



Episode 11 (Part 1) – Australia Qualifying

[Intro: Rich Reich, Keeping Up With the Race]

Chris: This is Sidepodcast, Episode 11 (Part 1) – Australia Qualifying.

Me: I've got a confession to make.

Chris: Really?

Me: Did you watch qualifying?

Chris: Of course.

Me: Did you enjoy it?

Chris: Yep.

Me: Did you see the Renaults?

Chris: Yes.

Me: I quite like the colour.

Chris: What?

Me: You know, with the camera above the head. It looked like a retro, like 1970s Renault or something. It actually worked for me. You know all my complaints...

Chris: So let me get this straight, after weeks and weeks of saying it looked like someone had thrown an egg at it...

Me: Several eggs.

Chris: Several eggs. Now you're saying you like it.

Me: I'm saying it works on TV.

Chris: Okay, you are not allowed opinion again.

Me: I'm very sorry, I take it all back, although I do think they've done something with the blue. The blue looks less blue to me, as if it's more black.

Chris: No excuses. You just changed our mind, didn't you?

Me: Okay. I still hate the Honda. That Earth thing is horrible.



[Sweeper]

Chris: So how was Free Practice?

Me: Uh, limited to watching numbers scroll by, because ITV doesn't provide Free Practice.

Chris: They are pretty numbers though.

Me: They are pretty colours, they're purple and green and yellow.

Chris: Did you learn anything?

Me: Lots, actually, yes.

Chris: It was a bit wet, wasn't it?

Me: Yea, it was, ironically Honda did quite well in the wet. It started off with a damp track, dry line appeared, they went backwards, everybody else went forwards.

Chris: Good in the wet then.

Me: Yes, atrocious in every other condition though. Super Aguri did well, and it was interesting to see so many cars out and about all running, because last year Friday testing was quite limited, they've changed the rules this year and it seems to work out quite well. It was quite an enjoyable little watch.

Chris: Made it more interesting. It would have been good if it had been on telly though, because this year it's in widescreen.

Me: Formula 1's gone all modern. It does mean we need to buy a new TV though. Looks a bit silly on ours. ITV decided to show qualifying, which is good of them. We should be grateful for that, I suppose. They didn't spend a dime on titles, by the looks of it.

Chris: Oh come on, they inserted new bits for Hamilton and Davidson. Fleshed it out a bit.

Me: My bet is ITV have got some lackey, some kid on work experience, turns up for the day, says what do you want us to do. They said we've got to fit some new British drivers into our title and Alonso's new haircut. So that was his job for the day, no experience necessary. Probably about £50 spent on it, same Moby theme tune, can't be arsed.

Chris: Same over-used theme tune.

Me: Rubbish. So they clearly don't give a damn about Formula 1. Anyway, I tell you what I did notice on the TV thing, though, you know we were discussing in a previous podcast what happens when Michael Schumacher goes whether Ralf becomes the only Schumacher.

Chris: Oh yea. Whether he continues to be R Schumacher.

Me: Yea, they seem to have found an interesting way of getting round it. Everybody is now initial dot surname, for no reason, so it's F. Alonso.



Chris: So they have a reason for putting R Schumacher, so that no one confuses him. They've changed the whole entire pack.

Me: The whole naming convention of Formula 1 on television.

Chris: Just so that no one confuses Ralf with Michael. It's nice to know he still has power, even though he's not here.

Me: He showed up in an advert, didn't he?

Chris: Yea, in the middle. Can't get rid of him.

Me: I knew he would be there somewhere. He turn up to be in Australia, so he's on ITV on the adverts. Anyway, on with the qualifying.

[Sweeper]

Chris: First fifteen minutes was sunny but windy.

Me: Yea, Barrichello was out early, he didn't make the cut. What else happened?

Chris: Webber beat Coulthard.

Me: Yea, Coulthard didn't do very well at all, did he?

Chris: That was very embarrassing.

Me: Mr Newey's new car, not going to be impressed with that. He's not good at qualifying, is he, that man? Bless him.

Chris: Davidson was really good, he got up into 7th, I think, something like that. That was very cool. And Hamilton beat Alonso.

Me: He did, he had the jump on him, that was quite impressive.

Chris: It's very impressive.

Me: Trulli started off well.

Chris: Until he went off down the pitlane with the whole garage hanging on his tail.

Me: I heard in Free Practice that Alonso whacked his head on the monitor when he got in the car.

Chris: That's not a good start, is it?

Me: But he didn't go off with half the garage hanging behind him.

Chris: And everyone was waving at Trulli, like stop, stop, and he just kept on going, like trundling away. Did he not notice that there were sparks flying out the back?



Me: He obviously wasn't paying attention.

Chris: He's lucky it fell off when it did, really.

Me: Yea, and lucky, I guess the person behind could see it happen, but lucky they weren't too close.

Chris: Well they could see everyone waving, so they knew something was going on.

Me: Didn't he get a bit of a fine for that?

