyclists, u-turning black cabs, unloading lorries and rows of consecutive bendy-buses all sprinkled throughout a race...

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by The Chubby Cyclist - 09-06-2008 11:18

Speed bumps. It needs speed bumps. And yes, bendy buses stopped in box junctions.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 09-06-2008 11:38

We've already got speed bumps:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/olmedia/170000/images/_170432_hakinnen_chicane150.jpg

and there are at least two bus stops marked on the pavement in Monte Carlo, so all they need to do is add the bendy buses.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by evilC - 11-06-2008 13:26

...And two-way traffic, so that the cars have to swerve out into each other's path in order to negotiate a cyclist.

They wouldn't have to indicate while doing so, either - just to make it more like 'real-life'.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 21-07-2008 11:01

And forty years after Jim Clark's death, Timo Glock shows us how much car safety has moved on :

http://newsimg.bbc.co.uk/media/images/44847000/jpg/_44847881_glock_ap416.jpg

Oh, and Hamilton proves that it is still possible to overtake...

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 14-09-2008 18:54

An excellent race today by Sebastian Vettel and Toro (Minardi) Rosso. Hamilton's starting to look quite the old man, isn't

he.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 14-09-2008 20:42

We were there, and it was extremely enjoyable despite the wet and Glastonbury levels of mud.

Vettel has had an absolutely amazing two days, and credit to Hamilton for making up 8 places on the grid in conditions that seem to have had Raikonen decide that he just couldn't be bothered.

The next year and a half of gossip here is going to be absolutely full of Vettel to Ferarri rumours, and my early sense is that he would be far from unhappy about that prospect.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by lopyy - 14-09-2008 20:59

was very déjà-vu watching a supreme lights to flag drive by a german in a Italian car, (bet hes regretting agreeing to join the daddy team now!) that's three new race winners since Canada and glock got a second in that time too, future looks brilliant, and when there's the, unfortunately rare, race with no controversy present looks good too. Jus need Williams, honda and force India to challenge points and I've never known a more open midfield.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by dotmund - 15-09-2008 06:53

The midfield pack is extraordinarily close, it's more like a single chassis Formula in there. And with only 20 seats available, I think the drivers will have to start being able to demonstrate additional skills to get their foot in the door. Cooking. Juggling at children's parties. Degree in fluid dynamics. That sort of thing.

I've recently started blogging on motor racing issues, incidentally. So if you're interested in sporadically updated ramblings featuring a high proportion of list-making behaviour, it might be up your street: Toto Roche's Flag.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-09-2008 12:19

Excellent blog, dotmund. Please let me know if you ever make it down to Monza (either for the GP or otherwise).

I've left you a comment about Pantano.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by evilC - 26-09-2008 09:00

If anyone is interested, there is a supplement titled "The Business of Sport: Formula One" in today's Financial Times.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 26-09-2008 09:02

Anyone else looking forward to Sunday's night race? Especially as it's likely to be a soggy one...

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 26-09-2008 09:18

Ursus Minor and I were just discussing this on the way to school this morning. It should be a spectacle, and I'm especially interested to see how Vettel and Toro Rosso react to their new status as media and paddock darlings.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by evilC - 26-09-2008 09:26

Gangster Octopus wrote:

Anyone else looking forward to Sunday's night race? Especially as it's likely to be a soggy one...

Nah - I'll catch the result afterwards ...although I think I can pretty much write it myself:

"Due to a technicality uncovered by FIA race stewards in the post-race analysis, the race has had to be retrospectively truncated to only 6 laps, after which the chequered flag should have been waved. Since Lewis Hamilton only overtook Massa on lap 7, his victory will not count. He will be stripped of the points for this race.

Furthermore, since he then led the rest of the pack on a merry little dance for another 54 illegal laps, with all the other competitors - bravely led by the heroic Ferrari drivers - attempting to flag him down and get him to pull over, he will also be stripped of all of the rest of his championship points and fined £70 million billion pounds."

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 26-09-2008 10:05

ursus arctos wrote:

I'm especially interested to see how Vettel and Toro Rosso react to their new status as media and paddock darlings. When was the last time that the Italian national anthems played for a non-Ferrari or Italian driver?

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by dotmund - 26-09-2008 10:13

Whether or not the Italian anthem would have been played - the podium ceremony has become much more standardised and regulated in recent decades - but the last time a non-Ferrari Italian car won a World Championship Grand Prix was 4th August 1957. Juan Manuel Fangio won his most famous ever victory in a Maserati 250F.

