



The quietest weekend in Formula 1

[The Maine: We Change, We Wait]

Christine: Hello! Are you doing your little trick again?

Mr C: Yea! I love it!

Christine: Pretending to be professional.

Mr C: Yea.

Christine: Even though we're, like, an hour late.

Mr C: Yea, but I think the whole fading and blurring and the music...

Christine: Does it make up for it?

Mr C: Yea. That's what the people want, I hear.

Christine: Who? Who said that?

Mr C: I have no recollection specifically.

Christine: No, that's because you made it up.

Mr C: I am a man of the people, and it's what the people ask.

Christine: Yea.

Mr C: Yea. Um, how are we?

Christine: Back! After two weeks.

Mr C: Seems like longer. Don't say it seems like not long enough.

Christine: No comment.

Mr C: Okay, where are we at then? Are we ready to go?

Christine: Mmhmm.

Mr C: Sounds okay? Video's okay?



Christine: As far as I can tell. Amy's up, in the middle of the night.

Mr C: Amy's up, blimey. Is that for the panel?

Christine: Well she's here now.

Mr C: Wow, she's keen.

Christine: Yea.

Mr C: Goodness me, righty-ho. Steven wants blurry fading. Blurry fading for the win!

Christine: Yea, it's amusing because Gavin said "blame Steven Roy" and the very next comment, Steven said "I want blurry fading!" Proving a point, really.

Mr C: So, I'm better because I've got my un-named energy drink. Full of beans. Oh yea. You want a jingly, jingly, jingly thing wotsit.

[Jingle: Opening theme tune]

Christine: Welcome to F1 Debrief - Funny title goes here.

Mr C: Who's on titles this week?

Christine: Steven Roy did do a little thing, where he introduced what happens in the show to any newcomers.

Mr C: Oh cool!

Christine: It's very good. We need to hire him.

Mr C: I did miss that.

Christine: Yea, but you miss a lot of things. When you're faffing around. I've already complained about you faffing.

Mr C: Yea, a lot of faffing today. I got a little bit befuddled by the whole BBC thing. Put me off. I tell you what, it happened earlier this week, because I was all set for the Pitlane Fanatic quiz, and I was getting ready and I was getting bits organised and literally about five minutes before the quiz started someone said 'ah yea, Rob heard that song.' And then that was the end of the night. Four hours later, and still befuddled. Anyway, so, we're up and running.

Christine: Befuddled is a good word.



Mr C: Yes, absolutely. I think Lukeh yesterday said confuzzled.

Christine: Confuzzled. That's also a good one.

Mr C: Righty-ho, are we ready to get going?

Christine: Yep. Are you ready? You are reading. I can see you're reading.

Mr C: Lady Snowcat said is it just her or is the sound quality very good? Cool!

Christine: That may be the first time we've ever heard that in our lives.

Mr C: It's a compliment about our production, I'm going to frame that comment. Right, yes, go for it.

Christine: Apologies for there not being any shows last week, someone was ill.

Mr C: I was ill the previous week, if you recall the podcast was done under a bit of a cloud and I wasn't feeling on top of the world and then I got worse and worse and worse until last week there was just no way of doing a show.

Christine: I remember it vividly.

Mr C: I feel great this week, how do you feel?

Christine: Yea, not so good.

Mr C: Wonderful. Can we not be ill at the same time?

Christine: We take it in turns.

Mr C: Right, we're running shifts on having flu now. This is a terrible business. Are you okay to do the show?

Christine: Of course.

Mr C: Is your voice gonna hold out?

Christine: Yea, see, cos I don't get man flu.

Mr C: What do you have?

Christine: Just a normal cold. Like normal people.

[Jingle: Good week/Bad week]



Christine: What?

Mr C: That's fine. I've got nothing to say to that. I had the Black Death and the bubonic plague all in one go.

Christine: I know you did. I'm the one being a drama queen with my tickly throat.

Mr C: Yea.

Christine: It's been a good week for Jenson's PA Jules. We've been spotting her following Jenson around at events for the last few years, and we were worried when she hasn't been on the grid so far this year. We thought maybe she was a victim of the credit crunch. However, uber-Jenson fan Lou has been doing some detective work and found a post on JB's forums from Jules herself, she said she's still his PA but just not travelling to races this year.

Mr C: Do we follow any other PA's by the way?

Christine: I don't think so.

Mr C: It's just Jules we're concerned with. But it sounds like she's fine.

Christine: But she's always there. You can't not follow her.

Mr C: She's as famous as Jenson.

Christine: Pretty much. It's been a bad week for a Red Bull mechanic. This story is actually a couple of weeks old, because I was going to use it in the last show but it's too good not to share. Dank sent us a link to this story about a Red Bull mechanic who woke up on the Monday morning in China, put on his full race gear and went down to meet the others, saying he'd had a great dream where they'd actually won the race. They had to convince him that... they had to convince him that... ooh, I can't speak.

Mr C: Man flu does that to you.

Christine: Sorry. They had to convince him that it had actually happened, that it was Monday and they were off to the airport and not the track.

Mr C: Bless him. That must be really weird.

Christine: How embarrassing.

Mr C: That must be one hell of a dream as well.

Christine: Hey guys, guys, I just dreamt that we won! No, we did. It's been a good week for Nick Heidfeld as he has now matched Michael Schumacher's record of finishing 24 consecutive grands prix. His last retirement was the 2007 Japanese race. That's ages ago.



Mr C: That's a long, long time ago. Do you even remember that far back?

Christine: Probably not. They don't call him consistent for nothing. Of course, he says that it's just a statistic and really there are other Schumi stats he'd rather beat.

Mr C: Well, fair enough but we didn't think he was gonna beat, or anyone was ever gonna beat that Schumacher statistic so one down, another 24 to go.

Christine: Well, he's just matched it for now, as well, so it's not actually the big party.

Mr C: Ah, oh he still has to go for one more.

Christine: But the chances are he will. It's been a bad week for Canadians as Villeneuve has set up a driving academy in Montreal. It's not just motorsport and offers all kinds of courses from defensive driving to getting started racing professionally. Good luck to the people on the roads in Canada.

Mr C: Baggy shirts optional? Baggy overalls... I got the joke wrong! I can't believe it!

Christine: I set that up for you and you got it wrong!

Mr C: Do it again, sorry. I'm getting an awful lot... I'm gonna turn this fan off for a second, I'm hearing a lot of... well, do this one then I'm gonna turn the fan off. For some reason I seem to have a lot of echo today. But go for it.

Christine: It's been a bad week for Canadians as Villeneuve has set up a driving academy in Montreal. It's not just motorsport and offers all kinds of courses from defensive driving to getting started racing professionally. Good luck to all the Canadians on the road.

Mr C: Bleached hair and baggy overalls are optional.

[Jingle: News and views]

Mr C: Why are you giggling at me?

Christine: You're rubbish!

Mr C: Yes.

Christine: You've been waiting all that time to do your joke and you screwed it up.

Mr C: Yea, that sounds like me. Carry on.

Christine: The first bit of news on my list is all about Donington Park. Um, but actually, it's really easy. Bernie gave Donington the British GP for 2010, we all said it'd never happen. They all said it would. It really won't.



Mr C: We have lots of evidence. We have audio recorded at the Silverstone Grand Prix last year when it was announced, where people said don't think it's gonna happen. We have comments on Sidepodcast.com all throughout the past, what is it, eight, nine months? People saying it's not gonna happen. Simon and Bernie both saying 'yea, it'll be fine, no problems, and we can see this going ahead without a hitch.' And now, plenty of hitches.

Christine: It's really not going to happen, is it? To be a bit more thorough, it emerged that Donington Park owners Wheatcroft and Son are taking Donington Ventures Leisure Limited to court because they owe over £2 million in backdated rent from September last year. That's not good. They also had some issues with licensing for some of the races, but both MotoGP and British Touring Cars have been assured that they'll go ahead. The British government said they're not going to help out with any funding and Bernie said that if Donington can't do it then it's likely they'll be no British GP. You've got to say that bit.

Mr C: Bernie said it's likely they'll be no British GP, nah I'm lost.

Christine: Although it does look like he's changing his mind slightly, because he told the Times that it is possible Silverstone could make a return depending if they meet his demands or not.

Mr C: Right, so all this time, there's no reason... all this time there's no way it's coming back to Silverstone, he's not having any of it, 100% it's Donington or bust and now, well, we might have to look at it actually.

Christine: Could happen.

Mr C: Now you mention it.

Christine: It looks as though Donington Ventures are up against the council again regarding some safety documentation and on Tuesday Simon Gillette is going to ask for more time to get this sorted or else the race is off.

Mr C: So the planning permission, it's D-Day for planning permission sign off on Tuesday.

Christine: I think he's asking for an extension because it's not ready.

Mr C: So he's got till the end of the month.

Christine: They're going to say 'yes you can have it' or 'no you can't have an extension' and if they say no, then that's it, it's over already.

Mr C: Okay, there is an opportunity for Bernie to step in and be the saviour of the British Grand Prix, if he so chooses. He could afford to bail out Simon if he so desired.

Christine: Well, I think it's the only thing that he could do to make this seem in any way positive.

Mr C: Right.



Christine: Because I don't know why they would have given the grand prix to Donington, it just doesn't make any sense. They knew it wasn't gonna work, we all knew it wasn't gonna work, they kept telling us it would but it clearly wasn't. How can he have thought this was a good idea? Think of all the negative headlines they've had.

Mr C: Bernie doesn't care about negative headlines. He only cares about money, and he also, by the look of it, cares a little bit about scoring points off the BRDC, which he has successfully done because he timed the announcement in order to hurt them as much as possible and since then he's done everything in his power to knock them and to diss them and to complain about them. So, he has gained a lot of positive PR if the kind of PR you're after is knocking the BRDC. That part of the plans has gone through. He hasn't lost any money, and because he doesn't care what anybody thinks, he probably hasn't lost any face either.

