



Episode 52– He’s Young, He’s Talented, He’s in the Wrong Team

Coming Up

Chris: Welcome to Sidepodcast, Episode 52 – He’s Young, He’s Talented, He’s in the Wrong Team. Coming up on today’s show, we discuss the bad week in Singapore, Super Aguri’s reasons for delaying their launch and we run down the 2008 entry list.

Intro

Me: So, how are you today?

Chris: Awful.

Me: Why?

Chris: It’s been the worst week of my whole entire life.

Me: Right, not overdramatic at all then. And what has happened this week to make you so unhappy?

Chris: Everything has happened. My broadband died, my laptop’s dying, everything is just wrong.

Me: Right, so it’s going to be a cheerful show then.

Chris: Yep, upbeat and happy.

Me: Wonderful.

Good Week/Bad Week

Chris: It’s been a good week for Ferrari as Trulli has declared them 2008 world champions already. Talking to Autosprint, he said: “The championship already looks over to me before it’s started. When you watch their performance on the track, your arms drop.”

Me: So, do you agree with him, do you think it’s over already?

Chris: No.

Me: No, I think he’s fallen for their games.

Chris: We’re trying to be optimistic, remember? It’s been a bad week for marshals at Jerez because they held up the start of Tuesday’s test. A worker was out on one of the corners, the cars piled up to head out on track, but the red light came on. Mark Webber stalled and all the engineers had to run to the rescue. The actual delay was only five minutes but I think it caused a bit more trouble than that.

Me: That’s a bit embarrassing, it did cause a bit of chaos. Not a great start to a test.



Chris: It's been a good week for the Wings For Life charity as Red Bull have given them a car. They're auctioning off the RB3 that David Coulthard drove at Silverstone. The one with all the faces on. It will be done through eBay and the auction opens on the 13th March.

Me: Are we planning to bid for that?

Chris: I definitely want to buy it.

Me: I like the sound of owning it.

Chris: Although it doesn't have my face on it, because you put me on Mark Webber. It's been a bad week for the Singapore Grand Prix as the tickets went on sale but the system couldn't cope and chaos reigned. The company providing the service was Omni-Ticket and although we don't know exactly what the problem is, people were having troubles getting through to purchase tickets via phone and the internet. An emergency meeting was called by the Singapore organisers and the Ministry of Trade and Industry took note and "expressed concern."

Me: This bodes well for the race, doesn't it? They can't organise the sale of a couple of tickets. How are they going to organise an entire race weekend?

News and Views

Chris: Super Aguri are delaying the launch of their new car, possibly indefinitely. It's quite a shame but they have no money.

Me: They've fallen on hard times, no doubt about it, but I believe they've paid off Force India, which they owed some money to for allowing them to be in the championship in the first place. So, they've got that debt out the way.

Chris: Anthony Davidson remains confident that there is a race seat to be had and it will be his.

Me: Yea, he hasn't had much cockpit time this year, but he did manage to get in the car just this week so things are looking up slightly for him.

Chris: They haven't been testing that much but Sato reckons that he can make up the difference.

Me: That is an optimistic point of view isn't it? They've got no money, they're not sure what they're gonna do with the car, they may not make it onto the grid this year, but he's gonna make up all the difference of no testing.

Chris: He said "We've got over a lot of difficulties over the past few years and I think the team can make up for the loss we have had in the past few weeks."

Me: I think he's taken a look at that new Honda, the RA108 and thought hmm, we can have that this year. Come on.

Chris: He's kind of the exact opposite of Trulli. Trulli's thinking oh we're not gonna do very well, Sato's like yes we will.

[Sweeper]

Chris: The FIA have set up an anti-racism campaign called Racing Against Racism. First of all I don't understand what it is they're going to do.



Me: That hasn't officially been announced yet but I think the general idea is they're gonna get all the teams, all the drivers, all the sponsors together to say that racism will not be tolerated in Formula 1.

Chris: I kinda thought that they just came up with a good name and wanted to use it for something, but didn't actually know what they wanted it for.

Me: It is a good name, I like it, it works very well. I'm suspicious though, that they just came up with the name like that, just off the top of their hat, you know? There was a bit of an argy-bargy in Spain, and they thought, ooh, great title. I think the FIA may have been sat on this for a lot longer than they're making out. I think they've not been very proactive in bringing this idea forward. I suspect they paid someone a lot of money to come up with that title, a long time ago, and they've just been keeping it in the cupboard for an event like this to happen.

