



## Sidepodchat – Of journalism, youth and Glock

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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?

Ryan: Hi, I'm RG, I'm the current writer of The Northern Waffler. You can find it at [TheNorthernWaffler.blogspot.com](http://TheNorthernWaffler.blogspot.com).

Steven: When and why did you start blogging?

Ryan: I started blogging, it was back in January 2009. I only started it because New Year Resolution. I remember a New Year's Resolution post on Sidepodcast and I decided for a New Year's Resolution I would create a blog. The first entry was the 1st January with the title 'Oh god, I've created a blog'. That's my first post, it's not great. I try to be regular with the comments, posts. I started blogging mainly because I want to become a journalist, don't mind what kind of journalist I want to be. I want to be a journalist in sport mainly, hopefully. I don't really care F1 or football, table tennis, ice hockey, it's all good for me. I've listened to journalists and started doing a basketball project from the media side. Journalist from the local paper said the best way to start young is to get a blog, and that's one of the main reasons why I've got it.

Steven: How would you describe your blog?

Ryan: I'd describe my blog as a little bit of everything. I mainly focus on F1 but my old title used to be The F1 Waffler but I felt like I could do more than that, so that's what I've done. Although I've got a lot of F1 stuff, I've also got Eurovision Song Contest, I have football, I've got a Tottenham Hotspur post up. I've even got some rambling posts up where I talk about absolutely nothing. I've got lots of pictures. I've got some from the touring cars, and from the speedway grand prix that I went to in June in Cardiff. That was a lot of fun. Yea, it's really just mix and match.

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

Ryan: My blog is very inconsistent in terms of posting. I only post on max between about five and seven times a month. Sometimes I post less, July I only posted once. I'm not a frequent blogger. I mean, other things at the minute are keeping us occupied, homework, I've got lots of revision to do and I can only blog when I can blog. I love doing it, I like writing about subjects I'm passionate about but other things do get in the way. If you can release a good article every couple of weeks, I think that's the most important thing.

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



Ryan: When I go starting an article, sometimes it's very different. I try and think of an idea that I've read somewhere. Let's say it's about Paul di Resta, and that'll start it because, the weekend beforehand the commentators were talking about people who should be in F1 but they weren't Paul di Resta fans, and people like that. I don't plan it, I'll be honest with you, I don't plan it. I just start to write.

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

Ryan: I don't think you should be forced to read the blog, if I'm honest. I'm not fussed. If you want a view from someone who enjoys to write, someone who enjoys the sport, enjoys lots of sport even.

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

Ryan: I found out motorsport and blogging is very harsh. I learnt about Liuzzi and Toro Rosso, other than that, Liuzzi didn't get a fair chance there. Piquet, I've said. I've learnt that Briatore, now is thank god he's gone, is awful to him. Absolutely awful.

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

Ryan: I wouldn't, I don't like to encourage people. I don't say 'please leave a comment' or 'if you're sharing your views' or 'if you'd like to say anything different to the normal'. I don't like to say that normally, I like to be honest. I post naturally, I don't want to force the reader to comment but when I do get comments, I love it. I read every comment, I like to reply to every comment. If I don't get to your comment it's basically because I haven't seen it. Comments, I'm proud of them, it shows I love comments. I really do. They make us proud when I see 'Good post, RG' etc, etc. It makes me feel happy, it makes me glad I wrote it, you know. And I thank the people at Sidepodcast for that.

Steven: What would your dream blog post be?

Ryan: Dream blog post. [Laughs] Well, I don't think it will come for a few years, if I'm honest but "How Timo won the World Championship." The highest, I accept, but that's the nature of me. I get biased on my favourite team, I could be here all day long if you wanted us to.

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

Ryan: Don't put pressure on yourself to post daily. I've tried that on other blogs, it's hard to do straight off. I really found it hard if you don't have the commitment. I struggle to find, then you're gonna struggle and you're not gonna do well. And unfortunately, you forget about your blog and not be bothered and just walk away from it, and it'd be a real shame if your opening few posts have been really good. You don't have to be regular in your first few updates, you don't even have to be regular all the time, you don't even have to be regular, it could be now and nine months' down the line, instead of posting every week, every other week, every two weeks, four weeks, etc. You might fancy starting a blog because you might one day down the line find that you're going for a job that requires you to write a lot and you'll find it'll be a good experience I suppose. I think. I hope, anyway.

Steven: And final question: Is there anything else you want to add?



Ryan: Yea, I'd like to add thanks to everybody that's commented really. I really do appreciate every comment and a lot of the people from Sidepodcast comment on the blog. I know Steven's commented on the blog, Rich is a very frequent commentor on my blog, I know that much. People from Pitlane Fanatic posted, PitMonster did once. Maverick's posted, Journeyer's posted, PitMonster's posted. Thank you. Second point: [unclear] underrated. And third point: Go Timo! The blog again: [TheNorthernWaffler.blogspot.com](http://TheNorthernWaffler.blogspot.com). Or if you want the Liuzzi Appreciation Society, it's [LiuzziAppreciationSociety \(all one word\).wordpress.com](http://LiuzziAppreciationSociety(alloneword).wordpress.com).