



Feet Up Friday – Doesn't Bernie look tired?

Mr C: Welcome to an unusual Feet up Friday. Unusual partly because I don't have my feet up, I'm not as relaxed as perhaps I should be because we are doing something wildly exciting, aren't we?

Christine: Yeah, it's weird to have an unusual show just four episodes in but here it is.

Mr C: We are live. We are live to the world, as well as we are recording this for posterity. You may not be listening back live.

Christine: If you are listening to the podcast us being live doesn't mean anything it's just going to come out as normal but we are live streaming there are people listening to us right here right now commenting on <http://sidepodcast.com/events> And it's fun!

Mr C: It's Sidepodcast of old, it's what we used to do. We used to do this all the time. We did live shows at one point I think we were doing something like eight live shows a month which was a crazy number and we did so many that we sort of burned ourselves out and had to stop for a bit but we are, we've been looking to try and bring them back ever since they stopped and now we've... we think we've found a way which is cost effective and also better than ever before so with our newly redesigned live comments and with a new live system which allows us to stream to nice tablet mobile devices we are connected and we are live, and Feet up Friday is the first show.

Christine: Yeah, we are still testing lots of things out though so it's fair to say this could be a bit of a wonky episode of Feet up Friday, but then they have all been like that.

Mr C: The last... I must say the last episode of Feet up Friday I should probably listen back to it because I don't very much remember it!

Christine: Yeah, yeah.

Mr C: No, I really don't. I can't remember what was discussed or what I said.

Christine: Yeah, let's all remember why you are saying that. Was it you who laughed at me for predicting Schumacher for a win? Now, yes granted Schumacher did retire from the race and was nowhere near a victory but he did start second on the grid and it was a Mercedes that won the race. And you said and I quote 'I can't imagine a situation where the Mercedes is going to be fast.' Huh.

Mr C: I can't remember. I'm telling you I draw a blank on those words. Prove it... no don't.

Christine: I can prove it.

Mr C: No don't try and prove it.

Christine: Do you understand the podcasting model?



Mr C: In my defence I mean firstly Michael Schumacher came worryingly close to pulling that off. If it wasn't for an error in the pit stop he was in the mix, he was in the fight, he was up there. And you could have proven to be right for not the first time this year in fact.

Christine: Yeah.

Mr C: And I would have looked very silly if that had happened. Thankfully, thankfully the pit crew didn't let me down and they failed to attach one of his wheels...

Christine: Did you pay them off?

Mr C: ... and he was out of the race. That left one very fast Mercedes that did go on to win an astonishing race. But in my defence and I have to say this. Even right up until the start of the race, right up until the lights went out Mercedes weren't convinced that they could win that race.

Christine: Even after it finished I don't think they were convinced.

Mr C: No, so there's no way in the world... I say you've now been lucky twice. You've been lucky two out of three times.

Christine: I think there definitely is an argument to say that Button could have been challenging for the win if he hadn't have had his own misfortunes.

Mr C: It was all about the pit stops and Button's demise was down to that too.

Christine: But my predictions they have been lucky and I've been nearly right twice, well right once and nearly right a second time. So... I hate making predictions, I always have done, but I'm going to have to keep it up this year to see how well I do.

Mr C: I don't want to know. But, ok. There is a Grand Prix this weekend, who are you calling for the win.

Christine: Well so far in all these Feet up Friday's I've been telling you what my boss predicts and what I predict. But I'm not going to do that anymore because he keeps on predicting McLaren and it's just boring.

Mr C: Does your boss have a name by the way?

Christine: Yes, but I'm not going to say it.

Mr C: Does he listen?

Christine: Probably not.

Mr C: Ok, I'm just curious how come he always gets a look in on the show and he's like nameless.

Christine: Well I just find it very exciting that somebody I work with likes Formula 1 because that's never happened to me before.

Mr C: I understand.



