



Episode 44 – Sidepoddie Awards

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

Chris: Welcome to Sidepodcast, this is Episode 44 – Sidepoddie Awards. Hello everyone, welcome to the last show for 2007.

Me: Ah, does that mean we're taking a break?

Chris: Um, no, not really. We did have a season review show planned but that's going to merge with some shows early in January. And, we were going to do a news show this week, but quite frankly, I can't face having to say anything else about McLaren.

Me: And I don't blame you, but there's plenty to talk about on that subject, but, next year.

Chris: Technically you do get a couple of weeks off, what with it being Christmas and all, but it's not really a winter break. We're gonna be sitting back, taking stock of what we've accomplished this year and what we intend to do next year. We'll still be blogging and all that stuff.

Me: That doesn't sound much like a holiday, and that sounds very uh, overblown, and over the top. Have you been reading some Hollywood scripts recently?

Chris: Really, all we're gonna do is let the weekly audio show show take a break while we fix all the things that we've been saying we'll do all year and never getting round to.

Me: Why didn't you just say so in the first place?

Chris: Anyway, it's time to get on with the show.

Me: Ooh, shall I crack open the Red Bull for one last time?

Chris: Please do, yes.

[Sound FX: Can opening.]

Chris: Was that it?

Me: Yea, it's a little can but it's full of wonderful goodness.

Chris: Are we sponsored by Red Bull?

Me: No, I'm just addicted. Carry on.

Chris: Any self respecting organization has to have an awards ceremony, and Sidepodcast is no different. The Sidepoddie awards are about the year gone by, highlighting the winners, and laughing at the losers. We're not just talking about Formula 1, though, we're also taking a look at how we coped with the podcast phenomenon



throughout the year. And a good place to start is with our first award – Best start of the year. Our first nomination, that would be myself. It's slightly embarrassing to look back on.

Me: Oh, but I wanna hear it. Play the clip.

[Audio Clip]

Chris: Tune in to Sidepodcast.com, your weekly F1 fix. Join me Christine, as I guide you through all the happenings in the fast paced world of Formula 1.

[End Audio Clip]

Chris: You might say I've gained in confidence just a tiny bit. You on the other hand, sound exactly the same.

Me: Do I?

[Audio Clip]

Me: What was all that about? Tell me what happened there. Firstly, he makes an absolute mess of the racetrack by totaling his car into the wall, and there's shards of carbon fibre everywhere. Who the hell's gonna clean that up?

[End Audio Clip]

Chris: As geeky as ever.

Me: Not changed a bit.

Chris: Another nomination for Best Start must be all my many, many intros.

Me: I'm a fan of those, how do they go again?

[Audio Clip - Montage]

Chris: Welcome to Sidepodcast. Welcome to Sidepodcast, Episode 28. This is Sidepodcast, Episode... Hello and welcome to Sidepodcast, Episode 3. This is Sidepodcast, Episode 22 (Part 1) – USA Qualifying. ...Sidepodcast, Episode 25 – Britain GP Special. Welcome to Sidepodcast, Episode 39 – Beginning of the End.

[End Audio Clip]

Chris: The final nominee in the running for the best start of the year is Lewis Hamilton, for his rather spectacular debut start in Australia. Never seen anyone quite so aggressive right off the grid.

Me: So, let me get this straight, the nominees for the first category are you, me, you again, and Lewis Hamilton?

Chris: Absolutely.

Me: We keep good company.

Chris: And the winner is... Lewis Hamilton.



[Sound FX: Clapping.]

Chris: Unfortunately, he can't be here to accept his award, but I imagine he would say: I'd like to thank Ron for the opportunity, my Dad for travelling with me everywhere, my brother for being my inspiration, the team for being wonderful, Alonso for spurring me on to do better, my pet cat, my goldfish...

Me: [Yawns] It's gonna be a long show, isn't it?

[Sweeper]

Chris: Our second award is for Best Accent.

Me: That has to be an award that's unique to Sidepodcast.

Chris: We like to think of new and different things.

Me: Best accent? Who are the nominees then?

Chris: Well, there was that time that I tried to do a French accent.

[Audio Clip]

Chris: [French accent] Zer were a lot of rumours, but... [Normal] What? It's French. Come on, French accent.

Me: Could you not? Just for me.

Chris: Fine.

[End Audio Clip]

Chris: Other accents in the running are Kimi's unintelligible Finnish mumbling, David Coulthard's Scottish twang, and Mark Blundell's cockney banter. And the winner is... Mark Blundell.