Christine: Gillette is still adamant it's gonna happen though, even in the last few days he's been saying 'oh, all the British people, they're just doubters and if I had a pound off of every person that didn't think it was gonna happen, I could fund the GP all over again.' Yea, you might want to try that actually. It's the only way it's going to happen.

Mr C: There's an argument to say that possibly he is wrong and all the doubters and everybody who disputes his claims might have a point.

Christine: That's it.

Mr C: Good stuff. Sweeper sweeper?

[Jingle: Sweeper]

Christine: The megablastic swoosh.

Mr C: Sorry. Megablastic swoosh.

Christine: Hasn't been called a sweeper sweeper for about a year.

Mr C: No, sorry. Hypermendous.

Christine: Fasterrific!

Mr C: Carry on.

Christine: Oops, sorry. This week, McLaren got the results of their hearing to do with the lying scandal. Obviously there's no need to rehash everything that happened.

Mr C: Seems like it was a long, long time ago this kicked off.

Christine: It does. Which is weird because actually not that much has happened.



Mr C: No. But it was the first race of the year and we've had three races and in that time, I kinda forgot about it.

Christine: Yea. It was just not important anymore. Martin Whitmarsh turned up by himself, which is a completely different approach to what McLaren have been used to in the past.

Mr C: Oh yes. No lawyers in tow.

Christine: Usually they turn up with a whole... what's the word...

Mr C: Host?

Christine: Entourage. Usually they turn up with a whole entourage of people. Oh, okay fine.

Mr C: Go on.

Christine: I'll just cut that bit out then.

Mr C: What's wrong? What did I do wrong?

Christine: Nothing.

Mr C: Okay.

Christine: Cos you were gonna say something and then you stopped and I ruined it.

Mr C: Carry on.

Christine: Well now I'm lost, give me a second.

Mr C: Mmm, it's okay, I can read the comments.

Christine: Yea, cos you know, god forbid you were actually helpful in the whole podcasting business.

Mr C: I'm just here for the ride.

Christine: Usually they turn up with a whole entourage of people, but this time he was all by himself, he only stayed in there for an hour. Basically apologised again in person. And I think they took that on board.

Mr C: The FIA? Or Max specifically. Max has won the battle that Max wanted to win which is Ron Dennis has now fully stepped away from the company. He's set up, is it McLaren Automotive? He's now gone his own way with that project. He's effectively entirely out of F1 and therefore no longer in contact or in Max's way, getting under his feet in the way of all the plans. So from that point of view, Max has achieved his aim, and I do believe he gets on a lot better with Martin Whitmarsh.



Christine: Well, on, I think it was James Allen's blog, he said, he had an interview with Max and Max said that he never hated Ron but did find him to be quite obstructive, whereas Martin is at least, you know, open to suggestions.

Mr C: At the moment, he's doing his best to bend over backwards and help out the FIA which is a wise decision, and something McLaren haven't done for a very long time.

Christine: Well, actually it seems like the team are changing all over the place because in the Bahrain paddock, they were playing music, giving out free cocktails, they are opening up their motorhome to the journalists and that in Europe.

Mr C: I fear for Red Bull in this because Red Bull has always been the place to go for a party and a cocktail and some music and they pride themselves on not being like McLaren, and now McLaren have gone all Red Bull, what are they supposed to do?

Christine: It did work for them though, because the FIA said: "Having regard to the open and honest way in which McLaren team principal Mr Martin Whitmarsh addressed the World Motorsport Council and the changing culture which he made clear has taken place in his organisation, the World Motorsport Council decided to suspend the application of the penalty it deems appropriate." So it worked out for them, they got the three race suspended ban which basically means nothing happens unless they do anything bad in the next twelve months.

Mr C: Yea, I do wonder and I do worry if this hasn't set a bit of a precedent from the FIA, because what they've essentially said is 'it's okay to lie and cheat as long as you've got a scapegoat and a fall guy ready.' That's effectively the vibe I'm getting from them. As long as you've got a Davey Ryan who you can fire and put all the blame on, then go ahead, lie and cheat and we'll just give you a suspended sentence and say no more about it.

Christine: Well there is that way of looking at it, I suppose. I just think that the FIA had to be seen to be doing something, they couldn't let them get away with lying especially... I mean, a lot of people have said 'oh lying happens all the time, it doesn't matter' or, you know, how come it's never been a problem before.

Mr C: Sure.

Christine: But at the moment things are going very open and honest and that's just the way F1 is going. So they had to be seen to do something.

Mr C: The FIA were stuffed by Mercedes and some of McLaren's sponsors because I believe they got in contact with Max and said if the fine is heavy handed, we may walk away from this sport. I do believe it's the manufacturers actually that they're putting their foot down and saying that's enough now, we've got our eye on you and you need us to remain in the sport. Mercedes now supplying six teams.

Christine: Quite important.



Mr C: You don't want that team walking away from Formula One. And Max was a little bit screwed, he couldn't do much in the face of that kind of talk.

Christine: I don't think they would have wanted to mess around with the points or anything happening on the racing action. I know they say it was gonna be a three race ban, but I don't think they would have made that happen.

Mr C: No, one thing which is disappointing is we're actually none the wiser as to whether or not it was a team decision and whether or not it was Davey acting entirely on his own. And that's a bit of a shame because we never really got to the bottom of it and in other times, in previous years, I think there would have been more of an investigation and we would be more wiser as to what happened. Because at the moment we basically have Charlie's word, we haven't heard from Davey, we've heard from Lewis and we've heard from Martin. And that's as much of the story as we're ever going to know.

Christine: Do we need to know more though? I'm not that interested, to be honest.

Mr C: I guess not.

Christine: They lied, it happened. That's it, it's over with.

Mr C: Good.

[Jingle: Sweeper]

Christine: Following the McLaren hearing, which was all done and dusted nice and early on Weds... oh crikey.

Mr C: You alright?

Christine: Yea, need to take a breath there!

Mr C: Okay.

Christine: Following the McLaren hearing, which was all done and dusted nice and early on Wednesday, the World Motorsport Council continued to chatter into the afternoon, and released their findings the next day all about the regulations for 2010.

Mr C: Hmm. Yes.

Christine: More changes.

Mr C: Yea, just what we needed actually. Just after the new introductions for 2009.

Christine: I mean, god forbid you make a set of changes and then see whether it works.



Mr C: You know, four races in, we know everything we need to know about 2009 regulations. We've had one, what two weather affected races. One...

Christine: One Australia which is just crazy anyway.

Mr C: Well it was a dusk race, so the late sun did affect the drivers towards the end of the race. And you've had one, what you would call, normal race with which to look at how the changes for 2009 have worked out. And on that basis, the World Motorsport Council feel happy enough to go ahead and make yet more changes for next year.

Christine: [coughs]

Mr C: Okay?

Christine: Mmhmm. So if you're a team and you want to take part in the 2010 championship, you have to submit your entry between the 22nd and the 29th May. That's this month!

Mr C: Right. That's really quick.

Christine: That's a week.

Mr C: Really short notice.

Christine: This month.

Mr C: Okay dokey, and not only that, you have to decide when you submit your entry, whether or not you're going to continue along the lines of free spending and the rules that have shaped the past god knows how many years in Formula One, or whether or not you're going to sign up to the new FIA budget cap.

Christine: Ah yes, the budget cap. £40 million which is a bit more than what the FIA wanted.

Mr C: Not much more, actually. I thought there would be an awful lot more leeway. The teams were talking of \$100 million and then a sliding scale, which would be their ideal and Max's pretty much capped it where he wanted it to be.

Christine: It covers everything bar marketing, driver salaries, all driver salaries actually so your main two and anyone else that tags along.

Mr C: Your test drivers.

Christine: Fines from the FIA, engines, dividends and anything the teams can prove has no effect on performance.



Mr C: Right. I tell you what I would do, if I was a team and I was signing up to this. I would make sure everybody is a test driver in my team, I would make sure all the pit mechanics...

Christine: Get them all superlicences.

Mr C: Yea, get them all a superlicence, get a couple of miles under their belt, get them out there testing. The teams who sign up to this, they've got unlimited testing mileage in the winter, so I'd make sure every single person in my team was going round that track and putting mileage on the parts, making sure they're all drivers and then exempt from any kind of budget caps. Adrian Newey would almost certainly be a driver in my team.

Christine: So, like you just said, budget cap teams are allowed unlimited out of season testing and unrestricted wind tunnel usage but the costs of that still count towards the budget cap, don't they?

Mr C: They do.

Christine: So you can do as much as you want but it's still got to come in within the 40 million.

Mr C: If you want to spend all your money on wind tunnel testing, I guess you can do that.

Christine: The restricted teams also have more technical freedom including a movable rear wing to go with the movable front wing, unrestricted engine, which is gonna make quite a difference.

Mr C: There's no rev limits on the engine. I would say, just on the movable rear wing, that does sound a little bit crazy. Because, I mean, they're pretty big wings and they obviously provide downforce for the car. They make sure the cars do, there's a safety requirement for a rear wing, and if you're suddenly going to make that movable, it does strike me that you're going to have drivers going straight on when they get to a corner, because either they forgot to flick the switch to move the rear wing back into position, or the switch failed and it got stuck in a previous position, and therefore, you're just going to get drivers going straight on with zero downforce as they hit the corner.

Christine: Pitlane Fanatic also noted the regulations have been changed to allow the budget cap teams more than two wheels to be driven.