Christine: But I'm not going to talk about him anymore because he just predicts McLaren all the time and that's not very exciting so today I predicted... I predicted Webber for the win.

Mr C: Mark Webber. Mark Webber?!

Christine: That's pretty much what he said. Yeah.

Mr C: Ok.

Christine: Well you see my thinking was...

Mr C: The thing is I daren't question that too much dare I.

Christine: You hold your thoughts there. My, my process of thinking was that, I think it was Vettel was second in one of the practice questions which I thought was actually a bit faster for Red Bull 'cause usually they sort of sandbag in the practice sessions anyway and they're quite slow this year so far, so second seemed to be reasonably good, and also I don't think that Vettel would do it in the race so then I switched to Webber. Because Webber seems to be trouncing Vettel at the moment.

Mr C: You see I am not convinced that all is well in the Red Bull team because they ran dual exhausts, well every car runs dual exhausts, they ran different exhaust layouts on each car last race and I think for this one Vettel has conceded that he went the wrong direction and he's now going to follow Webber's lead after Mark got the better of him at the last race. So to me it doesn't seem like a team who have clarity in their direction. And therefore I'm going to go against you and say you're wrong. Mark Webber isn't going to win the race. He won't come close to winning the race.

Christine: Have you learnt nothing?

Mr C: No. I just can't believe the calls you make. That's all it is. I sit in disbelief. However I don't really have a clear favourite to argue against you so I too am going to go for a McLaren driver and I think it will be Lewis Hamilton's turn. I think it's going to be hotter and it's all about ... this year it's all about tyres, it's all about tyre temperatures and in Bahrain it will be warmer. Warm...

Christine: Mercedes are not going to do so well.

Mr C: No I don't think so, it could play into Sauber's hands. Sauber might be good.

Christine: I should have gone for Pérez.

Mr C: If anything though I would like to see Kimi on the podium because he was so close to making a comeback, he was in second place and then he dropped all the way down to twelfth, which was unfortunate. But I was rooting for Kimi to be on the podium. The Lotus has enough pace to do it. Kimi just needs more experience from the tyres. You know, you like Grosjean and people know that you like Grosjean.

Christine: Yes I do. Are people aware of that, that I do like the Grosjean. Have people heard the poetry?

Mr C: Poetry in Grosjean. Mmm, that has been mentioned. But I think it would be a shame if Grosjean got a podium before Kimi because I'd really like to see what Kimi can do.



Christine: Rosberg got the win before Schumacher.

Mr C: That's the way it should be.

Christine: That's how it goes.

Mr C: Yes.

Christine: In the comments we've got some interesting predictions. Will^ says he has picked Webber also, so that's two against one. Jonathan JW Crummett who's corrected me on his name he said... I knew his name but you know that's the name he chooses to go by in the comments. He says I'm picking Lewis until he wins. Which, you know, might not be that long.

Mr C: Can I talk about Lewis? Can I just...

Christine: No! I haven't finished...

Mr C: Hold those ... keep those thoughts in mind because I want to talk about Lewis. Because I think that man has matured massively this season and he is playing Alonso at his own game. He's playing the – I'm going to get the car to the finish, I'm going to get as many points as I possibly can and I'm not going to push for the win when the win isn't possible. In previous seasons Lewis Hamilton would have pushed for that win at all costs and risked his car, [cough]. Excuse me. Or risked a mistake.

Christine: He's getting all emotional about Hamilton.

Mr C: No. No. But this year he's not, he's playing the waiting game. And I think he's a danger in that position. I think older wiser smarter Lewis is dangerous.

Christine: I think last year was a really good season for him to have, even though it was awful at the time.

Mr C: Yes, I think it was a learning year very much and he's come out much stronger and therefore I don't think Lewis necessarily, unless he has a massive car advantage I don't think he'll be pushing for the win. I think he's in points mode this early in the season and I think that's a good thing because that is the way to win championships.

Christine: Umm, Mark says he picks Pic as a word-play value. If Pic wins the race...