Chris: But there's probably a reason why they haven't had to use it or wanted to use it. Bernie has come out and said that the whole idea is completely unnecessary.

Me: What's his opinion on it?

Chris: He said: "What it does is give attention to people who want attention. I don't think they're fans, they just like to abuse people."

Me: I think calling it unnecessary is maybe a bit much but I do question why they decided to start this campaign in Barcelona. Wouldn't it make sense to get it going as early as possible – maybe start it in Australia at the beginning of the season – than single out one country for a couple of rogue race fans.

Chris: Start what?

Me: That is a very good question, to start the whole great title. I bet there's a great logo, you know someone's put a lot of money into making a really catchy logo for this. They'll probably come out with a load of armbands too.

[Sweeper]

Chris: There was news this week that Ron Dennis is splitting up with his wife. I don't really see why it's news, I don't particularly want to talk about his personal life.

Me: No, well, that's a bit tabloid. You're bringing up a tabloid story here, you're getting like The Sun now. You don't want to do that. The only thing that I thought might make some difference to the world of Formula 1 is presumably she may be entitled to some of his shares.

Chris: Well, he does own 15% of McLaren, so they if they get divorced and they split everything 50/50, that's at least a 7% share.

Me: It depends what agreements were in place before they decided to split. And I'm slightly suspicious of the whole timing thing. Call me a cynic, putting my cynical hat on for a change...

Chris: When do you ever take it off?

Me: Oh, well, okay, let's just say... I just think that the timing of this is a little bit uncanny and slightly too convenient.



Chris: It's never convenient to split up with your wife.

Me: No, I don't want to delve into their personal life and obviously it's between them but it does seem quite coincidental that Mercedes are thinking of buying out McLaren and Ron needs a convenient way of getting out of the sport without looking like a lemon after last year.

Chris: So, he can just say, this year's been really awful on my personal life, I need to take step back.

Me: Yea, absolutely, that'll be great. It's ruined me and I've worked so hard, I've managed so much honesty and integrity that I'm just going to leave the sport now, in order that nothing else gets ruined. Then Mercedes can just sweep in and take those shares off his hands, he can have the money which he can split with his wife, if the split finally does go ahead. Everybody will leave smiling.

Chris: My number one question is: Who's gonna get Lewis?

Me: Ouch, nasty.

Class of 2008

Chris: There's not much news this week, so we're gonna do our annual tradition of going through the Entry List and saying who's going to be good and who's going to be rubbish.

Me: This is the second time we've ever done this, so hardly an annual tradition.

Chris: Come on.

[Audio Clip: Name – Kimi Raikkonen, Nationality – Finnish, Born – 17/10/79, Team – Ferrari, Starts – 122, Poles – 14, Wins – 15]

Chris: First up, Kimi Raikkonen, defending world champion. I kind of get the impression he isn't that bothered about championships though, he's only out for the race wins. But he is quite possibly in the best car and he's definitely the best driver in that team.

Me: His nearest competition is Massa and he is struggling without traction control, so as long as Ferrari manage to get a handle on the reliability, then he's quids in for world champion.

[Audio Clip: Name – Felipe Massa, Nationality – Brazilian, Born – 25/04/81, Team – Ferrari, Starts – 88, Poles – 9, Wins – 5]

Chris: Felipe Massa, he was always in Michael Schumacher's shadow, although he put a positive spin on it by saying he was learning from him. Does that mean he's learning from Kimi as well?

Me: Maybe, the team have already taken time out during the test this year to help him with the 2008 spec car. Expect more hand holding as the season progresses.

Chris: I thought with the personnel changes that the focus would be less on Massa.

Me: I think the fact that Kimi took the championship last year means that's inevitable.



[Audio Clip: Name – Nick Heidfeld, Nationality – German, Born – 10/05/77, Team – BMW-Sauber, Starts – 134, Poles – 1, Wins – 0]

Chris: Nick Heidfeld, I thought he would walk all over Kubica last year but they both seem to be quite equal. He's a bit beardy for my liking, I still call him The Yeti. But he's definitely Mr Consistency.

Me: You call him consistent, I call him fourth.

[Audio Clip: Name – Robert Kubica, Nationality – Polish, Born – 07/12/84, Team – BMW-Sauber, Starts – 22, Poles – 0, Wins – 0]

Chris: And Kubica is no longer a newbie, so he's going to have to try and shine a little bit better than last year, but every race is an improvement, I reckon.