Mr C: Yea, there's a bit of talk on this. This was on, Pitlane Fanatic picked up on this one and there's been some conversation... why are you shaking your head?

Christine: I just said that.

Mr C: Did you? Sorry. Say it again.

Christine: Pitlane Fanatic also noted the regulations have been changed to allow the budget cap teams more than two wheels to be driven.



Mr C: There has been much talk of this in the comments this afternoon and I haven't totally managed to follow all of it because it's a little bit technical and a little bit complicated, however, it does look like KERS can be recovered from all four wheels next year, which is good because it's something we said should have happened already and it's a shame you don't get the energy braking recovery from the front wheels. So that's good. However, no one's really sure if four... four... However, no one's really convinced that four wheel drive will.... That's easy for me to say. However, no one's really convinced that four wheel drive will return to Formula One because it's too complicated and it's too heavy and it puts the weight in all the wrong places.

Christine: [laughs]

Mr C: What's that?

Christine: Lou said 'I love that Mr C is listening to everything that Christine is saying.'

Mr C: I was miles away.

Christine: Welcome to my life.

Mr C: What's news?

Christine: All the teams, whether they go for the budget cap or not, they are not allowed to refuel in 2010 and tyre blankets are banned as well.

Mr C: Refuelling has, or will be... it was talked about this before.

Christine: It comes up quite often.

Mr C: And the FIA... obviously the tyre blanket rule came out, was it last year, for 2009 it was supposed to be banned, and then it turned out Bridgestone couldn't actually make tyres that were safe if they weren't pre-heated.

Christine: The teams weren't happy about it, were they?

Mr C: The drivers thought it was crazy. Presumably, there's been time to fix this problem, although we haven't actually seen any tyres working within that temperature window.

Christine: Some of the teams were testing 2010 tyres but I presume they had tyre warmers as well.

Mr C: They may have been using tyre warmers, I don't know. That's a good question. Bridgestone seem to think that it's going to be fine and so they are gone. And refuelling will also be gone next year, which is something I was going to put a post about on the blog, however the comments have been a little bit controversial already this week.

Christine: Yea, well, when it first got announced, we had a discussion about it.



Mr C: Yea, there was a raucous discussion in the comments, and I have a lot more to say on the concept of banning refuelling and what a stupid idea it really is. But that will come next week I think, because it's probably too much to get into here.

Christine: We need time to let it settle a little as well.

Mr C: Yes, I think the FIA are complete idiots. I tell you what's more concerning, is because the budget cap is such a big deal, all of the teams are concentrating on whether or not, the merits of the budget cap and whether or not they're interested in being involved in it and no one is heeding much attention to the refuelling issue, which is a little bit concerning.

Christine: I can understand why they are worried about the budget cap thing though, because it means there are two types of cars.

Mr C: It fundamentally changes what F1 is and what F1 has always been. It's probably the most significant real change in F1's history.

Christine: And I don't like it.

Mr C: Now someone's gonna correct me on that, but I would say this is a massive shift in what Formula One is about and what it's trying to do and what it's trying to be. Why don't you like it?

Christine: I mean, I don't... I have absolutely nothing against the budget cap idea, when that was first mentioned, we were all for it. But I do not want to see two different types of cars.

Mr C: Right, two different types of championship.

Christine: Yea. It becomes like Le Mans, you've got to watch the different drivers...

Mr C: The slow cars and the fast cars, and the slow cars are gonna get in the way of the fast cars and there's gonna be more blue flags, there's gonna be problems in qualifying. There's gonna be huge problems. My issue is, Max says that he thinks in the first year there will be a split, and then he believes all the teams are gonna come round to the budget capped idea if they don't sign up to it originally. The problem is, for me, is not the fact there's going to be a two-tier championship, because eventually one way will be favourable and all the teams will end up going that way. So you're probably looking at one bad year, possibly two, until everybody figures out which way they're going to go. My problem is I don't believe the budget cap is enforceable. I'm sure we covered this at the end of 2008?

Christine: We did, we talked about the budget cap idea extensively when it was first proposed, but Max has said they're setting up a new Cost Commission and they think that it will be enforceable, but then he goes on to say... and I've lost my other quote because I wrote them in two separate places, that's not very smart, is it? "People cheat the revenue but the revenue can't put one tax inspector into each business on a permanent basis. We can, we can put several in."



Mr C: Is that legal?

Christine: So he's gonna have people in the teams?

Mr C: Is this not the FIA getting involved commercial activities? Something they're explicitly banned from doing by the EU, and can they even insist that a number of people can be moved in to a company for a period of time to have a look in the books and see what's going on?

Christine: Like auditors.

Mr C: Basically, what they're saying is, we're going to put people in to keep an eye on your books permanently, if we have to. So if we think you're cheating, we're gonna send our FIA people, FIA accountants into your company, and they're just going to rifle through your stuff.

Christine: The FIA people are coming!

Mr C: I cannot believe that any company in their right mind would advocate this, and encourage this!

Christine: But you know what the other thing is, they haven't said what happens if you spend too much money. They don't know what the penalty is going to be.

Mr C: Well that...

Christine: They just haven't decided yet.

Mr C: There was a point, I think Maverick pointed out in the comments this week that the... one of the things that is excluded from the budget cap are fines and penalties. Which is ludicrous, because that doesn't encourage you... if you're a very, very rich team, you can afford to cheat more than the poor teams.

Christine: Yea, pay the fine which doesn't count towards the budget cap.

Mr C: The fine has to be within the budget cap, and I guess the problem with that is, Max's reasoning is you can't fine someone \$100 million when the team is supposed to exist for 20 or 30 million.

Christine: No, but then if they exceed their budget cap and then you fine them money and that falls within the budget cap, then they're just exceeding the budget cap, then you'll just fine them some more and it just keeps going round like that. A big circle. It's impossible.

Mr C: I don't know. I'd love to know what Formula One fans think of this, and please, if you're listening to this show, do let us know in the comments. It's the kind of thing, if you've never commented on Sidepodcast before, you must have an opinion on this, because what you're looking at is the FIA changing Formula One. Now, you know, it depends on your point of view whether you think this is necessary, because of the way the economy is. Whether you think that Max is just taking an opportunity and he's blaming the economy in order to force his beliefs and his opinions on the racing, or whether or not you



think it's actually genuinely quite good for Formula One and you're looking forward to it. Personally, I'm really, really not looking forward to it in any way, shape or form.

Christine: What we need to see is comments on Sidepodcast.com, emails to me christine@sidepodcast or voicemails 0121 28 87225.

Mr C: We haven't had many voicemails.

Christine: I haven't had any voicemails this week.

Mr C: But I think this is a subject that we need voicemails on, and we'd love to hear your opinions before next week because again, it literally affects all of us.

Christine: Some of the teams have offered their opinions. You'd expect the smaller teams to be behind it because it will save them money. Force India and Williams, for example. Vijay Mallya was kinda cautious, he said: "In principle, Force India welcomes the cost cutting and the budget caps" but they're reviewing it internally and FOTA are meeting next week so they'll no doubt discuss it there. Williams are in favour of the budget cap but not in favour of the two-tier championship and they want to see all teams operating under the same set of regulations. Martin Whitmarsh came out and said something, although basically it was nothing, cos he doesn't want to offend anybody ever.

Mr C: I love this guy. Martin Whitmarsh is my hero, he doesn't want to step on anybody's toes ever.

Christine: What I like is he says massive long sentences that mean nothing.

Mr C: It's just noise.

Christine: He just said: "Whatever the solution is, it's most likely to be arrived at by measured negotiation between all parties." Which just means, we'll talk about it.

Mr C: Well, you've got to credit him for common sense, he has a point there. That is the best way to come to any decision in any walk of life, however what a rubbish quote.

Christine: It doesn't tell us anything.

Mr C: What do you actually mean, Martin?

Christine: Ferrari, they didn't hold back, though.

Mr C: Well, they did. No, originally, Ferrari said 'we will make no comment, the Ferrari team are gonna say nothing about this at all to anyone. No comment until our FOTA meeting on May 6th.' Then what happened?

Christine: Then, well, they wrote a letter to Max.



Mr C: Right. Doesn't that constitute lying?

Christine: Maybe actually. Then we read the letter to Max. It got leaked.

Mr C: Any guesses for who might have leaked it?

Christine: Max?

Mr C: No one's saying but one would assume that it must be someone within the FIA with an agenda.

Christine: Ferrari aren't happy about... Ferrari aren't happy about the budget cap because they want to spend more money, basically.

Mr C: They have lots and lots of money.

Christine: And they want to start winning again.

Mr C: Fiat are the only car company that's actually making money at the moment, and they get oodles more from Bernie than all of the other teams.

Christine: Max wrote a letter back, his was actually public, so he made it public from the start, so there was no leaking. He basically said 'tough, this is the future of F1 and I've got lots of teams lined up to take your place so!' Ferrari don't matter anymore.

Mr C: We have so heard that one before, we've heard of 14, 15 teams signing up. Wasn't it, for the 2009 World Championship, there was 21 teams signed up? Of which none of them, not one single team actually emerged as someone who might put a car on the grid.

Christine: In part of the regulations that they did release this week, the maximum number of cars has gone up to 26, so that's at least three new teams they're expecting. And also, they said that they'd let the unsuccessful teams know in writing. So they must be expecting more than 13 teams.

Mr C: I think we should submit an entry. We've got three weeks.

Christine: Yep.

Mr C: And all we'd need is a logo.

Christine: 40 million?

Mr C: And a logo.

Christine: 40 million though.

Mr C: Yea, but focus on the logo.



Christine: Okay, logo first.

Mr C: Absolutely.

Christine: Logo first, funding later.