Mr C: [Laughter].

Christine: ... there is something very wrong.

Mr C: Who said that?

Christine: Mark.

Mr C: Mark I love you.

Christine: Andy says what's wrong with predicting McLaren every time, at least they have a car which looks nice which is very true.



Mr C: So does Pic.

Christine: Yes, that's true, he could win. There's nothing wrong with predicting McLaren every time but it doesn't make for very interesting conversation, that's the only thing. Davin said McLaren are epic, always predict McLaren. Umm, and he also said he likes seeing angry Vettel, it's quite hilarious.

Mr C: Angry Vettel.

Christine: Well he's a bit grumpy, isn't he?

Mr C: He did call Narain a cucumber. That's not really... he's not angry, it's like frustrated. I did like angry Vettel when he slammed the steering wheel on the cockpit in Brazil when Jenson Button was about to take the title, whatever year that was, I forgot what year it was but I vividly recall the guy being angry. And that is good to see but I don't think he's been that crazy this year.

Christine: No. Should we discuss while we're talking about how well people did or didn't do in China. It was an amazing race.

Mr C: Loving it.

Christine: Just brilliant.

Mr C: What a season. What a start to a season.

Christine: I don't think I've ever seen a race where there was that kind of a train of cars for a good reason that were all fighting each other, not held up behind Trulli. It was brilliant.

Mr C: Umm, yes. And the thing was... it was excellent driving. I mean all of the mistakes, all of the problems that happened throughout the field were down to the mechanics in the pit lane. They made the errors that cost people points, positions and races. In Kimi's case I guess the strategy call made him suffer. But on track the drivers were fantastic. The passing was exemplary. There was a small amount of touching between...

Christine: Go on.

Mr C: ...hold on. Was it Grosjean and Maldonado?

Christine: I believe it was.

Mr C: That was... those two... I mean Grosjean hasn't finished the first two races. Maldonado crashes into a lot of people. You would put your money on that ending in disaster and they didn't, they got away with it, they came away cleanly. And it was yeah, it was a testament to fantastic drivers putting in some fantastic drives and that's what made China what it was. It was great.

Christine: I think it was just really good that they were all so close. I mean throughout the whole weekend really in qualifying and in everything. The top ten or the top whatever, there were plenty of people saying this bunch of cars were only split by a second or less than a second, and that seemed to make all the difference but I don't know why it should be specifically at this race when we've seen plenty of racing in China before and it hasn't been like that.



Mr C: It's down to Pirelli and we have Pirelli to thank for it because DRS didn't feature at all. It may have kept some cars closer together but essentially it's down to the work Pirelli have put in over the off-season and they worked hard to make the races interesting and boy, boy did they succeed! If people are not listening to this show live I'd like to throw in a curve ball, almost literally here. I would like...

Christine: Is that a baseball reference?

Mr C: Yeah, I would like to have a brief intermission for baseball scores. This is a first for a Sidepodcast podcast. But in the other stream simultaneously to this recording there is live commenting going on in the baseball and we have a report from Steven – at the end of the sixth it's 6-2 to the New York Yankees.

Christine: Does anyone know what that means?

Mr C: Does it matter?

Christine: No

[Sweeper]

Christine: One thing I want to bring up because it's really irritating me is how rubbish Force India are being so far this season. I was expecting great things from that partnership. Great battles between Paul di Resta and Nico Hülkenberg. And if there are great battles going on I can't see them because they are practically non-existent.

Mr C: Only Marussia are more invisible this year than Force India. It is hard to pick them out amongst a crowded field and they are not normally in the mix. The first two races they did manage to pick up a good haul of points right. They had points in both of the first two races. However they are not featuring as much as they did last year and that is a shame. You are correct.

Christine: I thought they'd be like the Mercedes were last year. I thought that's what they would be this year, so like the fourth best team, kind of on their own having their own amazing battle. That's kind of what I expected from them and it's just nothing like that.

