



## Episode 89 – 2008 in Audio

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[Audio Clip]

**Maurice Hamilton:** ...the track temperature is 41 here at Magny-Cours. We've had a text, keep them coming, 84040. This is from Scott in Norwich, he says: Can you say hi to all the guys over at Sidepos... Sidepodcast, I can hardly say it...

[End Audio Clip]

**Christine:** Welcome to Sidepodcast.

**Christine:** Hello everyone, we're at Autosport International 2008. It's our second day here and we're very tired so we've retired to the restaurant for a nice cup of tea. I think I'm in a good position to sum it up right now. Less girls than last year, but more Formula 1 stuff.

**Christine:** There's a new rule for this year where you won't get an engine penalty for the first time your engine blows up.

**Me:** What a ridiculous concept. Explain this to me?

**Christine:** Well, I didn't understand it to start with because it's so pointless that I couldn't actually figure it out.

**Me:** You couldn't believe it was a real rule.

**Christine:** Exactly.

**Christine:** Well it was on the way back and I was hungry and I needed a drink so we thought we'd stop in this pub, and it just so happens that it's Mark Webber's pub.

**Christine:** So if we got to more events this year, it's going to be excellent.

**Me:** And it's really cheap, it works really well, and it's been a pretty successful experiment, wouldn't you say?

**Christine:** Well I've certainly had a successful day, I've swallowed Mark Webber.

**Christine:** We're going to 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.

**Christine:** Come on.

**Christine:** I thought with the personnel changes the focus would be less on Massa.

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

**Christine:** 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.

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

**Christine:** Here at Sidepodcast Towers, we're getting a little bit concerned about Trulli.

**Me:** Oh, only just a tad.



**Christine:** One minute he's completely depressed about the championship being over before it's begun, then he's saying Toyota might stand a chance at fighting near the top. Now he's saying no one will be on the podium except Ferrari and McLaren.

**Me:** Right.

**Christine:** What is going on?

**Me:** Who let him decide the championship?

**Christine:** And now it's time to take a look at the teams.

**Me:** So based on last year's success and the fact they've got the biggest budget in the pitlane, presumably they'll be the constructor's champions again this year.

**Christine:** It'll be quite embarrassing if he doesn't manage to get six-tenths but he did say that he doesn't think they'll be getting any wins this year.

**Christine:** What can we say? They haven't launched yet.

**Me:** No.

**Christine:** They may never do so.

**Christine:** Welcome to the first ever F1 Digest. This is a new series bringing you coverage of the race weekend throughout the race weekend.

**Me:** I do have to say though, despite how good the racing was, slightly shocked at the look of Honda's attire.

**Christine:** We have had quite a few comments about the green shorts.

**Me:** My god. It's not just green though, it's not like a dark green, it's not British Racing Green, is it? It's luminous freaking green.

**Christine:** What a race to start with.

**Me:** Good grief. That was amazing. I really enjoyed every single minute of that. It wasn't dull at all, was it?

**Christine:** I didn't enjoy every single minute. I was really liking it up until Bourdais. It was just three laps from the end, I was gutted. Then I was just upset after that.

**Me:** Fair enough, but I just thought it was intense from beginning to end. Unbelievable.

**Christine:** Frank is right to put his faith in Nico though, first podium.

**Me:** He did a really good job, didn't he? He had a very good race, although podium etiquette left a lot to be desired.

**Christine:** Yea, he did leave his hat on during the national anthem.

**Me:** Yea, he should know better than that, although, you know, his first time. You can forgive him.

**Christine:** We're not reading the names out any more because people aren't taking it seriously.

**Me:** What's happened now?

**Christine:** Who calls their team Rubber Baby Boogy Bumpers...

**Me:** You know what my favourite bit of that whole session was?

**Christine:** Watching Bourdais?

**Me:** Funnily enough, no it wasn't.

**Christine:** Oh, that was me.

**Me:** I thought it was cool to hear Ross Brawn's voice on the radio because obviously in the past where Ferrari had encrypted all their radio traffic, you never got to hear him.