Mr C: That sounds like Peter Windsor's plan. Are we done? Anything else to say on that? Only the deadline thing, I suppose. I think we should leave it there...

Christine: Well, I can say something else.

Mr C: Please do.

Christine: I don't know.

Mr C: Go on, what have you got to say? I have nothing else to say on that one. I'll leave it there.

Christine: Okay.

Mr C: [sings]

Christine: That's you then.

Mr C: Okay.

[Jingle: Sweeper]

Mr C: What have we got next? The race.

Christine: [coughs]

Mr C: I'm changing that.

Christine: What?

Mr C: It's alright.

Christine: You're actually looking at your show notes, this is unheard of.

Mr C: I've read the first paragraph of the show notes and I know that something is missing. I'm gonna drop it in at the start, but continue. Do you want me to start this one?

Christine: No.



Mr C: Okay. Oh! That's the wrong sweeper sweeper.

Christine: What did you do?

Mr C: I did a megablastic swoosh.

Christine: Can't be trusted.

[Jingle: The race]

Christine: So clearly we missed out talking... So clearly we missed out talking through the Bahrain race at the time, because someone was ill. It wasn't necessarily the best race we've ever seen.

Mr C: I did enjoy it, although admittedly I was under the influence of medication, but I found it quite compelling.

Christine: It was, it was probably the best race for you to be ill on, of the ones we've seen, anyway.

Mr C: Didn't require that much in the way of conf... conc... It didn't require that much in the way of concentration.

Christine: No. At the time I said it was a snoozefest, which I actually think was probably a bit harsh now.

Mr C: Before though, we get to talk about the race, there was one thing I really have to mention and that happened on Saturday, and that was one Mr Adrian Sutil. And his blocking on Mark Webber, which was atrocious behaviour and it shows the problem with the points system and the penalties system as it currently is... and it shows the problem with the penalties... and it shows the problem with the penalty system as it currently is because Sutil qualified, what was it, 18th, 17th or something, and the best they could do was send him to the back of the grid which was about three places.

Christine: He qualified 16th, he got a three place grid drop to 19th, I think.

Mr C: Personally, I thought it was bad enough that he shouldn't have been allowed to race, because Mark Webber was coming round on his hot lap. Sutil saw him, didn't want Webber to get in the way of... Sutil was obviously doing his warm up lap, his slow lap. He saw Webber coming and he deliberately tried to block him. It looked like he tried to run him off the track, and Mark Webber's race was screwed as a result of Sutil's actions, and Sutil basically got no penalty at all, because he just got moved back three places from where he was which was nowhere.

Christine: And not an unusual place for a Force India to be, either.

Mr C: No, not at all. He didn't qualify that high, and the penalty to me didn't fit the crime, and I thought Sutil got away with it far too much. And also what was really weird, was the Force India podcast after the race spent a good ten, fifteen minutes defending the actions of Sutil and I disagreed with every single point of them. They were completely, for some reason Force India really felt wronged by this three place grid



drop, which I thought was just getting away with it scot free, and suddenly there was Ian Phillips saying 'no, I think that really hurt us.'

Christine: It's not often you disagree with Ian Phillips.

Mr C: I just thought, I genuinely believe the way that Force India defended themselves in the podcast, and you should listen to that podcast. It's quite a good one, it's a new one from Force India this year, always worth a listen, and I felt that in this instance, they got it completely and totally and utterly wrong, and at times they were, I think one of the arguments was Mark Webber didn't mind being blocked anyway, it was the Red Bull team who complained, which was just rubbish!

Christine: He seemed completely fine about it afterwards, didn't he?

Mr C: I think he was down with having his race completely ruined by that muppet who pulled out in front of him, and I genuinely don't think Sutil should have raced and I think Force India were wrong to defend him.

Christine: What's the word I'm looking for?

Mr C: The word you're looking for?

Christine: Yes. Hmm.

Mr C: Give me a clue.

Christine: Um, no. We'll just go through some of the key points of the race then. Trulli had a terrible start and I think the Toyota's lost it on basically the first lap of the race.

Mr C: Yea, if they couldn't win this race, what race are they ever going to win? It's going to be a fluke when Toyota win now, isn't it?

Christine: From pole position, a nice dry race, they had some speed.

Mr C: They locked out the front row. They had the fastest car on single lap pace... excuse me... did you hear that? Sorry. That was supposed to be quiet.

Christine: Nice.

Mr C: They had the fastest car on single lap pace and somehow managed to throw away a certain win on a track that doesn't really allow overtaking even with today's regulations, and somehow by picking the wrong tyre choice for both cars, they managed to completely screw both drivers' races.

Christine: I wonder if the team are lacking of bit of winning experience. I mean, Trulli has won a couple, but not for a while.



Mr C: Yea, you mean someone within the team who knows how to go out there and win a race? They have Dernie, though, don't they? Frank Dernie's part of the team now.

Christine: Renault are struggling but Alonso knows how to get it done.

Mr C: Yea, and so does Pat Symonds and so does Flav. There's no one in Toyota who really has that, I guess that winning approach and it looks like they suffered. Seriously, if they didn't win Bahrain, I cannot see any other race they're going to win this year.

Christine: Talking of Renault, one of my favourite bits of the race was actually Piquet. Never thought I'd say that.

Mr C: Go on, why was Piquet good?

Christine: When he was holding up Barrichello, now obviously it wasn't good for Barrichello and it was a bit cheeky because the pair weren't really racing for position.

Mr C: Sure. They were racing on the track, though. He wasn't a backmarker.

Christine: No, it was legitimate position but in the race long... in the big picture.

Mr C: In the overall scheme of things, sure.

Christine: And I just thought it was a really good display of KERS and non-KERS and good defensive driving.

Mr C: And what KERS can do. Yes. I mean, Piquet was in a slower car but a KERS-enabled car and he had the boost button. He knew when to use it, he used it at exactly the right points, which isn't a given, especially when it's Piquet, you know, the chance of him missing a push.

Christine: He didn't spin off.

Mr C: No, he didn't. He didn't hit the KERS going into a corner. He managed to hit it every time going out of a corner. I thought it was a great, you're right, it was a great display of what KERS is capable of and you can bet your money, you can bet your bottom dollar that Barrichello went back to Brawn and in the debrief that evening said 'we need KERS, because that's unacceptable.'

Christine: He wasn't happy about it.

Mr C: There's no... 'I had absolutely no chance of overtaking Piquet because we don't have this button.'

Christine: It also possibly bought Piquet a little bit of time, as well.

Mr C: Do you think he saved himself?



Christine: For a little bit. Not forever. But I think he might go on a bit further. After the race, Toro Rosso put out a news piece on their site that explained why Buemi was slow. He had a piece of BMW stuck in his car apparently.

Mr C: Okay, and he was outraced by Bourdais.

Christine: He was, so Bourdais finished ahead of him and Toro Rosso felt the need to put a news piece...

Mr C: Ah interesting.

Christine: ...to explain why Buemi was so slow.

Mr C: That's unusual. So they are backing one driver?

Christine: It does seem that way.

Mr C: At the expense of the other, that's a different take from those guys. Although, having said that, that's exactly what we saw with Scott Speed and Liuzzi.

Christine: Yea. I mean, they didn't put out any news as to why Bourdais was still quite slow, or has been slow ever. It's almost like they want Buemi to beat LeSeb, as much as we do. [coughs] I don't know which part of a BMW was caught up in the Toro Rosso, but it probably wasn't the front wing. When we first saw that BMW, we said the front wing was gonna be really slow.

Mr C: It's boxy. It always was boxy.

Christine: It didn't look fast.

Mr C: And it hasn't changed since the day they debuted that car back in December, I think it was, of last year. It looks heavy, and fat and chunky.

Christine: When we saw, first saw the Renault, we thought that front wing and nose was gonna be slow. And it kinda was.

Mr C: To be honest with you, I think we thought it was a joke. That massive wide, heavy front wing, it didn't look fast at all, and thus far, pretty much we've been proven to be correct.

Christine: I mean, not just us, everyone in the comments. We've all thought that those two didn't look the prettiest of things.

Mr C: They didn't look racy.

Christine: Why can't these aero guys that are paid millions of pounds, why can't they figure that out?



Mr C: Well, that's true. Maybe they're believing the computers too much. I'll tell you what we did say, when we saw the Red Bull. We said that car looks fast, and thus far...

Christine: It was.

Mr C: Yea, it's been a quick one.

Christine: I think the only one that's fooled us is McLaren, because their's looked quite fast and hasn't been.

Mr C: It turned out to be rather slow. It didn't look fast when it was covered in green paint though.

Christine: No, that's true.

Mr C: So we knew they were gonna have problems. But you're right. The Renault always looked like it was going to be a handful, and always looked like it was never going to be dominating. And the BMW looked like it was never gonna achieve anything, and in Bahrain, goodness me...

Christine: It really didn't. They were right at the back.

Mr C: That was rubbish, beaten by the Force Indias, absolutely on pace and on merit. Now, Force India did term up with a new diffuser so they are improving their car, but BMW have not brought a single new piece at all.

Christine: You know it's bad if Force India are improving their car better than you are.

Mr C: Yes, and this is BMW who redirected their efforts midway through last year to concentrate on this year, and Force India who have nothing like the budget that BMW have.

Christine: Kubica must be banging his head against a brick wall right now.

Mr C: [laughs] That would explain the nose.

Christine: [tuts] Harsh. Harsh! At the end of the race, the podium was Button, Vettel and Trulli. Trulli didn't look particularly impressed as you can imagine, he ended up third from pole. But Button, he was much happier to have finished without the aid of a safety car, or rain.

Mr C: Button did good. Button did very good in that race.

Christine: Ferrari also picked up three points thanks to Kimi.

Mr C: Thank the lord.