Mr C: Imagine losing Adrian Sutil as a driver and then your team getting worse.

Christine: Mmm, yes, that's weird.

Mr C: Are they lacking development? The experience? What has happened there? I don't know where the pace has gone. They've just not got a fast car. They've got half of McLaren in the rear end. They've got two handy drivers and yet nothing, nothing much in terms of pace to show for it. Disappointing, I would definitely expect more from them and you're right, yes, they are not...

Christine: They are supposed to be having the big fight to work out who is going to replace Schumacher, but at this rate Schumacher's going to be able to keep hold of his seat because neither of them will be good enough.

Mr C: Well that's also a possibility. I think... I haven't... I don't... I haven't looked at it in any detail but I think di Resta is outdriving Hülkenberg. I don't think there's much of a fight between them, even if we're not seeing it.

Christine: Startled Bunny says Force India do have less crashes into other drivers since Sutil left, so that is something I suppose.



Mr C: Their car comes back in one piece every time.

Christine: Mmm, one piece at the back.

Mr C: Last. No, it's not last, it's just not what it was last year. Of course we are missing Paul's Performance Report this year.

Christine: That is true. But that's because no-one can tell what he's doing. Paul's performance report – Yeah, about the same.

Mr C: Yeah, where is he?

Christine: Somewhere in the middle. There's also talk in the comments that Williams are better than Force India which is saying something considering their performance last year. But both of those teams are now in the mid-field, which means they'll fall into my Midfield Monitor column.

Mr C: I hear a plug coming along.

Christine: Really. Was it that obvious?

Mr C: You have a column?

Christine: Yes I do!

Mr C: Mrs Christine tell me about your column.

Christine: <http://sidepodcast.com/features> We've got two features at the moment, from me and from Ryan.

Mr C: And a third on the way this coming week.

Christine: Very soon. As soon as we can scabble a minute to put it together. We've got a new column from Steven all about safety which is a really important subject and I'm really glad we've got someone writing about that and he's very knowledgeable, goes back into lots of history and things.

Mr C: And for people who don't know explain the concept of a column.

Christine: Errm, really?

Mr C: No. That would be quite patronising wouldn't it.

Christine: [Sarcastically:] Well, it's a bunch of words together, released on a regular basis.

Mr C: Ok then. Fine. Don't do that.

Christine: But they are available in a timely manner at <http://sidepodcast.com/features> Mine is called Midfield-Monitor, it should be coming out...

Mr C: Last Monday of the month.



Christine: That's right. I was going to say the first then, but that's not true.

Mr C: I can tell you were going the wrong way. And Ryan comes out every fortnight, although I think he skipped this week because of some other pressures from home and stuff. But in theory every fortnight and I guess Steven's ... I don't know. Do you know what Steven's schedule is yet?

Christine: No. Well what I think is the first is always kind of – whenever. 'Cause mine certainly wasn't the last Monday of whichever month it came out – the first one. And then we stick to a schedule after that. And the idea is it will always be on its scheduled day and if you miss one you miss one, it won't be out late or anything.

Mr C: People can... readers can get used to and expect it to appear, look forward to it appearing. And also if you're interested in writing regularly it can be monthly, it can be quarterly, it can be weekly if you're really inspired. If you fancy writing regular long form content for Sidepodcast, do get in touch with Christine. How do people get in touch?

Christine: Ah, there are so many ways. Christine@sidepodcast.com, that's the email. You can tweet me @mrschristine or him @sidepodcast. There's a contact form <http://sidepodcast.com/contact>. That's probably most of the ways, Facebook and all of the usual stuff.

Mr C: Good stuff.

Christine: Google Plus even. Who knows.

Mr C: I still use Google Plus, you've abandoned it.