Me: Last year, he obviously struggled with the Bridgestone tyres during testing, but this year, it looks like he's got the legs on Heidfeld. Certainly in testing, he's always almost been ahead of him.

Chris: This whole week he has been faster than Heidfeld.

[Audio Clip: Name – Fernando Alonso, Nationality – Spanish, Born – 09/07/81, Team – Renault, Starts – 105, Poles – 16, Wins – 19]

Chris: Fernando Alonso is back where he belongs, clearly, but I think there's still a ton of pressure on him because he did so well with Renault before.

Me: He wants to be team leader and he's assigned himself number one status this year. His entire nation expects him to deliver, there's no room for failure, is there? He has to outdrive that car, he has to outdrive that team, he has to outdrive his teammate and he has to find those six tenths he thinks he brings.

Chris: Will we see him kicking down any doors this year?

Me: I think his helmet will remain intact, in good condition, right the way to the end of the season.

[Audio Clip: Name – Nelson Piquet Jr, Nationality – Brazilian, Born – 25/07/84, Team – Renault, Starts – 0, Poles – 0, Wins – 0]

Chris: There's an interview with Nelson Piquet in this month's F1 Racing magazine and he seems quite relaxed, cheeky and pretty confident. I don't think he's fazed by his team mate and we've seen what happens when we got cocky rookies next to Alonso.

Me: The guy has an ego a mile wide. He claimed he had a race drive this year before anybody else gave him a second thought. He hasn't managed to shine against Alonso in testing, but if he finds some pace, I can't wait to find out how he's gonna handle playing second fiddle for the rest of the year.

[Audio Clip: Name – Nico Rosberg, Nationality – German, Born – 27/06/85, Team – Williams, Starts – 35, Poles – 0, Wins – 0]



Chris: Nico Rosberg, I feel like we're still waiting for good things from him. He's committed to Williams but I think that he's in the wrong car.

Me: They've got to provide him with the tools to challenge at the front now. He knows he can beat the guys around him, he's shown commitment to the team, now they have to pay him back with a car that can deliver on track.

[Audio Clip: Name – Kazuki Nakajima, Nationality – Japanese, Born – 11/01/85, Team – Williams, Starts – 1, Poles – 0, Wins – 0]

Chris: I don't think I'm very fair to Nakajima because I just assume that he likes to run people over. I can't help it but I just hold it against him.

Me: Well, it was a one off mistake. It was a very public mistake, but I think he's fast, but he's a bit fragile. I suspect he's going to find this season quite long and quite tough. Rosberg will almost certainly wipe the floor with him in qualifying, which might make his head drop a bit. But all he's got to do this year is impress the guys in Toyota.

[Audio Clip: Name – David Coulthard, Nationality – Scottish, Born – 27/03/71, Team – Red Bull Racing, Starts – 229, Poles – 12, Wins – 13]

Chris: David Coulthard, I think he's been in it so long that everything's already been said. I'm kind of impressed that he's getting older but not getting any slower.

Me: Is he still in it? Every year is a short term deal for him. He's got to outdrive the car, he's got to outperform the team, because this year the RB4 could be a potent animal.

Chris: A potent animal, like, a skunk.

Me: No, I meant a potent force but I didn't want to get confused with Force India. It's a potent animal. You know what I'm trying to say.

[Audio Clip: Name – Mark Webber, Nationality – Australian, Born – 27/08/76, Team – Red Bull Racing, Starts – 104, Poles – 0, Wins – 0]

Chris: I continue to like Mark Webber although sometimes he can be a bit hot-headed and say some quite harsh things. I think I relate to his constant unluckiness. Do you ever remember anything good happening to him?

Me: He does carry a jinx around with him and he certainly has mechanical problems in every team he's been in but his job this year is to outperform DC, that's all he's got to do, and maybe avoid Vettel.

Chris: That's the top half of our grid, join us after this short break where we'll complete the line-up and take a look at some of the feedback we've received this week.

[Jingle: "Come and join Sidepodcast on Facebook. You can be my friend my looking up Christine Blachford, or you can join our group by searching for Sidepodcast. Post photos, watch videos, take part in discussions and share your links. It's all happening on Facebook, so visit us now."]

[Audio Clip: Name – Jarno Trulli, Nationality – Italian, Born – 13/07/74, Team – Toyota, Starts – 184, Poles – 3, Wins – 1]



Chris: Jarno Trulli may have some kind of depression or something. Like we mentioned earlier, he's given up before he's even started. Can hardly blame him though, Toyota doesn't seem like a friendly place to work and they're just not getting anywhere.