Christine: Not a great race for them, but some points. Woohoo!



Mr C: I think credit to Luca di Montezemolo who flew in at the last minute and we were worried was gonna start throwing his toys out of the pram. I thought he handled himself very well, it's exactly what the Ferrari team need right now.

Christine: Spurred them on a bit.

Mr C: Good to see him on the pit wall, and paying attention and showing an interest, because he could easily turn up in his suit and hide in Bernie's office and never be seen again. However, he was out there and he was interested in what was going on. He had his headphones on, on the pit wall, and getting involved.

Christine: There was only one retiree and that was Nakajima who snuck off into the garage again, barely noticed him. I think it was more a precautionary retirement, some kind of temperatures were spiking or something.

Mr C: If you were Frank Williams...

Christine: Yea?

Mr C: And you started the year with your triple diffuser...

Christine: Super duper diffuser.

Mr C: Mhmm. And you won the... what was it called? I've lost it. The hearing? Sorry. And you won the right to use that triple diffuser, which gave you an advantage over the rest of the field, you'd be slightly miffed if you were heading in to Europe and the European leg of the Formula One season with how many points have they got now? What, two?

Christine: Three and a half.

Mr C: Three and a half points, having one of the fastest cars on the grid. I think they've thrown it away.

Christine: It definitely doesn't look good for them, especially because pre-season we were all 'they're really ahead with their KERS, they're going a different way, it looks like they could make the big step up to start being competitive again.' They haven't brought KERS in.

Mr C: It was exactly the start they needed. When the KERS will debut is still unknown. We still don't know whether they've got it sorted, and they've failed to impress.

Christine: Does this mean they went the wrong way choosing a different style of KERS?

Mr C: No, I think... No, not at all. That's not the problem. The problem is when the opportunity presented themselves, they failed to grab them. Much like Toyota did but to a much larger extent, and I believe they're going to suffer, come the end of the year and when all the monies are dished out, the team who



need it most are Williams, and they are going to get less than they should have. Just a quick note, Katherine just commented.

Christine: Excellent!

Mr C: That's excellent! Hello Katherine!

Christine: What does it say?

Mr C: I've just lost it...

Christine: What's Alex done now?

Mr C: It says he's not allowed out to play.

Christine: Aww.

Mr C: "Poor Alex, maybe you'll have to come back downstairs and watch a movie with me? Everyone I've allowed Alex out to play tonight, because he'll have to be elsewhere for a couple of weeks." WEEKS! WEEKS!

Christine: Oh no!

Mr C: NO! No. No. There's a race on at the weekend Katherine, are you nuts? Alex. Put your foot down, man.

Christine: [laughs] I don't think we should get involved in other people's domestics, really.

Mr C: Ahh, it isn't also all about Ferrari. That's well... hello Katherine, and I think, is that the first comment she's made as?

Christine: Welcome. Maybe, I don't know.

Mr C: Maybe, not sure. WEEKS! Carry on. WEEKS!

Christine: Oh my god. I'll just wait.

Mr C: Ah, go on.

Christine: The only other thing of note was after the race, Alonso collapsed because his drinks bottle hadn't been functioning all race so he was super dehydrated.

Mr C: Know who I blame for this one? Well, actually, I probably blame the person who broke the drinks bottle, but really it's Bernie's fault.



Christine: Okay.

Mr C: It's Bernie's fault because he's moved the calendar on by a couple of weeks, the season's started later.

Christine: So it's hotter.

Mr C: We were in Bahrain later, and I think, and I'd argue, we were in Bahrain much too late. I don't think Bernie... Bernie needs to take heed of the heat. The problem is, he's not going to. He's not going to give a damn because he's not going to be out there driving those cars in those conditions. It's not good for engines but most of all, it's not good for drivers. And I admit, in Alonso's case, it was a drinks bottle. And also he is a little bit lighter this year, he's lost a bit of bulk, and therefore he may not be as fit as he once was, however it's not good to be putting drivers through those kind of conditions unnecessarily, and Bahrain should really return to its previous timeslot.

Christine: There were pictures released of a distressed looking Alonso being picked up. But he was fine. I thought it was interesting that Renault had to put out, at the bottom of their post-race press release, a note saying 'he is okay, don't panic.' In this age of news getting out really quickly, they had to put that in there.

Mr C: It's a good plan, because you never know which news agencies are going to pick up on that and spin it.

Christine: It's almost like the plane crash thing.

Mr C: It's exactly like the plane crash thing, although in this case Alonso was actually involved as opposed to er...

Christine: Just sitting.

Mr C: Sorry, my doohickey went to sleep. Sorry, do that again. Although in this case, Alonso was actually involved as opposed to you know, not being anywhere near any form of disaster whatsoever. Sorry! Doohickey went to sleep!

Christine: You are a complete nightmare to do a podcast with. Can I have a new co-host please?

Mr C: I can't multi-task. You need a female co-host.

Christine: You can't do any tasks. Never mind multi-tasking.

Mr C: WEEKS! Who's S, by the way? Hello S, I've seen a couple of comments from S go by. Hello! Don't know who that is, but hi!

Christine: You didn't do a roll call, see?



Mr C: Awww!

Christine: Aw!

Mr C: [scoffs] Anyway. What do you want? You want one of them, which is... er...

[Jingle: Fantasy Racers]

Mr C: Oh! You want two jingles? S just said hello back. Waves!

Christine: Oh my god!

[Jingle: Charts]

Christine: In fifth place, Pedal on the Left with 2903, in fourth High Fives and Downloads with 2985. Third is Team Super Emu with 3004. Second Brawntastic with 3062 and first Couch Potato with 3109.

Mr C: And where does that leave you?

Christine: I am 21st, which is still not first but it's not too bad I think.

Mr C: That's rather incredible. I'm still... I cannot hide how impressed I am about how well you're doing.

Christine: It happens. Sometimes I do things right. Do you want to know where you are?

Mr C: Yea, I do actually this week. I'm motivated...

Christine: Well, I'm 21st so what we'll do is we'll add another number to that, and you are 219.

Mr C: That's, that's, that's a small gap really. You're bound to fall and I'm bound to cl... cl... You're bound to fall and I'm bound to climb from this point.

Christine: It's very true, and it will happen. It's early days yet, but I'm still leading. In driver prices new, Jenson remains on 14 million, so I'm assuming that's actually a cap because it would be weird for him to stay on the same price for three races.

Mr C: Yes, didn't we talk about this last time that basically no one else can afford him now and that's it?

Christine: But I think it might actually be a cap.

Mr C: Oh really?

Christine: Because you'd think maybe one or two more people might have bought him.

Mr C: Or somebody might have sold him.



Christine: It's the same for the last three races.

Mr C: That's an interesting one.

Christine: I don't know if that's a fact or not though. Hamilton is on the way up again, as is Trulli. Meanwhile, Bourdais continues to fall as does Kovalainen and Massa. There are a couple of rule changes to note before the next race. A team will be permitted no more than nine drivers at any one time, budget permitting. And the amount of points awarded for unspent budget will be capped at 200 points per race. See, I didn't even realise that you could get points for money you hadn't spent. I didn't know that was a rule.

Mr C: No, but I know somebody who did, and if I'm not mistaken...

Christine: I think both these rules have been introduced for Kathi.

Mr C: Who is currently leading.

Christine: She's leading our league and she said her plan was to get rich enough to basically buy all the drivers and just keep winning.

Mr C: Yea, I don't.... there's a worrying thing and I clearly should have paid way more attention to this at the beginning of the season but just after Fantasy Racers got going, there was a secret little subtle dent from Kathi on Identica saying something along the lines of 'don't tell anyone but I've started a spreadsheet.' Now at the time I laughed at her for being really geeky and clearly paying too much attention and taking it far too seriously. It's already looking like it's paying off for her, and now Dan has changed the rules in order to stop her running away with it, which I really, I love that. I love that you know, we're what, four races into the season and it's like, uh oh, hold on, there's a problem here.

Christine: The only thing I will say is that so far, she's not running away with the lead, she's just taken the lead and it's a reasonable sized gap.

Mr C: I wonder...

Christine: It could happen.

Mr C: I wonder what will happen. I'm gonna watch this one closely because I wonder if she can maintain that advantage or whether it will now drop back. On the plus side, I do wonder if anyone else in any other leagues have figured this out, because we are still ahead of all of the other private leagues, so on the one side, I'm thinking, boo to Kathi for cheating.

Christine: But Kathi is leading, so yay!

Mr C: Yay for keeping us ahead. It's a mixed bag.



Christine: Mixed feelings. That's it, that's all I've got.

Mr C: Good stuff. Ah no, one more thing, sorry, one more thing. And one other thing to promote, talking of geeky stats and people who have too much time on their hands. Gavin has been working really hard on Fantasy Racer stats, which he's put in drop.io in the last couple of weeks. I think he's gonna keep that up, he was even talking about starting a blog purely based on F1 stats, and hopefully, I haven't seen any more about that in the comments since he mentioned it a couple of weeks ago, but hopefully he'll keep that going. So if you're really interested in the movers and shakers in the Fantasy Racers world, do take a look at drop.io. We'll put a link to it in the show notes, and Gavin's stats are rather excellent.

Christine: For those that are interested, I don't have new hair, but I've tied it up differently so that's why it probably looks different.

Mr C: I hadn't noticed.

Christine: No. You surprise me.

Mr C: [laughs] Housekeeping?

Christine: Yea.

[Jingle: Housekeeping]

Christine: I've lost it.

Mr C: I can fill.

Christine: I've lost it! [long pause] I've found it.