[Sound FX: Clapping.]

Chris: Unfortunately, Mark's not here to accept his award but I think he'd probably say: Fanks very much, darling.

Me: Brilliant.

[Sweeper]

Chris: Okay, our next award is Screw Up of the Year.

Me: Oh, we are ripping through them today.

Chris: We're not talking people here, we're talking events. The nominees are: McLaren's Hungarian qualifying.

[Audio Clip]



Jason: *[Skype Call]* Hi, this is Jason from Wakefield, UK. Just thought I'd give my comments on the mess this weekend with Alonso and Hamilton. I think probably both drivers have been at fault this weekend. The stewards were probably right to dock Alonso those five places.

[End Audio Clip]

Chris: The FIA's bungling release of hearing transcripts.

[Audio Clip]

Chris: The FIA hearing transcripts were released, and they had lots of juicy information in them. Perhaps a little bit too much.

Me: You reckon?

Chris: Because they gave the documents to the teams first, so they could blank out any information they didn't want the general public to see, but then when they released the information to everybody, you could still find out the secret stuff.

Me: You could copy and paste it and then just see everything that was in it.

[End Audio Clip]

Chris: The Fuji Grand Prix.

[Audio Clip]

Me: I got up at 4 o'clock in the morning to watch 22 cars drive for 19 laps at half speed in single file.

Chris: You were definitely grumpy.

Me: I was absolutely miserable, I make no bones about that. It was rubbish.

Chris: I think it's fair to say that we weren't upset at the rest of the race, that was really good, really exciting, but it was just those twenty laps, rubbish.

[End Audio Clip]

Chris: And Goodwood's rubbish handling of Lewis Hamilton.

[Audio Clip]

Me: The people turned into maniacs, there was pushing and shoving, and elbowing. The stewards were trying to hold people back and they were just getting flattened by these people who were just barging their way through. I've never seen anything like it, really. It was like Beckham was in the place, it was that kind of craziness, you know?

[End Audio Clip]



Me: Is it a coincidence that you're just picking nominees for clips that we happen to have lying around.

Chris: Shh. And the winner is... Goodwood.

[Sound FX: Clapping.]

Chris: Unfortunately Lord March isn't here to accept his award, but I bet he would say: Uh, thank you ever so, apologies and all that, tally ho!

Me: Oh, the stereotypes hurt.

Chris: It actually hurts.

[Sweeper]

Chris: Our fourth award is for Best F1 Insight. I don't mean the Martin Brundle thing on ITV that is only brought out when they think people are watching. I'm talking about the person who is honest enough to tell us what's really going on. The nominees are ITV's Ted Kravitz.

[Ted News Jingle]

Chris: Flavio Briatore.

[Flav News Jingle]

Chris: Um seriously, stop with the news jingles. I don't like it anymore.

Me: Oh. Okay.

Chris: Pat Symonds on the Renault F1 podcast.

[Audio Clip]

Pat: In conjunction with the FIA, I think we've looked at all sorts of things. Obviously, long life components, reduction in overheads and the number of people travelling to races, all this sort of thing. We've even looked at should we regulate the process back at the factory. We've looked at should we regulate the amount of time spent in wind tunnels.

[End Audio Clip]

Chris: And you.

Me: And me?

Chris: You always think outside the box and come up with things I wouldn't have even contemplated. Sometimes I think you're reading too much into things but then half the time you're right. And the winner is... Ted Kravitz.

[Sound FX: Clapping.]



Chris: Ted's not with us to accept this award, but if he was, he'd probably say something about tyre pressures or front wings.

Me: Ambient temperature, all that kind of stuff.

Chris: We've come to the halfway point of the show. After this short break, we'll be awarding the Worst F1 Insight, and the much coveted Rookie of the Year Award. Stay tuned.

[Jingle: F1 Minute.]

Chris: Welcome back. Only a few more awards to go now, our next category is argument of the year. The nominees are: Fernando Alonso for his argument with Massa after the European Grand Prix, Fernando Alonso for the argy bargy with Hamilton after Hungary, Fernando Alonso for his "discussions" with Ron about the espionage emails and er, Fernando Alonso for his argument with the door in the McLaren motor home.

Me: I see a pattern emerging there.

Chris: The winner is, rather unsurprisingly, Fernando Alonso.

[Sound FX: Clapping.]

Chris: Unfortunately, he's not here to accept his award, but if he was, he'd probably say...