Me: I think the most likely man not to see out 2008. Toyota aren't prone to making rash driver changes but his recent negative comments can't have gone down well with the people signing the cheques and if Nakajima shines well in Williams, it could be a swap or a bit of a change around near the end of the year.

[Audio Clip: Name – Timo Glock, Nationality – German, Born – 18/03/82, Team – Toyota, Starts – 4, Poles – 0, Wins – 0]

Chris: Timo Glock, the last time he was in it was before I watched Formula 1 so I don't know that much about him. If Wurz's not so triumphant return to racing is anything to go by, he should be worried.

Me: It's his second bite at the cherry, and the contractual struggle between him, Toyota and BMW means there must be something about the guy. I, personally, have no idea what it is, but somebody has spotted something they like. He seems pretty even alongside Trulli in testing but you'd struggle to find a lower benchmark, wouldn't you?

Chris: It is a new team for him, though.

Me: Yea, he's got to get his feet in the door, hasn't he?

[Audio Clip: Name – Sebastien Bourdais, Nationality – French, Born – 28/02/79, Team – Toro Rosso, Starts – 0, Poles – 0, Wins – 0]

Chris: Sebastien Bourdais needs to make the transition to Champ Car champion to F1 champion. Can he do it in a Toro Rosso? Probably not.

Me: I'm hoping for great things from this guy though. I'm wondering if it's better to be first in a minor league or smack in the middle of a big league. He's been chasing this drive for a very long time, it's his one chance to show what it takes, let's see if he's up for it.

[Audio Clip: Name – Sebastian Vettel, Nationality – German, Born – 03/07/87, Team – Toro Rosso, Starts – 17, Poles – 0, Wins – 0]

Chris: I like Sebastian Vettel and I hope he does well. He seemed to blow a bit hot and cold last year, sometimes good, sometimes terrible. So, perhaps some consistency is all we can ask for this year.

Me: Michael Schumacher tipped him as a future world champion. He was pretty good at the Race of Champions at Wembley. He's young, he's talented, he's in the wrong team to showcase his abilities, but we'll see what 2008 brings for him.

[Audio Clip: Name – Jenson Button, Nationality – British, Born – 19/01/80, Team – Honda, Starts – 136, Poles – 3, Wins – 1]

Chris: Jenson Button. Finally, Honda are getting some commitment out of him, and the arrival of Ross Brawn certainly cheered him up but to be honest, they're not gonna do much better this year.



Me: Personally, I'm amazed he's not sponsored by Prozac after the season he had. It's impossible to foresee another one as bad as that one. His driving style should suit the new regulations, and if the team can haul themselves up the grid, he's got a slim chance of fighting for some decent podiums this year.

Chris: Very slim.

[Audio Clip: Name – Rubens Barrichello, Nationality – Brazilian, Born – 23/05/72, Team – Honda, Starts – 252, Poles – 13, Wins – 9]

Chris: Barrichello seems to be another driver that likes sitting in the shadows of someone else. He pootled around the back of testing, didn't make a fuss or anything.

Me: He hasn't set the world alight in his new car yet, but he is heading to become the most experienced driver in Formula 1 this year, he's known to struggle when the car isn't great, but if the team give him something he can use, he could shine once more.

[Audio Clip: Name – Takuma Sato, Nationality – Japanese, Born – 28/01/77, Team – Super Aguri, Starts – 89, Poles – 0, Wins – 0]

Chris: Takuma Sato is not actually confirmed but as good as. I still see him as a bit wild and unpredictable but I think last year settled him down a bit.

Me: If he ever makes it to the grid, he clearly smells a chance of embarrassing Honda again. Last year's overtaking manoeuvre on Alonso showed he's not shy of fighting with the big guns, but his entire season's going to be marred by the team's political and financial struggles, I think.

[Audio Clip: Name – Anthony Davidson, Nationality – British, Born – 18/04/79, Team – Super Aguri, Starts – 20, Poles – 0, Wins – 0]

Chris: When it comes to Anthony Davidson, I'm still mad at Honda that they want to use him but they don't want him in the main team.

Me: I think you can probably blame that on Jenson, given the fact that they share the same nationality, but he hasn't had much time in the car this year. He had a bit of time during testing this week, his talent is being squandered.

Chris: He could have Barrichello's seat.

Me: You'd have two Brits in the same team. Not good for advertising.