Christine: I certainly don't

Mr C: We are looking for more people. It's something we're going to roll out slowly. It is a lot of commitment so if you're in any way in two minds what we can do is we still have guest posts, standard ad-hoc guest posts. So if you're interested in writing for Sidepodcast it might be worth starting out with a guest post.

Christine: The blog is still just as important.

Mr C: We've not abandoned that at all but if you're in the mind to do something regular and have the time to do it then we'd love to hear from you.

Christine: Another thing I introduced recently was, I'm in an unofficial capacity calling it team-by-team. Because what it is is after each race I just write down what the teams have done. Just sort of like a reminder for me really because I'm so useless and have the worst memory in the world that it would be nice to look back at this and after each race go – oh yes that's what Williams did in China.

Mr C: Can I tell people what I call it?

Christine: Err, only if it's polite!

Mr C: [Laughter]. It is polite. I just all it 'Not Debrief'

Christine: Not Debrief. That's catchy.



Mr C: When we abandoned Debrief we lost any kind of race catch-up or view. And this effectively replaces it, although it's in words and it's not in audio it's a look at the race, a review of the race which was what we were missing, which is what we were missing when we closed Debrief at the end of last year. So that's to my mind what its role is on Sidepodcast and I like it. It's a bit of work for you, you've got quite a lot of writing to do this year. Presumably you have more time on your hands because you have less podcasts.

Christine: Yeah, well that is the idea although we keep doing live shows and talking to Joe and all that so there's plenty of podcasting still to be done.

Mr C: [Laughing] We'll always squeeze some in. What else have you got? You've got some columns, you've got some team by teams, anything else new on Sidepodcast? Anything else new? New?

Christine: Like live streaming?

Mr C: No. New on Sidepodcast, anything else added to Sidepodcast recently? Maybe in the last week? Anything fancy? Or new? That comes to your mind.

Christine: [Pause]. Which bit?! You add so much great new stuff, which bit do you mean in particular?

Mr C: Awww. Simply the race control drop-down at the top of the site, it's been upgraded.

Christine: It's got a countdown and a swipecy-bit.

Mr C: Mmm, if you're on a touchscreen device you can swipe through time zones to see when the race is on. You can have it in your local time zone. You can have it in the time-zone local to the Grand Prix or you can have it in GMT if that's what you prefer. And you can just swipe to the left, swipe to the right. Swipe to the left...

Christine: Or you can click the buttons to move along if you're on a clickable...

Mr C: If you're old school.

Christine: ...instead.

[Sweeper]

Mr C: There is a grand Prix this weekend. We've skirted around the subject more than the BBC have in fact. It's... we don't know what's going to happen. There is a lot of question marks over why Formula 1 is even there right now. We'd rather it wasn't there. My genuinely and slightly oddly my only fear is that it actually might be a fantastic race and, you know, I don't want to miss it even though every part of me is saying you really should by boycotting this, F1 shouldn't be here, there's nothing to be seen here, just turn it off. Don't give it any attention.

Christine: We will be putting up live threads at the moment, which seems like an okay thing to do. There aren't many people in them which is totally understandable. I'm not doing Factbyte Factboxes or anything like that, but you're right there does seem to be something that says we need to see this race, even if we don't one hundred per cent agree with it.

Mr C: It's just a shame that Formula 1 is so good right now. It's unmissable and that makes it incredibly tricky. We don't know what's going to happen. Even at this late hour there still might not be a race, we just don't know. But I hope at least this show has brought some smiles into your life, because there's not a lot to smile about. I know both



Force India and Sauber both had close shaves and their personnel were put in situations that they shouldn't have been put in frankly. And for that we can only blame Bernie Ecclestone because the buck stops with him.

Christine: I am more than happy to blame Bernie.

Mr C: Yes. The only light at the end of this tunnel is that I saw a picture in this week's Grand Prix plus of Bernie and he looks tired. I mean he looks really really really tired.

Christine: You know those six words can get people out of a job.

Mr C: Doesn't Bernie look tired?

[Transcript by Robyn]