[Sound FX: Punch.]

[Sweeper]

Chris: The next award is for Worst F1 Insight. Earlier we crowned Ted Kravitz as having the best inside knowledge and being willing to share it. Now let's decide who's the worst. The nominees are Murray Walker, for his brave attempt to return to commentary.

[Audio Clip]

Chris: Um, it was good. Yea, he was very good. I like his enthusiasm, basically, I think that's what everyone has been saying.

[End Audio Clip]

Chris: Damon Hill for his brave attempt at commentary.

[Audio Clip]

Chris: This year, they had Damon Hill, and you know, you kind of expect a certain standard for a driver who should know what they're talking about.

Me: Well, Martin Brundle does a pretty good job.

Chris: Exactly. Damon Hill, not so much.



Me: Hopeless? Would that be a fair description.

Chris: I don't think that's harsh enough.

[End Audio Clip]

Chris: James Allen, just because, and Ron Dennis for using words like discombobulation.

Me: In a sentence.

Chris: The winner is... James Allen.

[Sound FX: Clapping.]

Chris: He's not here to accept this award, and we probably wouldn't let him in if he did try to come and get it. If he was here he'd probably say: Well, you see, there are three sessions, and six people are knocked out of each, and so those times don't count towards the final qualifying session and then it's the top ten shoot out and then... no?

Me: No.

[Sweeper]

Chris: Whilst we've already established that I've come a long way in the world of presenting, one thing I really have struggled with in this, my debut year, is people's names. Formula 1 is a global sport and thus features many international personalities. It's not always easy. Therefore this next award is for Best Mispronounced Name. The nominees are: Kimi Raikkonen – Pat Symonds calls him Rakkonen on the Renault podcast regularly. Sebastian Vettel – David Croft calls him Fettel – since when is it an F?

Me: Every Sunday, Radio 5live.

Chris: Robert Kubica – for not knowing himself exactly what he wants his name to be, Kubica, Kubeeza, you'd think he'd have a preference.

Me: You'd think he'd know by now.

Chris: And Tsutomu Tomita – because I got his name the wrong way round.

[Audio Clip]

Chris: A couple of weeks ago, we talked about Tsutomu Tomita who left as chief of Toyota. He's now the chairman of the Fuji Speedway Circuit. But, I have to apologise because last time I got his name the wrong way round.

Me: That's easy to do for a team president. You know, Dennis Ron, Briatore Flavio, always getting them the wrong way round.

[End Audio Clip]

Chris: And the winner is... Tsutomu Tomita.



[Sound FX: Clapping.]

Chris: And the winner is Tsutomu Tomita. He's not here to accept his award because he's off running the Fuji Speedway, but if he was, he would most likely say:

Me: Thank you very much Ms Blachford Christine.

[Sweeper]

Chris: It's been all about the beards this year, anyone who's anyone is sporting a little bit of facial hair, no matter how embarrassing. I'm thankful not to be nominated in this award, and no one ever sees you, so you don't count either.

Me: Thanks very much.

Chris: The nominees are: Nick Heidfeld otherwise known as the Yeti. He literally had a forest attached to his face. Jenson Button, otherwise known as Jenson Button, spent most of the year trying to hide behind his beard. Rubens Barrichello who also wanted to hide – driving that Honda must have been a rather stressful business. And Fernando Alonso for when he tried to upset Ron with that beardy mess.

Me: He upset everyone with that beardy mess.

Chris: The winner is: Nick Heidfeld.

[Sound FX: Clapping.]

Chris: He's not here to accept his award, did we actually invite anyone?

Me: No.

Chris: But he'd probably say: Ja, ist es gut.

Me: Oh god.

Chris: That will be a contender for next year's Best Accent Award.

[Sweeper]

Chris: Our penultimate award is for the most repeated phrase of the year. As usual we have four nominees. I'm one of them for this:

[Audio Montage of "Exactly."]

Me: I must be another for this:

[Audio Montage of "Kind of."]

Chris: We also have Lewis Hamilton with: For Sure.



Me: Ah yes, for sure.

Chris: And Kimi Raikkonen for: mumbles.

Me: What's that?

Chris: It's the same for everybody.

Me: Oh, but it is the same for everybody.

Chris: Yes.

Me: Can I win this award?

Chris: I don't know. Can you?

Me: I haven't won anything yet.

Chris: Let's see. The winner is... Kimi Raikkonen.

Me: D'oh.

[Sound FX: Clapping.]

Me: So close.

