



## Sidepodchat – Of randomness, nicknames and reliability

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Steven: Although we all meet at Sidepodcast to discuss and watch motor racing, many of the commenters have their own blogs. So we thought it might be interesting to give them the opportunity to talk about blogging and plug their blog on Sidepodradio. The questions are designed to give the bloggers a framework to discuss their blog, and I'm quite happy for them not to stick rigidly to the questions when answering, but to give us information they think is important. This show's about the bloggers, so the less I say, the better.

Steven: What is your name and your blog's name?

James: I'm James and my blog is F1Loonie.wordpress.com.

Steven: When and why did you start blogging?

James: I started blogging towards the end of June this year. The idea of the blog came about after I was talked into doing it by people on Sidepodcast. A group there, it was their idea. It was people's idea for me to do a blog, it was thought to be a good thing even though I tried to point out I had nothing to say. And the name of the blog came about from Max Mosley's comments about the FOTA teams being loonies. After that, it just seemed good because I happen to be a bit of a looney sometimes, so it seemed to work.

Steven: How would you describe your blog?

James: I'd describe my blog as being something completely random. There's no coherence to it, it doesn't follow any pattern. There's no set post, I don't do a series or anything. It's just random thoughts that come into my head and I think, yea, that's a good idea, I'll blog that. And I do.

Steven: Question four, how often do you update your blog?

James: I update my blog whenever I feel like, or whenever I remember it exists. There was a little gap, a month between two posts. That's because I forgot the blog existed, or didn't have anything to say. But when I do blog, I have a tendency to do at least two or three posts in a few days, sort of just to make up for forgetting the blog existed in the first place.

Steven: How do you go about starting an article for your blog and how do you work from there?

James: I often have an idea in my head and it goes from there. There's an article about the German Grand Prix, my thoughts on that, and that's the only Grand Prix of the season I've given my thoughts on. I haven't bothered to do the other grands prix, it's just at the time I felt like doing that and that's what I did. There's also posts on stats, and that was from the FIA media pack that they release. It shows the number of laps everyone has completed and I thought it would be nice to show that off to a wider audience, because I don't think everyone looks at the pack and it's interesting information to see who actually manages to finish the race, and who has the best reliability over the course of a season.

Steven: Why should I, or anyone else, read your blog?



James: People should read my blog because it's different, it's random, there's no idea to it, it's just random ideas. I don't know what the idea of the blog was, so it's just... you know, to read someone's opinion on what they think F1's about, what they think is going on in F1, that sort of thing. I really have no idea. At this point, I just sort of ramble an answer and hope for the best.

Steven: Question seven, what have you learned about the sport from blogging, or how has it changed the way you watch F1?

James: During my time blogging, I haven't really learnt anything from the blogging because I don't do it that often. But it has changed the way I watch F1, because of a number of other blogs I read at the same time. I get other people's opinions, also there was the time I didn't have the internet for the Hungary Grand Prix, where, of course, live timing failed in qualifying, and Felipe Massa's accident which I really wanted news on because I wanted to know he was okay. I did a post on that, it was different because I never... I probably have done a grand prix weekend without the internet, but it's been so long since I did it, it was like I come take for granted having live timing, being able to interact with other people, particularly on Sidepodcast, seeing what other people think about certain events that are happening in the race. It's just something you take for granted, I guess.

Steven: How do you encourage people to comment on your blog?

James: I don't really encourage people as much. I make a post and I plug it and try and get people to read it. Because I want people to know what I'm thinking, I want it to be known that I think something sort of interesting, and generally just get my thoughts out there. A blog's a good way of doing that, you can get your thoughts out, people can go and look at it. It's better than say, just making a comment on Sidepodcast, because there are hundreds of comments on there, even in the daily thread. Your opinion may get lost in the shuffle because there are so many other people saying different or the same things. With a blog, you can do your own thing.

Steven: What would your dream blog post be?

James: My dream blog post would have to be, I guess, something that makes more famous because I've come up with some brilliant story or I've said something amazing and it's actually come true. I know, for example, the controversy with Massa in Singapore. The fact that I had a post about it being Piquet's idea - if that came true, I'd love it to be true, in a way, just so I can say, I thought of that. I knew this was happening, I even made a post about it, I've got proof that I came up with this. I knew it was going on before anyone else did. It probably won't happen but it'd be nice for it to happen like that.

Steven: What advice would you give anyone thinking about starting a blog, or anyone who wasn't?

James: The advice I'd give is just do it, because it's a good way of, like I said earlier, getting your opinion known to everyone, to other people. And it's there for people that listen to this, and outside of Sidepodcast, people on the internet, they'll come looking at your blog randomly. They'll find it by searching something on Google or even any other search engine. It's just a way of getting your opinion out, and other people can know that you think a certain thing that may be different to what they think. Bdcuse



there are people out there who do like to read other people's opinions and find out the other point of view. So essentially yea, just do it.