As regards Vettel, I think he will kick on from this. I'd not be surprised to see him trouble the podium again this season.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 26-09-2008 10:21

I thought it must be Maserati. Probably one of the most evocative names in motor racing for old gits like me...

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 26-09-2008 10:28

Indeed.

The whole circus would be much more entertaining if we were able to resurrect Maserati, Alfa Romeo, Auto Union and Lotus, and if McLaren had to race in orange.

Do we think that Mateschitz is going to regret having Vettel in the "other" team next season? Or does he only care about the brand on the car?

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by blameless - 26-09-2008 11:32

We'll never see Maserati or Alfa F1 cars again, as they're owned by the same folk (Fiat) who own Ferrari.

Lotus on the other hand are owned by Proton. If Malaysia ever decided it wants to do F1 really, really seriously, then we might see Lotuses out there once more - although the ban on tobacco sponsorship would mean no more black & gold JPS paint jobs, alas...

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 26-09-2008 13:07

blameless wrote:

although the ban on tobacco sponsorship would mean no more black & gold JPS paint jobs, alas...
Lotuses should be British Racing Green with a single yellow stripe. Sponsorship's when F1 jumped the shark.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 26-09-2008 13:10

And be driven by Jim Clark.

We can always dream.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by bewaldeth - 26-09-2008 13:36

I'm presuming they only play the anthem for the constructor, and not the engine manufacturer? Brabham ran (and won) with Alfa engines in the late 70s.....

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 26-09-2008 13:38

Indeed, Renault and Honda never got musical credit for all of those victories in the 90s.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 28-09-2008 12:38

Ferrari's lack of a lolly fucks them up again. That new system's just not working.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 28-09-2008 12:53

So why didn't Massa get a drive-through in Valencia when he did exactly the same thing?

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Bryantop - 28-09-2008 13:23

After Senna died they took loads of precautions to introduce plenty of space around the corners, gravel pits, increased cushioning, etc.

Now they are racing with concrete barriers. At night.

It's insanity.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 28-09-2008 13:31

It's considerably brighter than on an overcast day at Spa or Monza.

The problem is that they don't seem to have expected to have to remove cars from the circuit.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Guy Potger - 28-09-2008 13:53

Gangster Octopus wrote:

Ferrari's lack of a lolly fucks them up again. That new system's just not working.

How many places and points will the deduct from McLaren for that then?

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 28-09-2008 14:29

None.

Unless it turns out that they nicked those too . . .

A very worthy winner in Alonso, who was clearly the best on the grid over the course of the weekend.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by dotmund - 28-09-2008 18:51

Alonso was a very worthy winner, but the real victor today was karma. Now we can forget about all the silly circular wrangling regarding the Belgian Grand Prix, and get on with it.

I must confess I had a hearty chuckle when I realised that, had it not been for all of 2007's unpleasantness, the fuel hose in that garage would have belonged to McLaren. Ferrari, hoist by their own self-righteousness.

This said, I still fancy Massa could just sneak this year's title. Hamilton is starting to look a little bit ragged.

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Phoebe - 28-09-2008 18:58

I don't know - Rosberg could make a good case for that too, considering the unfortunate nature of his 10 second penalty.

"How many places and points will the deduct from McLaren for that then?"

I don't know, but Massa's penalty for it killed any hope he had of getting any points. Still, must remember it's McLaren and Hamilton they have it in for.

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by lopyy - 28-09-2008 21:35

Gangster Octopus wrote:

So why didn't Massa get a drive-through in Valencia when he did exactly the same thing?

Massa's Valencia pit stop was his second of the race and so in the final third of the race when the stewards tend to put their feet up, have a nice brew and watch the closing few laps, and defer any penalties till after the race, it's common policy, and they did the same thing at Spa with Hamilton. It appeared at Valencia they wanted to be fair without impacting the championship. Altho I did find it funny that a Ferrari gets a penalty when in 18th place that drops him to, er, 18th place when a fine might have been a far bigger punishment and gets a fine when he's winning a race! Still great race today, well deserved Alonso and Rosberg, Singapore looks a good addition to the calendar.

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Nishlord - 29-09-2008 08:24

Formula 1 looks far better at night. It looked a bit Ridge Racer. Put some UV lighting under the cars and it'll be even better.

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by hobbess - 29-09-2008 08:52

If you want cars streaking around a street circuit at night, with UV lights under them, just take a trip to Camberley, Nish.

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by hobbess - 29-09-2008 08:55

I don't know, but Massa's penalty for it killed any hope he had of getting any points. Still, must remember it's McLaren and Hamilton they have it in for.