[Audio clip, BBC Tees:

Lisa: Your radio conversations seem to have a little bit of a cult following. I've actually, well I haven't dug it out, one of our guys Ian Smith, dug out a bit of a parody song this morning, relating to that clip. I don't believe you've heard it, have you?

Rob: No, I haven't. No.

Lisa: I'm gonna play you a little quick clip, listen to this, it's quite funny, okay?

Rob: Right.

[Audio of Felipe Baby: Felipe Baby, we're bringing the white visor to you, it's new, you'll be able to see, Felipe Baby, now hurry up and score us a point.]

Lisa: What do you think? That's classic, that's genius.



Rob: I think it's really nice!

Lisa: It really is! The whole song continues the same way, I said to you earlier on, and I will send you the full song later on, because it is very, very funny.

Rob: Thank you.]

Christine: So I wrote this parody song, you might have heard of it?

Mr C: Yea, are you sick of hearing it?

Christine: I am, I can't actually listen to it anymore.

Mr C: I think we should possibly mention to the subscribers of the podcast that a song would have appeared in their feed in the middle of the week, and it was included because...

Christine: Out of the blue.

Mr C: Completely unannounced and unexplained, because it basically turned up in the comments we should put it, it was suggested in the comments we should put it in the feed so we did, but we made no attempt to bother to explain it or anything.

Christine: So I wrote a parody song about Felipe Massa, and it's in the feed if you haven't heard it already. I'm sure you have because it's basically gone everywhere.

Mr C: Yea, that was, by the way, we should explain, that was Lee McCormick. Is it Lee?

Christine: Lisa.

Mr C: Lisa! I knew that name was wrong. We should explain that was Lisa McCormick from BBC Tees. Now, I'd never even heard of BBC Tees before this, however it was pointed out in the Autosport forums that the song had been played to Rob on the radio because he happened to be involved in an interview on that particular day.

Christine: Now, um, everyone seems to be very, very excited about the song and I am flattered. I really, really am, and I'm, you know, quite proud that everyone likes it, and I'm glad that everyone has listened to it, however...

Mr C: There was an outbreak, I should say, there was an outbreak of smilies in the Autosport forums which is unusual.

Christine: Doesn't happen very often.

Mr C: Normally it's just vitriol and hate but with your song people just went smiley crazy.



Christine: I won over the Autosport forum. However, Rob has heard and he said 'yea it's nice' which I think is all we need to know and I think that basically puts an end to it.

Mr C: No, I think...

Christine: 'Yea, it's nice.'

Mr C: I genuinely think he did like it. I do believe that Lisa said on Twitter afterwards that she played it to him, she spoke to him and he really liked it. We should thank her immensely for playing it...

Christine: Really?

Mr C: Yea, no, we really should.

Christine: She played it to Rob! Ah, I want to die.

Mr C: Yea, I still remember the day when you first decided you quite liked him and still deny you like him.

Christine: I don't like him, shh.

Mr C: Was it the French Grand Prix?

Christine: Hush now.

Mr C: It was certainly last year and now he has heard your voice. Whether or not you like it, whether or not you approve of it, and whether or not you can deal with it, as that kind of circumstance, that has happened, so thank you to BBC Tees for playing it. It's now on the BBC.co.uk/F1 page.

Christine: It's not, there's a story about the fact that the Felipe Baby phenomenon has grown. It's not just about me.

Mr C: No, not about you. But the interview, the full interview with Lisa is available if you go to the site and you should have a listen to it because it's a really good... the thing we didn't, the thing I really like about this situation, apparently these conversations with BBC Tees, between BBC Tees and Rob have been going on for a long time. I believe they've spoken to his extended family.

Christine: Yes, she said she talks to the family quite a lot.

Mr C: Which is cool.

Christine: Friends of the show.

Mr C: That's good, and as Formula One fans, we didn't know this, and that's a good thing so hopefully, with any luck, more conversations with Rob, without your song, will occur in the future and as Formula One fans



we'll be able to listen to those, and we're aware of those, and that's something new and that's cool. I'm still trying to get hold of the backdated interviews and see if we can maybe hear some of those as well because Rob's a good guy, he's got some interesting things to say. They were calling him directly in Italy, so he was there on the scene.

Christine: He was in his office, with cars whizzing about in the background.

Mr C: And presumably the less well that Ferrari do, the more free time he has, because there's less interview requests and stuff, and I think we need to hear more from engineers, so if BBC Radio are conducting interviews with him, we should hear it. So if any good comes out of it, that's something to be proud of.

Christine: So what we've learned this week is there's only one famous PA and there's only one famous engineer and we want more.

Mr C: Sorted.

Christine: Now we've just got to say about whatever, next week or...

Mr C: Yes. Hold on a second. I just missed that comment there, what was that. 'I think at the moment I'm a Sidepodcast widow.' I'm assuming... is that Katherine. Sidepodwife! [laughs] I'm sorry, I like domestics going on in the comments, this is brilliant. Yes, yes. Are you sure you want to marry him though, Katherine? Because he does spend an awful lot of time... he did once tie a ribbon around an owl.

Christine: In the name of Sidepodcast.

Mr C: And what was the other thing?

Christine: He has a mug and a t-shirt. And he carried Page 22 around a lot.

Mr C: He made that video where he was talking to a magazine. Do you want to marry a man who makes videos of himself talking to...

Christine: But like I have mentioned many times, you cannot have this conversation with people. I don't remember who it was, Flibster maybe.

Mr C: What?

Christine: You said 'how are you not single?' How can you say that?

Mr C: Fine. Fine, fine. 'You can probably live comment the wedding.' Surely we'll all be invited?

Christine: That would be amazing.

Mr C: There'd be family of the wife.



Christine: Family of Sidepodcast.

Mr C: And then there'll be everybody Alex knows. In Formula One caps.

Christine: Can we do a podcast? Can we tape the audio?

Mr C: Can we live stream it? I'm gonna choke! [coughs]

Christine: And you know, RG won't be able to go, so we can stream it to RG.

Mr C: We can take some questions from the comments. Oh dear. Ah, love it.

Christine: Anyway.

Mr C: Right, love it.

Christine: Do a sweeper.

Mr C: Which one do you want?

Christine: Just a megablastic swoosh.

[Jingle: Sweeper]

Christine: I think that's it for this show, we are all caught up now.

Mr C: Oh yes.

Christine: It's been quite a quiet news week this week, I think everyone, all the teams and that are having a rest, and I don't blame them.

Mr C: We need one. Yea, no, we do need that. That's not to be complained at. It was a hectic start to the beginning of the season. Four weeks in, what was it, five weeks, something mental like that. A little bit too crazy and it's good to have a rest and sounds like you're going to need another one.

Christine: I'm not doing too bad. It's the Spanish Grand Prix next week so it'll be a b... It's the Spanish Grand Prix next week, so we'll be back with all the usual good stuff.

Mr C: Yes, we might be doing some more comments from Joe... I'll do that again. We might be doing some more comments from Joe because that worked out quite well before his conversation so if you do wanna keep... why are you frowning?

Christine: Comments from Joe?



Mr C: Sorry. That's not, it's questions for Joe.

Christine: Oh.

Mr C: In the comments. That's what I'm trying to say. We might do some more questions for Joe in the comments this week, because I think that worked out quite well before our last conversation, so if you do keep an eye on the comments and we'll put a shoutout at some point prior to the Spanish Grand Prix.

Christine: Usually on the Friday somewhen, isn't it?

Mr C: Yea, and we'll put a shout out for comments, so if you've got anything you'd like to put to Joe before the next podcast, please do let us know.

Christine: Gavin's got 'if anybody in the comments can think of a reason why these two should not be wed, please post it now.'

Mr C: [laughs]

Christine: Also, RG's just pointed out... oh dear.

Mr C: I like it, go on.

Christine: RG's just pointed out we don't do adverts in the middle anymore. I completely forgot. They're not edited in later, we'd just forgotten. I don't remember the last time I remembered to put a break in.

Mr C: Kathi said thank Joe for his... I noticed that on Joe's blog, he's added a full text feed.

Christine: Okay.

Mr C: Which is useful, because we like full text feeds and we don't like little text feeds. Yes, I will make a note.

Christine: 'Do you take this woman to be your wife?' 'Well, Lou in the comments says...' Ha! Maybe?

Mr C: Ah, that's brilliant. What a great... yes. I love it. Um, my brain was going somewhere else with that conversation then before I got on to Joe.

Christine: Kathi, full text feed.

Mr C: Literally before that.

Christine: Before that, I said about the adverts.

Mr C: Right, that's exactly where I was. Um, do you want to do one now because I can drop one in.



Christine: I don't know if it's because I gave you some new ones and you never did them.

Mr C: I've still got the old ones though. Quickly write one for Drop.io.

Christine: Where do you want it to go in?

Mr C: I would like it to go in before we talk about Bahrain the race. It's a good plan, we need them in there because it slows down the show because I talk too quickly.

Christine: Yes, you gave Ollie a headache.

Mr C: I did give Ollie a headache. That's why we put them in in the first place. [long pause] Mmhmm. Alex, did you show Katherine the post on that Christine wrote about weddings, by the way, because there's obviously the Williams Conference Centre which needs to be taken into account because I'm sure they'd be hooked.. they're hooked... we know the fact they're hooked up with wifi. So that would just be dandy for our live streaming. And what was the other one? Absolute Taste as catering.

Christine: Yep.

Mr C: They do good cocktails, which would be important for the post-race, post-wedding drinks.

Christine: Thingy Ecclestone for suits.

Mr C: Yep, that seems pricey.

Christine: Yep. I also found a place, a good place to go for like your stag do or whatever. There's a place somewhere in Hampshire maybe? Where they do, they've basically got ten simulator things hooked up, and you can have like a simulated grand prix weekend thing, and you drive it.