[Audio Clip: Name – Giancarlo Fisichella, Nationality – Italian, Born – 14/01/73, Team – Force India F1, Starts – 196, Poles – 3, Wins – 3]

Chris: Giancarlo Fisichella. Yea, he's still in it.

Me: Force India and particularly Mallya seem to rate him highly. I would say maybe too highly. He's not a guy who can drive a car or a team forward, when they need him to, and I don't think he's the right man for this team. The question is, will they realise it before the end of the season?



Chris: He's not a man who can drive a car forward? That's quite a problem if you're a Formula 1 driver.

[Audio Clip: Name – Adrian Sutil, Nationality – German, Born – 11/01/83, Team – Force India F1, Starts – 17, Poles – 0, Wins – 0]

Chris: Adrian Sutil. I don't understand why he's still at the back of the grid, but on the other hand, he's never seemed that bothered about getting into another team.

Me: It's another man who's talent is being wasted, he deserves better. I fully expect him to put Fisichella in the shade. In fact, he's so good, I'd have him driving both the cars.

Chris: Can he drive forward?

Me: Yes, he can drive forward. He can drive backwards, he can drive the damn thing sideways if you need him to.

[Audio Clip: Name – Lewis Hamilton, Nationality – British, Born – 07/01/85, Team – McLaren, Starts – 17, Poles – 6, Wins – 4]

Chris: Lewis Hamilton, obviously a talented young man, but I wonder if he can get on with a season without the drama.

Me: Some are suggesting that his driving style is compromising the rear tyres and that his driving style is not suited to a car without traction control and engine braking. Adjustment will take some time but no doubt he has the talent to work around it. The question is, will the British media give him time to work out the problems without coming down on him?

Chris: The media do love to build up a hero, put him on a podium, and then as soon as the slightest thing goes wrong, they knock him down.

[Audio Clip: Name – Heikki Kovalainen, Nationality – Finnish, Born – 19/10/81, Team – McLaren, Starts – 17, Poles – 0, Wins – 0]

Chris: Heikki Kovalainen. It's so unfair he's at the bottom of the list. He's filling Alonso's boots for a second time, and I reckon this will be good for him. But I worry that he might just bow to any Hamilton related pressure.

Me: This guy came very close to a win in his debut season last year. I expect a lot more from him this year. If the car's quick enough and it should be, then I'd expect him to put Hamilton in the shade at a couple of tracks, and I wouldn't be surprised if we don't see a Finnish 1-2 at some point this year.

On the Phones

Chris: We've only had one voicemail this week, and it's from you. Your weekly thought.

Me: I have more than thought, by the way. It just happens that in the last two occasions, I've only rang in the once. I may ring in twice this week.

Chris: Well, I look forward to that. Here's your one thought for this week.



[Begin Voicemail]

Me: My thought for the week, really, just thought I'd ring them in. Stepney. That's what's on my mind at the moment. You know what's confusing me? His solicitor proclaimed that despite having to endure months of unfounded allegations, Mr Stepney has maintained a dignified silence. Really? Because I read a 15 page spread on Grandprix.com of all his thoughts about the whole affair. Not very dignified, not very silent.

Chris: Also, he's kept a dignified silence, but isn't he writing a book?

Me: Oh yea, he's writing a book that he wants us all to know about, and he wants us all to buy, which may be a thinly veiled threat against the FIA.

Chris: There are rumours flying around that Coughlan has already had his talk with the FIA and may be banned for a couple of years.

Me: Yea, that hasn't been confirmed. It's all a bit peculiar. I don't know why they decided to not go through with the hearing with Stepney. Why was it cancelled? They said some people couldn't make a flight. That's a bit peculiar, isn't it? All a bit suspicious.

Chris: If you have more than one thought in your head this week, don't forget to call us.

Me: So, how do people do that?

Chris: The Skype username is Sidepodcast.

Me: Or you can put a number into your mobile phone.

Chris: Yep, the number is 0121 28 TRACK.

Me: That's?

Chris: 0121 28 87225.

Housekeeping

Chris: I asked for emails last week.

Me: And did you get any?

Chris: I got loads. It was brilliant, but quite annoying because I couldn't actually answer them for a while.

Me: Oh, was your broadband a bit dead? Right. And Must Comment Monday didn't go too well either last week, did it?

Chris: No.

Me: Bit of a struggle, and the show didn't go up till Tuesday, did it? We have to thank your mum, don't we? For opening up her doors at some ungodly hour in the evening, to let you in to upload the show. We were struggling.



Chris: And they made me hot chocolate.