Chris: Unfortunately, Raikkonen can't be here to accept his award, but if he was here, he'd probably say: "Thanks very much, but I don't know why I've won..."

Both: It was the same for everybody!"

[Sweeper]

Chris: Our final award is for Best Rookie in 2007. You know who all the nominees are, those brave souls that took their first steps into the highest ranks of motor racing, taking on the best in the business to prove their worth. Do you know what? I just can't. I just can't read this.

Me: Oh okay, I'll do it. This man's year started off pretty badly, clouting a wall early on in pre-season testing, causing many, us included, to speculate if he wasn't making the jump too soon. He immediately put those fears to rest though, making amends (and then some) during the first race of the year. His momentum continued throughout the season, eventually netting the debutant his first race-win. Superlatives ran dry far sooner than the results did, and even his fiercest competitors had to admit that by the time the season had come to a close he'd had a fantastic year. Which is why, the Sidepodcast rookie of the year award, predictably, goes to man who really needs no further introduction, a true racing legend the world over... Mr Juan Pablo Montoya.

[Sound FX: Cheering.]

Chris: What? He's not even in Formula 1, that's ridiculous.



Me: He used to be.

Chris: You've just ruined the entire awards show. We've been building up to this great award at the end and you've given it to a NASCAR driver.

Me: Well, he had a good year. It's all true.

Chris: Rubbish.

Me: He's my Rookie of the Year.

Chris: Well, that brings our awards ceremony to an abrupt close for 2007. Hopefully, you have enjoyed this year with us, we certainly have enjoyed sharing it with you.

Me: Oh, before we go, actually, can I just throw in a little curveball, just before we leave? I just wanted to ask you, what's been your favourite bit of the year?

Chris: The whole year? You want me to pick one bit out of the whole year?

Me: Everything we've done, you know, the racing, the Grand Prix, the Formula 1, the podcasting, the things we've been to, the people we've met, the conversations we've had, just pick something that sums up your year for you.

Chris: Okay. My favourite bit of the whole of 2007 was when Rubens Barrichello said Goodbye to me.

Me: Aw. You did turn to a jelly, didn't you?

Chris: He's proper famous.

Me: He's a proper racing driver. He looked you right in the eye. He was about two foot away.

Chris: He said bye, and then went off on his scooter.

Me: And smiled. Aw. So that is your highlight of the year?

Chris: Yes, what about you?

Me: Oh, uh, well the thing is, if we're talking about racing... Can I have two? Actually, can I have a racing moment of the year, and can I have a Sidepodcast moment of the year? Can I cheat? Bend the rules a bit.

Chris: Go on then. It's your games, you can change the rules how you want.

Me: Just like the great Michael Schumacher would. Talking of the man, my favourite moment of the year was Rascasse-gate II. You know, the Monaco incident where Kimi Raikkonen ended up in exactly the same position as Michael Schumacher did the previous year, to the millimetre, whilst Mr Michael Schumacher watched on from the pits.

Chris: Yea, that was kind of funny.

Me: You couldn't make that up, could you?



Chris: Even Ernie Bernie with his script-writing skills could not write that.

Me: No, it's almost like Michael Schumacher, you want to forget this happened, but the world will not let you forget. If you're going to turn up to Monaco, it's going to happen all over again, in the same red car. It was so good. And the other event I wanted to mention very quickly, as a non-racing event, was, you know when we went to Silverstone? And we were waiting at the back of the paddock, and all the drivers walked past.

Chris: Well, you say all, it was like three.

Me: A number of drivers walked past and some people from within Formula 1 signed things and walked on. And I just thought it summed up Formula 1 in a little microcosm, hermetically sealed bubble that is Formula 1. Because, Jean Todt walked out with his frown, miserable that he'd just won the race.

Chris: Absolutely. No smiling.

Me: And Murray Walker walked out and he signed some things and walked on. There was Adrian Newey, stereotypical designer, walked out with his briefcase, placed his briefcase down, signed a letter, picked it up, you know that whole thing?

Chris: I remember.

Me: That, for me, was probably the event of the year because it just summed up everything about Formula 1 in ten minutes.

Chris: Well, it's like, everything you think about Formula 1, that just proved it.

Me: Everything is true. Everything is true. Every single person acted exactly as you expect them to and nobody broke any moulds. I loved it.

Chris: Okay, that's enough silliness, we're signing off this year. It's been an absolute blast, and we'll be back in 2008 bigger and better.

Me: Bye!

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