Mr C: Really?

Christine: Yea, and you choose your track.

Mr C: Is it the simulator that Sato keeps plugging? Those ones?

Christine: Possibly, I don't know. But yea, it's really cool.

Mr C: That sounds good. Me want.

Christine: That's where you go for your stag weekend. All sorted. Formula One weekends, we can do it. Weddings, sorry.

Mr C: Yes. Aw, brilliant.

Christine: Maybe we should set up a business.



Mr C: Formula One weddings. There must be a way to get married at a race track.

Christine: I did have a look...

Mr C: Somebody did that, didn't they?

Christine: When I was researching the post, I had a look at like, Silverstone, and Donington and that, but it doesn't really say. I mean I'm sure you can, if you go there and talk to them and spend enough money...

Mr C: Wouldn't it be cool to get married on the podium?

Christine: It would be really cool to get married and then, on the podium or whatever, and then in your dress, get in the car and have a whiz round. Maybe you should put cans on the back.

Mr C: And then do a circuit?

Christine: Yea.

Mr C: You could, maybe, instead of having a limo, you could have the safety car.

Christine: Yes! That would be awesome.

Mr C: Safety car with spray thing, balloons, and things at the back. Foam.

Christine: With the ribbons going down to the Mercedes bit at the front.

Mr C: What's that stuff you chuck up in the air?

Christine Confetti.

Mr C: Confetti. Yea, that stuff.

Christine: We had a proper wedding, you can tell.

Mr C: But they already have confetti on the podium from Brazil, they had confetti.

Christine: Right.

Mr C: So they must have some kind of confetti guns available. That's perfect.

Christine: We know they can get champagne.

Mr C: Yea, they do... ah, you could get Bob. Bob Constanduros at your wedding doing 'now time for the champagne.'



Christine: That would be awesome too. Seriously, new business idea. Anyway, have you got a break ready?

Mr C: Red Bull cans at the back. [laughs]

Christine: [laughs] Yea.

Mr C: Excellent. Yea, I do have a jingle. I don't know which one they are, so I'm just going to play... I'm gonna play them until I find the drop.io one. Hang on.

Christine: Well, let me do my bit then. Let me do my intro.

Mr C: Hold on. [cycles through sweepers.]

Christine: No! No, we've done that.

Mr C: Eh? Ah well. Okay, go on.

Christine: That is a good point.

Mr C: What's that?

Christine: If you get married on the podium, who's in first and who's in second?

Mr C: No, what you want is a very tall vicar, so you can both be on first, and the vicar can be on second. And he'd still be about the right height.

Christine: The best man can be on third.

Mr C: Yea. Have you got the rings? No, we'll have a massive great big trophy.

Christine: Anyway.

Mr C: Do your recording because I don't know where the jingle is yet.

Christine: That's enough of looking to the future, we'll be back after this short break with a recap of the last race.

[Jingle: "Drop.io is a place for people to get together and share links, files, images and audio. Visit drop.io/sidepodcast for Formula One related submissions, gathered by us and you, to share with other like-minded individuals. If you've found something you think we should see, be it an Excel spreadsheet, a pdf document, or an embed from another site, post it to drop.io/sidepodcast and while you're there, take a look around, there's always something new."]



Mr C: Steven Roy's got the three-seater from Arrows, would be perfect. Driver in the middle, and the bride and the groom on each side, sat on the sidepods.

Christine: This is just too perfect.

Mr C: We totally had the worst wedding of all time, didn't we?

Christine: I know! I'm so annoyed. But it's okay, because we can live vicariously through Alex and Katherine.

Mr C: The wedding we always wanted, at their expense. Excellent.

Christine: Um, do we need titles now?

Mr C: Yea, we do.

Christine: [gasps] Murray Walker!

Mr C: Murray Walker! Doing what?

Christine: Speaking? You could have him as, you know sometimes you have like, when you have the reception, if it's really posh you have a master of ceremonies or something, whatever they're called.

Mr C: Mm, that could be Murray.

Christine: Bassano said 'would the bride have a white visor?'

Mr C: [laughs]

Christine: That is funny.

Mr C: Oh my lord.

Christine: Let's hope James Allen isn't there, and the happy couple get..... married! Right, titles.

Mr C: Oh, I'm not well.

Christine: Can we not be ill at the same time? 'The FIA people are coming.' 'Almost like the plane crash thing.'

Mr C: I'm so out of...

Christine: 'Focus on the logo.'

Mr C: 'Focus on the logo.'



Christine: I quite like 'The FIA people are coming.' [laughs] Ah, so funny. I like that, what do you think? You're not even listening.

Mr C: No, I am reading. I'm reading them now. 'I won over the Autosport forums.' Yea, although, I don't know. 'Adrian Newey will almost certainly be a driver in my team.' Bit wordy.

Christine: I like...

Mr C: 'The FIA people are coming.' Yea. Want to go with that one? 'The FIA are people are coming.' Let's go with it. Bassano likes it, let's go with it.

Christine: [laughs]

Mr C: What's that?

Christine: Scott said: 'And there's a large white thing on the track. That's the bride, Murray.'

Mr C: 'Kubica must be banging his head on a brick wall.' Bit wordy, just a bit wordy. Doesn't roll off the tongue. [laughs] Katherine said she's not The Stig.

Christine: Ah, it's the funniest conversation ever.

Mr C: That's brilliant. Love it, love it, love it.

Christine: Right, press the button then.

Mr C: Ahhhhh.

[Jingle: Intro]

Christine: Welcome to F1 Debrief - The FIA people are coming. On this week's show we catch up on the Bahrain Grand Prix, discuss the 2010 regs and ponder Donington Park.

Mr C: Cool. One show wrapped. Ready to panel?

Christine: Yes. Do we have to go audio only?

Mr C: Is Kathi around and would Kathi mind hosting a call? Because if she is, we don't have to go audio only and if she isn't, we do, basically. So that's the first question.

Christine: Especially if we have two hosts, that's going to be more people.

Mr C: It is, yep. But I could be on this one, I haven't been on for a while, if you want me to balance it up, because then it will be the same number of people.



Christine: Yea.

Mr C: We'll see. I'll just get set up this end.

Christine: I don't have anything to fill with.

Mr C: Okay. Do you have a song?

Christine: No. There are no Formula One related songs around here.

Mr C: Kathi said she can host. Kathi, would you like to start a.... [coughs] Excuse me.

Christine: Oh my god.

Mr C: Sorry. I'm better.

Christine: What happened to the whole muting thing?

Mr C: Sorry. I'm better. Kathi, could you start a Skype call now please? Sorry. I'm in trouble now. Why is Bassano in trouble?

Christine: I think, is it because of the whole, there's something filling the track?

Mr C: He didn't say filling, did he? He said 'on the' didn't he?

Christine: I don't know, maybe.

Mr C: Oh, oops.

Christine: Something like that, I'm not sure exactly.

Mr C: Oh dear.

Christine: Sorry.

Mr C: Katherine, she wants to be the first one on the podium, she's interested. Alex, you've got it, it's sussed, she's sold on it already. She wants to be on the podium, that's all we need to know. That, in a Sidepodcast world, that's confirmation, that's agreement. That says I want to get married at Silverstone. Alex, you've just got to do the right thing and basically ask the question now.

Christine: All the pressure's on Alex.

Mr C: It's all on Alex. Has anyone ever proposed via live comments?



Christine: Amy said the vows need to have a lot of for sures in there. For sure I do.

Mr C: Yes. Have we ever had a marriage proposal via live comments yet?

Christine: No.

Mr C: I think Alex needs to do that.

Christine: Not even you.

Mr C: We didn't have live comments when we got... before we got married, I'll have you know.

Christine: Alright then.

Mr C: Right.

Christine: Hello.

Mr C: 1, 2, 3, 4. I'm just gonna set up your pinger.

Christine: I can't hear Kathi.

Mr C: Kathi hasn't got a microphone, that's why.

Christine: Oh, okay.

Mr C: She's got jackali, jacalope, what's it called?

Christine: Jaunty?

Mr C: Jaunty Jackalope setting and it doesn't have a microphone input.

Christine: Fair enough, that's alright.

Mr C: So we can't hear Kathi but she can hear us. The question is, is anyone else on the call who should be able to hear us. Okay. Bah bah bah bah.

Christine: Do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife? For sure.

Mr C: For sure.

Christine: That is funny.

Mr C: Kat wants to host the panel. Does she? Did I miss a comment?



Lou: Hello?

Mr C: Hello, who's that?

Lou: It's Lou.

Mr C: Hello Lou, how's it going?

Lou: I'm good, thank you, how are you?

Mr C: I am wonderful, I haven't laughed so much in ages. Ooh, there's a delay. There's an echo. I hear myself.

Lou: Sorry. There you go.

Mr C: No worries. Was that live stream coming back?

Lou: Yep.

Mr C: Good stuff. Did Alex just propose?

Christine: Where?

Mr C: He just said 'Katherine, will you be my wife?'

Christine: Awwwwww.

Mr C: Is that an actual genuine proposal?

Christine: Well, it must be, it's in the comments! She said no!

Mr C: She said no! What?

Lukeh: Hello?

Mr C: Hello, who's that?

Lukeh: It's Lukeh.

Mr C: Hello Lukeh, how's it going buddy?

Lukeh: Hold on, I've got about seven voices.

Mr C: That's alright.



Lukeh: Alright, that's better.

Mr C: No worries, I'm just trying to keep up with the live comments at the moment, you just take your time. I can't believe he got turned down. Right, I'm unplugging this and I'm unplugging that. There.

Christine: Oh god. I haven't pressed the pinger button.

Mr C: Yea, don't press space.

Christine: Yea.