Chris: He got fined 2000 Euros. Ralf didn't have a good time, did he?

Me: He got stuck in gear or something happened, he went really slowly.

Chris: He was going really slowly and they were waving white flags around.

Me: He was in a dangerous position most of the way round, and Massa, he's not happy, is he? Was it his fault? I think it was his fault.

Chris: It's hard to say, but they showed a shot of him at the end and he was looking quite annoyed watching Raikkonen sail past.

Me: It's ironic that Raikkonen's been called the car-breaker and then Massa bounces over the kerbs and trashes his gearbox.

Chris: Hamilton beat Alonso again in the second qualifying. And Davidson was really, really god, really fast. He came 11th.

Me: Is he your favourite?

Chris: Well, you know, just because, you know, Jenson's not quite so good, and to be honest, he's so depressing. Jenson's always been a bit dull and every time he got something, he was like yea it was good but we could do better. It wasn't great, there was understeer everywhere, blah de blah.

Me: Bit of wind.

Chris: Yea, exactly. But you just kind of live with that because he's so pretty, but now I'm like whatever.

Me: Just because you met Davidson at Autosport and you were this close to him.

Chris: Yea, but he's not pretty, he looks like a 13 year old boy. I just like him because he's doing better.

Me: Okay, so we're supporting the Super Aguri's now?

Chris: Absolutely.

Me: Okay. Can somebody tell me how last year's car managed to beat this year's Honda, even though it was designed for Michelin tyres?



Chris: And they're on Bridgestone's now.

Me: That is quite some achievement. It almost makes a mockery of everybody's work over the winter, you know, trying to get their car to work better with new tyres, when the old car probably would have been better in the long run.

Chris: Yea, but then again, Honda spent all that time and money trying to make their car go faster and took a step backward.

Me: Then they gave it to Super Aguri and they just made it work. Sato did well.

Chris: He did really well. The first time Super Aguri have been in the third session.

Me: Yes, he did come bottom of the third session.

Chris: Yea, but still.

Me: Very impressive. What else happened in the third session?

Chris: Do you know what? Hamilton almost beat Alonso again.

Me: Really?

Chris: But then he didn't.

Me: It was close.

Chris: It was close, and the commentators really had a field day. Like, oh my god, Hamilton is the best ever, he nearly beat the two time world champion.

Me: Well, he's British

Chris: Yes, he's British and it's very impressive but get over it. Hamilton himself was like yea, it was good but I've been preparing for it for a while, so I'm cool. James Allen was all like: Ahhhhhhhh, it's so great.

Me: Alonso did seem to be struggling through a good part of this qualifying, generally, even right at the early stages. He was always tweaking his car, trying out new things, he came in for new tyres when nobody else did, but he got it done in the end, didn't he?

Chris: Yea, exactly.

Me: He wasn't ever going to beat Raikkonen who was astonishing. That man was awesome, and would probably have beaten Massa had Massa got through. But Alonso got there in the end, just in the nick of time.

Chris: And Heidfeld, where did he come from? I didn't notice him at all the whole time, and ooh there he was. In third.

Me: They were always going to be close, they were good on Friday, and Saturday morning, and they just managed to get it right at the right time.



Chris: I'm a bit annoyed because he doesn't look quite so Yeti-like now. He's had a bit of a shave, so we need to come up with a new nickname.

Me: Okay, we'll think of something.

[Sweeper]

Me: The season is well and truly back then.

Chris: Absolutely, I'm really looking forward to the race.

Me: We're going to be doing another podcast tomorrow, the second one of the week.

Chris: But before that, I'll be live blogging during the race. I'm staying up late.

Me: Is that a promise?

Chris: Yes. I promise.

Me: I'll keep an eye out for that. Anything else we've been doing during the week?

Chris: I think we made a video.

Me: You're on TV, sort of.

Chris: Yea, if you wanna see my ugly mug, where is it, on YouTube?

Me: It's YouTube.com/Sidepodcast.

Chris: But there's a link on the homepage, of course.

Me: I don't want to give people the wrong idea, but it's you on the beach.

Chris: Yea, no bikinis though, eh?

Me: I might be overselling it, though. And we've got a Promo to play you, it's a NASCAR promo.

Chris: Yea, NASCAR fan.

Me: From Corey at Stockcarzone.

Chris: Yea, we'll let him tell you.

Me: Catch you tomorrow.

[Stockcarzone.com Promo: "Hey race fans, America's number one motorsport is available like never before. It's the Stockcarzone, the podcast for race fans with me, your crew chief, Corey Costelloe. Each week I'll take you inside my garage for all things stock car racing. From NASCAR Nextel Cup, Bush Series, Craftsman Truck, if it's NASCAR, you'll



find it in the zone. You can even get involved by calling our pitstop line at 1-866-917-RACE. So check it out, Stockcarzone, the podcast for race fans, available weekly at Stockcarzone.com]

[Out: Rich Reich, Keeping Up With The Race]

sidepodcast.com
YOUR WEEKLY F1 FIX