**Me:** It was quite enjoyable. There wasn't much to analyse afterwards though, was there? It didn't require too much thought. Basically it was straightforward, except for Massa. Really my question is how long is he gonna last, and who's going to replace him?

**Christine:** I think the less said the better.

**Me:** Well, it could have far-reaching implications for F1, so we should at least address it, but we might have to be careful.

**Christine:** Okay, I can do this. Right. The News of the World are reporting that Max Mosley may have been caught with his trousers down doing some bizarre things with some ladies of the night, mostly involving speaking German and recreating some events in history. How was that?

**Me:** That's perfect. We're just reporting the fact that somebody is reporting something.

**Christine:** I was just messing when I said I didn't have any news this week.

**Me:** You do have something to tell us?

**Christine:** Yes.

**Me:** Yay, go on then, enlighten us all.

**Christine:** We got married.

**Me:** We got married. You and I. Together. That's a bit peculiar, isn't it?

**Christine:** What's wrong with the McLaren though?

**Me:** Looks like they've lost out a little bit during the last test. A lot of team's made steps forward, they've not made such a big impression. Maybe this circuit isn't ideal for them, but Ron did say judge us on our performance in Spain. I judge them to be not very fast.

**Christine:** We saw the demise of Super Aguri.

**Me:** Was that this season? That seems like a very long time ago.

**Christine:** Yea, firstly they were refused entry in Turkey. The transporters and the motorhome were not allowed into the paddock. Someone told FOM that they wouldn't be racing.

**Christine:** We've discovered a new service called drop.io, haven't we?

**Me:** I think it's a new service. I haven't heard many people talking about it but it is pretty damn groovy.

**Christine:** Well, it's new to us anyway, and basically what it is, anyone and everyone can post to this site. We're putting up pictures, screenshots, videos.

**Christine:** I've decided that Canada is my new favourite racetrack.

**Me:** Two races ago, Turkey was your favourite racetrack, and what happened this week?

**Christine:** Marmots.

**Me:** Right.

**Jordan:** First of all, I'd like to start off with good congratulations to Robert Kubica, Nick Heidfeld, and the whole BMW Sauber gang.

**Christine:** It's refreshing to see all these different people in the press conference because we're so used to seeing Raikkonen's monotone and Hamilton's with his starch white collars and stuff. And now we see these other people and how they react. It's fascinating.

**Me:** Yea, that was very good. It was also nice to see DC on the podium without a Superman suit.

**Christine:** Oh yea, that's always good.



**Christine:** David Coulthard and Sebastien Bourdais are turning up with their cars before the actual bull festival thing starts.

**Me:** Yea, cos that goes on for a whole week.

**Christine:** Yea, and they're going to chase people in their cars.

**Me:** They're going to chase people in their Formula 1 cars?

**Christine:** Yea.

**Me:** I think this is going to be a bit of a one sided battle.

**Christine:** Because he hurt his neck, didn't he?

**Me:** He had a sporting related injury, did he not?

**Christine:** He hurt his neck in a lift.

**Me:** Sneezing.

**AMC:** We kind of found ourselves ending up in the garage with the Renault crew and they were showing us bits and bobs of the parts.

**Christine:** And we met a listener.

**Me:** We met Steve!

**Christine:** Yea.

**Ian:** Yea, it was a very good performance by Mark, I wasn't expecting him to get quite that high up. He's obviously been fast all weekend throughout the Free Practice sessions but I was still thinking probably sixth or seventh, so second's a very good result. Just hoping he gets off the line okay tomorrow.

**Me:** The thing is, I didn't realise until I took the camera out the bag, walked up to Jenson Button, took the lens cap off, which is rare for me, pressed the button and nothing happened.

**Christine:** Apparently, they want us to go away more often because it was a great race when she was in charge.

**Me:** Too tired. Ain't gonna.

**Dan:** Just a little bit gutted actually. I was hoping for better things from second as well. I think he, well from what I read on Autosport, he basically bombed out on Becketts.

**Me:** We're getting into this hospitality malarkey this year, aren't we? But it's nice to compare manufacturers to see what they offer and I think Ford excelled themselves at Goodwood. When was the last time you sat in a comfy chair at Goodwood?