Nope, his pulling out in front of another car in the pitlane and driving down it with the fuel rig still attached was what killed any hope of him getting points.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by gerontophile - 29-09-2008 09:39

Nishlord wrote:

Formula 1 looks far better at night. It looked a bit Ridge Racer. Put some UV lighting under the cars and it'd be even better.

Nish: that was the first thing I thought of.

Great race though, although, the straits (sic) could have been wider.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 29-10-2008 18:48

I'm going to ram the jumped-up little cunt off the road, rages Raikonen

Well he doesn't - obviously - but I wouldn't be at all surprised.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 01-11-2008 21:45

Massa first on the grid for the final race, Raikonen surprisingly drops down to third (behind Trulli!) so he can line up next to Hamilton.

Hamilton and Raikonen to take each other off at the first corner tomorrow and everyone will go home saying how it's "all part of racing".

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 02-11-2008 17:30

A soggy race. Excellent.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 02-11-2008 18:23

Sadly it's stopped raining.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by barndoorio - 02-11-2008 18:32

They now say it's about to start raining again.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Bryantop - 02-11-2008 18:48

That's what I call a grandstand finish!!!

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 02-11-2008 18:53

If Ferrari had won like that...

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by diggedy derek - 02-11-2008 18:55

I've been attempting to follow this via online stats, which is nigh on impossible. Can someone explain what the hell happened?

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by rick derris - 02-11-2008 18:57

hilarious. watching the entire ferrari squad jumping around with delight, only to be tapped on the shoulder
'er...hamilton has somehow got fifth spot back'

don't know a thing about F1, but sure ferarri are cunts

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Andy C - 02-11-2008 18:57

That was something.

Does anyone want to buy a Toyota? Mine's fifteen years old, but it's faster in a shower than Glock's.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Purves Grundy - 02-11-2008 19:05

Hamilton is as lucky as a dog with two dicks.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by diggedy derek - 02-11-2008 19:11

Glock's slowness- mysterious?

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by rick derris - 02-11-2008 19:17

McLaren CEO - or whoever he was

"hope everybody enjoyed it back in England and we made all of england proud"

wasn't that the union jack hamilton had wrapped around him? Right there the reason a lot of non english brits are a bit wary of embracing english sporting success

hope the glcok tortoise impression is declared dodgy

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by diggedy derek - 02-11-2008 19:32

Would you rather he went for a St George Cross?

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Pretend Best Friend - 02-11-2008 19:41

<http://i38.tinypic.com/34i1bnp.gif>

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by rick derris - 02-11-2008 19:46

Would you rather he went for a St George Cross?

not bothered, probably consistency

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by evilC - 02-11-2008 19:47

I wouldn't be in the least bit surprised if that slowness of Glock's is "investigated by the stewards" - a phrase that has become all-too-familiar this year.

McLaren said that they had GPS info that Glock was getting slower and slower, so it must have been incremental slowing, rather than sudden. On the other hand, if it is dodgy, then it could only be proven really, if there had been team orders. If Glock wanted to slow down independently of anything else, then there's little way to prove he did so maliciously. I'm sure Ferrari will challenge it and ask the stewards to inspect Glock's telemetry/onboard PC data, just in case he did simply slam on the brakes. If, however, the indicated lateral G-forces diminished gradually, then that means he just had little grip.

Personally, I still can't believe it and probably won't for another week yet.

I was sure McLaren (not so much Hamilton) were going to blow it. Their recent history is full of disastrous decisions and when they brought Hamilton in for wets near the end, I thought they'd blown it yet again. Personally, I would have kept Hamilto out and gambled on it. If that's what slowed down Glock (who did just that) then McLaren actually made the right decision and I bow to their knowledge.

I'm knackered - I actually thought I was going to have a heart attack on that final lap!

The Massa/Hamilton waltz will continue for many years yet, I can assure you. In fact, I wouldn't be in the least bit surprised if Ferrari make a huge bid for Hamilton in the next two years. (Just like they did when they realised Schumacher was such a weapon.) I expect the asking price (if there is one) will be somewhere over £50million, somehow.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by The_Liquidator - 02-11-2008 20:27

Aren't you a Welsh nationalist derris? Why on earth would you care what an Englishman does with a union jack?

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by rick derris - 02-11-2008 20:38

sure. massive.

lot of gnashing of teeth in rome liq?

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 02-11-2008 20:40

Nice to know that many of you are consistent in your tin hat theorizing.

Trulli (Glock's Toyota teammate) also stayed on slicks, and also lost 20 seconds on the last lap; they had identical times within a tenth of a second.