Me: Well, that's good. So, thank you to Christine's mum. And tell us, what did you receive in emails from the good listeners?

Chris: I had an email from Ken who said: "Been listening to the podcast a couple of weeks now, really enjoy them. I look forward to the morning train ride with the daily F1 Minute. Keep up the good work." And that was sent from his Blackberry.

Me: Wow. Crackberry.

Chris: What?

Me: Crackberry. As in addiction. You know when you get one of those things in your hand, you can't stop emailing people. Don't look where you're going anymore, sort of become socially inept.

Chris: Okay, so we should expect a lot more emails from Ken this week.

Me: Oh yea, Ken, if you listen to this show, do email us, tell us what you think about your Blackberry and what you think of the show.

Chris: He said he was listening from the train, which actually links to a discussion I've posted on the Facebook Group. I want to know where you listen to the show.

Me: I don't listen to the show.

Chris: Well, you listen to the show as we're recording it. I listen to the show when I editing it. Anyway I wasn't talking to you, I was talking to our lovely listeners. I also had an email from Dan Cross. After our close encounter with Mark Webber at Il Maschio last weekend...

Me: It wasn't that close, though, was it?

Chris: Well, he wasn't there.

Me: No.

Chris: Dan said that Mark would be at another pub close to Il Maschio, doing a charity event, and counting coins in a jar or something.

Me: That's very nice of Mark, what a good chap.

Chris: We couldn't go, but Dan went and he posted a picture of himself with Mr Webber on the group.

Me: Can we put that picture on the enhanced podcast? Shall we put it up now? So anyone listening to the podcast can see it. This is Dan and Mark.

Chris: And that email led me to another discussion on the Facebook Group, or you can email me about it. I wanna know if anyone else has met any drivers. I want to see pictures.



Me: Yea, especially if they met them at pubs.

Chris: Doing charity events.

Me: Yea, or if they're going to be at any pubs in the future. Because obviously we couldn't go to last week's which was a shame.

Chris: Yea, we like pubs.

Me: Oh we do like pubs. Pubs and Formula 1 drivers, what a great combination.

Chris: We had an email from Luke who was criticising us, just like we'd asked for. The criticism was that we were better than the ITV presentation team.

Me: And that upsets him?

Chris: Apparently that's a criticism.

Me: I like those kind of criticisms, keep them coming!

Chris: His friend Joe had actually told him about Sidepodcast, and the next day I got an email from Joe as well.

Me: Hi Joe!

Chris: He was sharing an opinion on the Honda livery and said: "Half of it looks like a BMW, and the other half looks like the '07 Honda."

Me: They were a bit undecided, actually. That's true, and the fact of the matter is you can't get a round Earth on an ill-formed car.

Chris: They didn't quite want to give up last year's design.

Me: No, because that would have looked silly, and they liked the BMW, so they stole that design.

Chris: And finally, we had an email from Louise, who pointed us in the direction of DarrenHeath.com. He takes some excellent photos and writes a blog of each Grand Prix weekend. Personally, I can't commit to the blog because it doesn't have an RSS feed.

Me: Oooh, what a crime.

Chris: But, photos are definitely worth a look, DarrenHeath.com. All the emails I got were excellent, they cheered me up in my bad week.

Me: Your moment of need.

Chris: Yes, keep them coming though. I'm not bankrupt yet, and don't forget the Facebook discussions as well.



Me: And you've got, I believe, almost 100 people on the Facebook group.

Chris: I do.

Me: As close to 100, is it something like 19, 18 missing now?

Chris: Yes.

Me: And you'd like to get to 100 soon?

Chris: 100 is a good number.

Me: Well, I tell you what, last year, before the season kicked off proper in Melbourne, we had a bit of a spike in traffic. Presumably, as people start remembering that Formula 1 is back and they start looking around for some pre-season testing form, and we had a bit of a jump in numbers, so I wouldn't be surprised if we make it 100 before Melbourne, but it'd be really nice if we could make 100 even sooner than that, say, by the next show?

Chris: We're not canvassing for Facebook signups, are we?

Me: Sort of. Yea. But I don't mind that, I'm open to that kind of criticism. That's fine. Let's see if we can make it 100 Facebook users by next Sunday.

Chris: Well, that's it for this week, we'd better stop talking so that you can go and sign up to our Facebook group. We'll be back next week, taking a look at the teams competing in the 2008 World Championship.

Me: And I'm off to watch some Ferrari testing footage to see if my arms drop.