**Christine:** I know, and smoothies.

**Me:** Free.

**Lou:** No, we were up the top of the hill, waiting for them all, and they came last, and Alex kind of spluttered up the hill, got out the car, got in the van and went back down the hill, and they towed the Honda away.

**Steven:** I think there's a blatant bias towards Ferrari which has been, it's been there before the FIA was the FIA, when the CSI were running it, you had exactly the same situation. I mean, Colin Chapman used to always complain when one of his Lotus innovations got banned, that he was going to turn up at the next race and paint his car red.

**Stuart:** Hello, this is Stuart from F1 Racing. As promised this is the template for the Bob Constanduros champagne announcement. It goes a little something like this: Champaaaaaagne. I'm gonna hyperventilate after that.



**Christine:** The podium was Vettel, Kovalainen and Kubica, who are all first time winners this year.

**Me:** Yes.

**Christine:** A nice different podium, it was good to look at.

**Me:** This is the time when you put your neck on the line, by the way, and we will hold you to this, and when we do the season review in December.

**Christine:** We will reference it.

**Me:** It will be the quote that gets used, so think very carefully.

**Christine:** No pressure.

**Me:** Before you answer this question. One more time, the question for Scott.

**Christine:** Who's going to win the championship?

**Scott:** Um, this will probably be a very predictable answer but I'm going to say Hamilton.

**Alex:** Grr, why don't the FIA tell us who they're planning to win the world championship at the beginning of the season when they decide? Grrr.

**Christine:** Oh, that's good too.

**Me:** Oh my lord.

**Christine:** That's a good one.

**Me:** This is the best game ever.

**Me:** For anybody who didn't catch this, he performed a lethal manoeuvre after spinning the car just past the entrance of the pit lane.

**Sacha:** It sparkles, that's the best way to describe it. The lighting is so clear. Delighted with the Renault win.

**Journeyer:** Hi guys, this is Journeyer, good evening from Singapore. Just came from the race track, it was a great, great race. Hats off to the Singapore organisers. They really did everything well. There were a few minor hiccups in terms of moving the people around and especially at the end of the day. Everything went off without a hitch, I'm really impressed on my end.

**Christine:** Bourdais did say that, I mean he basically said that it was a lack of respect from Massa because you know, you have to give room. If someone is coming out of the pits, alright they have to be aware of you but at the same time if there are two cars on the track, you've got to deal with it.

**Christine:** It was Sauber

**Ollie:** Oh yes, Sauber.

**Me:** Wow, that's incredible. That was a great end to the quiz.

**Christine:** I think he made it all up in the last two rounds. That's brilliant.

**Ollie:** I redeemed myself.

**Me:** No question about it, well done.

**Christine:** "The FIA has noted the press statement issued by the Ferrari board of directors. It seems that the Ferrari board are misinformed."

**Me:** Well, predictably, Coulthard didn't get that far.

**Me:** Lewis Hamilton, the new World Driver's Champion 2008. We have a new one.

**Christine:** To be honest I think that he deserves it for that move on Fisichella alone.



**Christine:** This is why we watch.

**Me:** This is sporting action.

**Christine:** This is why we put up with all that FIA madness.

**Me:** Nonsense.

**Christine:** Because of this.

**Me:** To everybody who's been on any show this series, all six of them, every one of you has been an amazing guest. We've had five amazing hosts, and me. It's been a fantastic thing to do at the end of the season and hopefully we'll do some more of it next year.

**Christine:** And in the comments, Dan Brunell said: "Formula 1 is now a sport where the tracks can't afford to host a race, the teams can't afford to participate in it, and many fans can't go to a Grand Prix near them because almost all of them have been taken away."

**Christine:** And Jordan Allen for great strategies week in, week out all season long that saw him win the Sidepodcast Fantasy Racers league. Whatever. I had good strategies too.

**Me:** We have to thank every single person who's left us a comment this year, everybody who's tuned in, everybody who's listened. It's been beyond belief in so many ways, and we can just only say thank you, thank you, thank you.

**Paskis:** Haaht damn, that was a hell of a season.