Congratulations to Hamilton; it was a great season with a genuinely mad finale.

Now let's hope that Mosley doesn't ruin it with his single engine nonsense.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Mumpo - 02-11-2008 21:24

That has to be the most utterly absurd, insane, and brilliant five or six minutes of sport I have ever witnessed.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ad hoc - 03-11-2008 07:27

Hamilton comes across as a bit of a dick whereas Massa comes across as a really nice bloke. It's a testament then to the power of Ferrari's scummy then that I am very happy that Hamilton won.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-11-2008 07:44

My sense is that Hamilton has suffered from having too many "handlers", "consultants" and "advisors" surround him at a very young age, but Massa was very impressively gracious in defeat.

And full marks to Papa Hamilton for going to the Ferarri pit after the race; he is getting a lot of credit here for a class gesture.

If it rained every race, Vettel would break all of Schumacher's records. The kid is a force of nature in the wet.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by G.Man wants a hyphen - 03-11-2008 07:56

Yeah, Massa was tremendously gracious in defeat. I couldn't give a toss before, but I have a new favourite driver. Not that I'm, much a a racing fan.

Hamilton seems OK to me as well.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Nishlord - 03-11-2008 08:13

Shitting hell, a black F1 champion and a black President? I predict a black member of the Wurzels by Thursday.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by bewaldeth - 03-11-2008 09:31

Chuffed as I am that Hamilton won, I had to feel a bit for Massa - that was possibly the only chance he'll have to fight for a world title, if Kimi gets his shit together next season then Massa will be relegated to the support driver role again.

Wet/dry races should be compulsory - fuck all the impenetrable technology changes, just get some sprinklers installed at every track.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by evilC - 03-11-2008 09:39

ursus arctos wrote:

My sense is that Hamilton has suffered from having too many "handlers", "consultants" and "advisors" surround him at a very young age, but Massa was very impressively gracious in defeat.

And full marks to Papa Hamilton for going to the Ferarri pit after the race; he is getting a lot of credit here for a class gesture.

If it rained every race, Vettel would break all of Schumacher's records. The kid is a force of nature in the wet.

Agreed, on all of that.

Ad Hoc - I don't think that Hamilton is so much a 'dick' as simply has very little personality! You sometimes get this with people whose whole lifestyle is quite separated from 'the real world'.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: I'd rather see a slightly volatile 'character' - like James Hunt - any day of the week, rather than the bland driving machines like Hamilton, Loeb or Mansell.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by evilC - 03-11-2008 09:43

Oh, and although I'm very happy for Hamilton, I've just become so disillusioned with F1 over these last two years that it's really taken the sheen off it all for me. If this had happened when I was 20, I would have been jumping all around the living room. Now, I'm just waiting for the next stewards' inquiry or Ferrari appeal every time something goes right for Hamilton.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by evilC - 03-11-2008 10:13

bewaldeth wrote:

Wet/dry races should be compulsory - fuck all the impenetrable technology changes, just get some sprinklers installed at every track.

I actually bemoan the fact they've taken Canada (Ile de Notre Dame) off the calendar next year, for this very reason. It used to be criticised for the changeable weather, but in the last season or two, people have finally come around to how good it was to have such a test in the season somewhere.

I'm all for having GPs in all seasonal conditions and not just have the F1 circus follow the Summer around the globe, as it currently does.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-11-2008 10:27

Indeed, Montreal is a real loss to the calendar, and the idea that we are going to have multiple races on identikit tracks in the desert is yet another reason to be depressed about the future of the sport.

One of the revelations of the weekend for me was that Raikkonen identified James Hunt as his childhood hero. I guess Kimi's idea of hero worship is to conduct one's life in a diametrically opposed fashion . . .

It was also really unfortunate for Coulthard to get shunted out at the second corner; I've never been a big fan of his, but he deserved better than that.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by evilC - 03-11-2008 10:53

ursus arctos wrote:

One of the revelations of the weekend for me was that Raikkonen identified James Hunt as his childhood hero. I guess Kimi's idea of hero worship is to conduct one's life in a diametrically opposed fashion . . .

It was also really unfortunate for Coulthard to get shunted out at the second corner; I've never been a big fan of his, but he deserved better than that.

Isn't it Raikkonen who goes out and gets pissed on vodka all the time, when back in Finland and not on F1 duty, though? Or was that Hakkinen?

I never liked Coulthard at first, either. Again, he seemed a bit bland. But over the years, it's become clear what a class act he really is. I doubt he'll end up in commentary, so I hope he goes into F1 management (in some way) - I think he'll be excellent at that.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-11-2008 11:04

That was Hakkinen (as far as I know). Raikkonen lives in Switzerland.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Ball Comrade - 03-11-2008 11:20

Häkkinen has just been through a messy divorce, and is living in a 'bachelor pad' (seemingly surrounded by tabloid photographers) in Helsinki. His life might well turn into a much wealthier, and therefore duller, version of Matti Nykänen's post ski-jumping career.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by bewaldeth - 03-11-2008 11:22

No, Kimi had the infamous incident when he was found pissed to the point of unconsciousness, clutching an inflatable dolphin - story here.

It's just a shame he chooses to be so disinterested in presenting any sort of human face in press conferences.

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-11-2008 11:26

Interesting, that story never made it into the papers down here.

Must be another Ferrari conspiracy . . .

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by evilC - 03-11-2008 11:31

Ball Comrade wrote:

Häkkinen has just been through a messy divorce, and is living in a 'bachelor pad' (seemingly surrounded by tabloid photographers) in Helsinki. His life might well turn into a much wealthier, and therefore duller, version of Matti Nykänen's post ski-jumping career.

Shame about the divorce.

Btw - in a previous job, I had a boss who was from out Woking way. One day he was at a party somewhere in the area (this was about '99, I think) and met a bloke who was a McLaren race engineer - possibly Hakkinen's own dedicated engineer. My boss asked him what Hakkinen was like. The engineer bloke replied that he was an utter nightmare! He said that Coulthard would come in from a test lap and give loads of feedback - "we need a half turn of front wing, tiny bit of extra camber" etc, etc. But when Hakkinen would come in, the engineers could say "Well, Mika - what was it like? What needs changing?" and he'd just shrug and go "I dunno"! So getting info out of him was like getting blood from a stone, quite often. He said that most of the team ended up with the impression that Hakkinen was actually just a bit thick!

Given this supposed first-hand account, I was surprised a few months later when someone on telly was saying the opposite - that Hakkinen was one of the more intelligent and knowledgeable drivers in the sport. Perhaps someone somewhere in McLaren was having a bit of an in-joke at Hakkinen's expense?

=====

Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by barndoorio - 03-11-2008 11:37

Or you met a pissed bloke at a party pretending to work for McLaren.

I once pretended to be a penguin keeper at London Zoo and it really impressed this girl, though she then wouldn't leave me alone. My mate was claiming to be the lion keeper.

Actually this might just mean that Watford girls are easy, imagine that.

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Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by evilC - 03-11-2008 11:38

bewaldeth wrote:

No, Kimi had the infamous incident when he was found pissed to the point of unconsciousness, clutching an inflatable dolphin - story here.

Y'see - now, that's what I'm talking about. My respect for Raikkonen has just gone up immensely! Hockey 4 times a week? Wow! Nutter!

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Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by evilC - 03-11-2008 11:40

barndoorio wrote:

Or you met....

My boss did, you mean.

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Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 03-11-2008 12:59

ursus arctos wrote:

It was also really unfortunate for Coulthard to get shunted out at the second corner; I've never been a big fan of his, but he deserved better than that.

Oh, I don't know. The sense of futility and disappointment seemed to sum up his career...

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Re:F1 - 2008

Posted by blameless - 03-11-2008 13:48

I feel sorry for Coulthard, and not necessarily because he's a compatriot either - it all goes back to the 1997 European Grand Prix, when both DC and Hakkinen were racing for McLaren.

It may seem odd to recall now that Hakkinen is a long-retired double champion, but for the first six seasons of his career he quite simply couldn't buy a GP win despite his obvious talent. Then, in the 1997 Euro GP, the two leading drivers of the day (Schumacher and Villeneuve) collided and went off, and McLaren found themselves unexpectedly first and second with just a few laps left.

Coulthard drove better on the day, and was in first place right up until a few corners from the end, when he unexpectedly pulled over to let Hakkinen through - it was later revealed that McLaren had ordered him to do this so that Hakkinen could finally get his first win (Coulthard already had a couple of wins by this point).

Getting the "first win" monkey off his back transformed Hakkinen, and as McLaren had the runaway best car in 1998 and 1999, he was able to win back-to-back titles. Despite McLaren's claims that Hakkinen and Coulthard had equal status, Coulthard's cars always suffered from more mechanical problems, and once Hakkinen opened up a bit of a lead in the World Championship, the team always threw everything into Hakkinen's cause and relegated Coulthard to an

afterthought.

Don't get me wrong - Hakkinen was an excellent driver, and a better one than Coulthard. But who knows what would have happened if he hadn't been gifted that race in 1997?

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