Shaun: Hello?

Mr C: Hello? That sounds like Shaun.

Shaun: Hello, it is! How are you doing?

Mr C: Very good, how are you Shaun?

Shaun: I'm not too bad, not too bad. Ready for the, ready for my comeback.

Mr C: You had an auspicious debut.

Shaun: Yea, I think I had to give myself a five panel ban after the last one. It wasn't suspended or anything either.

Mr C: Nice one, good to hear you again buddy.

Shaun: Yea, good to hear from you. I'm ready to go, ready to roll.

Mr C: Good stuff. We're just getting ready here. I'll pass that to Christine. I'll pass her the keyboard.

Christine: Thank you.

Mr C: Here be your pinger. That's correct. Now, in theory, in theory if you press this button, we go to...

Christine: Do I have to be on camera?

Mr C: Uh...

Christine: It's so much easier if I'm not.

Mr C: Uh, well, not sure. Don't have any pings. Where have my pings gone?

Gavin: Hello?



Mr C: Hello? Who's that?

Gavin: It's Gavin.

Mr C: I'm just... hello Gavin buddy, just reading the comment. Eponymous Ben said 'my wife and I got married a few Junes back, the day before we headed to Montreal GP. The first anniversary at the Canadian GP.' That's very cool.

Christine: Not at the Science Museum then.

Gavin: Be right back.

Mr C: Katherine said she's already engaged and they've got engaged three times. I am confused. Can you get engaged three times? They must really like each other.

Christine: I don't think...

Mr C: Uh, Kathi, are you calling Alex? You don't think what?

[loud interference noises]

Mr C: Woah!

Lukeh: Woah! Did an aeroplane just land on anyone?

Christine: It's Lou.

Mr C: Lou, what did you do?

Lou: I don't know.

Lukeh: Holy crap.

Alex: [laughs] Oops.

Mr C: Alex, how's it going buddy?

Alex: I'm well, thank you.

Christine: I like that the first thing is a giggle.

Alex: Start with a giggle.

Shaun: Hello Alex.



Alex: Oh dear. It's big trouble now. Everything's collided now. Katherine's now on Sidepodcast, it's all over for me.

Mr C: I've totally lost the pinger. I'm panicked. Hold on.

Shaun: I'll tell you how to get on, Alex.

Alex: Yea, I had to ask special permission to come on tonight and Katherine clearly...

Shaun: You've got the frequent flier pass sort of thing, you know. You come on the panel, you know.

[Pinger sounds]

Gavin: It's entertaining, that's for sure.

Jackie: Good evening.

Mr C: Hello? Who's that?

Christine: Jackie.

Mr C: Jackie!

Alex: Jackie!

Jackie: Hiya! Can you hear me, no?

Mr C: Yea, we can hear you Jackie. I don't know why the pinger's stopped pinging. Yea, I've broken the pinger. Fill for a bit, can you?

Lukeh: That's alright, you don't need to worry about the pinger, we've got a Gavin.

Scott: Hello?

Mr C: Hello? Who have we got there? Is that Scott?

Scott: It is indeed, how are you all?

Mr C: Wonderful. Kathi's line is doing a fine job.

Christine: My god, how many people are we having on this show?

Mr C: We're just loading people up. How many people are there? Two hosts, plus six. Should be eight, nine people.



Christine: I've got nine people.

Mr C: That's right. It's Kathi, plus two hosts, plus...

Amy: Hello?

Mr C: Hello? Who's that?

Christine: It's Amy.

Mr C: Amy! Amy, we've never spoken before!

Amy: I'm here now.

Mr C: Good to hear your voice.

Amy: I know! It's all very new and exciting.

Gavin: Yay! Another Kiwi! Yay!

Alex: I think I just got engaged again.

Gavin: Do you realise that me and Amy being on the same call, that's the most amount of Kiwis that I know that actually like Formula One?

Amy: It's like half the country.

Gavin: Yea!

Mr C: Christine, can you try pinging? Because I've just got nothing.

Christine: Nope.

Mr C: Keep going. No?

Scott: Hello again.

Mr C: Hello Scott, did you come back?

Scott: Yea, I don't know what happened there, it just left.

Mr C: Okay, sorry. Okay, I'm gonna try something else, hold on.

Christine: Can I stop pressing on the...?



Mr C: Yep, you can stop pinging for the moment. I'm panicking slightly but I'm gonna have another go at something. Hold on.

Christine: Hmm.

Mr C: Definitely broken the pinger. Come back.

Alex: I liked Steven's team name suggestion.

Mr C: Go on.

Alex: Man Flu versus Team Sniffles. That might not be very helpful.

Scott: I suggested Felipe Baby versus Giggles Rap.

Christine: Hmm.

Alex: Oh dear. So Steven's not on the call, that might be the first time, I thought Mr C and I agreed that it was the law he had to be...

Gavin: I agreed too. I remember.

Alex: Yea, Katherine was there.

Gavin: Probably a half drunken agreement.

Scott: Especially since he convinced both Jackie and Lou to co-host the panel.

Shaun: Yea, he should be on.

Scott: He's got a right to be on this panel.

Shaun: He's older than me, as well. So.

Alex: Steven was claiming man flu earlier on.

Scott: Oh, how convenient.

Amy: I actually think he's the one who convinced me to be here as well.

Alex: Yea. He's very responsible. How can Steven not want to be on?

Jackie: Where is Steven anyway? He's supposed to be on the panel, it said on the wiki.



Scott: Yea, he's in the comments, hiding.

Mr C: He said no one phoned him.

Gavin: Must be the only person in Northern Europe that Kathi hasn't called yet.

Christine: Pinging yet?

Mr C: No, give me a second, I'm still panicking about the pinger.

Christine: Okay. Did we decide on team names?

Mr C: They can't hear you yet, hold on.

Christine: They can't hear me?

Mr C: No, hold on.

Lukeh: We can hear you.

Alex: We can hear her.

Mr C: Oh right. Okay. I've lost audio. Odd. Give me a second.

Christine: I didn't press anything.

Mr C: No, I know you didn't. I've just lost the audio device. Alesis issues, right. Try and get on that. Get rid of those. Okay. Give me a second. Minor amount of panic, as ever.

Alex: I'll do, while we're waiting, I'll do a quick joke I heard earlier on today. Lizard, lizard, lizard. Is there a gecko in here?

Christine: [laughs]

Lukeh: Ohhh.

Gavin: I've got one, I've got one.

Christine: Oh god.

Gavin: A neutron walks into a bar and says 'how much for a pint of beer?' and the barman turns round and says 'for you? No charge.'

Jackie: Oh.



Scott: I've got one. I've got one. I was in this bar and I'm playing the piano and this elephant walks in and he starts crying. And I said to it, 'have you ever heard this tune before'... no sorry, I said 'do you recognise the tune then?' and he said 'no, I recognise the ivory.'

Shaun: As a tumbleweed blows.

Alex: Come on, Mr C.

Christine: Get the pinger working, quick.

Mr C: I haven't got a pinger!

Scott: Oh dear, I'm starting on minus points before we've even started. This is gonna be a long night.

Shaun: Has anyone heard the swine flu joke about the Texaco garage?

Alex: Oh no.

Shaun: It's terrible.

Mr C: Alex, what have you started?

Shaun: I wouldn't tell it. I wouldn't even tell it. You think you can catch flu at Texaco? No it's Mexico. It's terrible.

Scott: Dom's asked why is it bad joke time and RG's said wait until you hear mine.

Alex: Oh dear.

Mr C: Right.

Alex: So, team names then.

Shaun: Texaco and Mexico.

Alex: Swine flu and A1GP.

Mr C: Eh?

Scott: No!

Lukeh: Random.

Gavin: Which is more likely to end in being doomed and a failure?



Jackie: A1GP.

Shaun: Which is more hyped by the press?

Alex: Absolutely.

Mr C: Right. There is, I just, I'm stunned I have no pinging and I don't understand. Hold on.

Gavin: Just bash the iPhone against a microphone.

[Pinging sounds]

Mr C: Whoop!

[Lots of cheers]

Mr C: I have never been so glad to hear a ping in my life. Ping away. [plays all the ping sounds]

Gavin: Woah. That was like Red Bull ping, that was.

Mr C: Right, bear with me Christine. Sorry. I don't know what happened but I had to do a full reset. Okay. I am now recording.

Christine: I think we've lost Lou.

Mr C: Oh no, where's Lou gone? We've lost our host already?

Scott: Come back!

Gavin: Amy, do you normally talk on Skype with video?

Amy: No.

Gavin: I was going to say, cos you're saying about your internet connection. I was thinking whenever I talk with Skype with video, it's less reliable than Nelson Piquet trying to stay on the course without spinning off.

Amy: No, we steal our wireless from the neighbours, so the connection isn't very strong.

Mr C: You steal your wireless from your neighbours?

Amy: We don't really steal it. They know that we use it. We give them money. But still, the signal's coming from next door, so it's not very good.

Mr C: Ah. Okay, who have we got and who are we missing? Because I'm with it now. Is the pinger still working?



Christine: I think we've got everyone, if Lou is back.

Mr C: Is Lou back? Hello Lou.

Scott: Well Lou...

Christine: We had this trouble last time because we had to call Lou on her phone.

Mr C: That was Lou, who we rang on her mobile, that's correct.

Alex: And Kathi's just suggested the same thing in the comments to her, so hopefully...

Mr C: Okay. Whilst we're doing that, can you fill while I go to the loo?

Christine: Oh my god.

Gavin: Splash and dash.

Jackie: And it's not me for once!

Alex: It won't be allowed in terms of the new regulations.

Gavin: Mr C's going for a pit stop now so you can get through the rest of the race on one stop. I've had to teach, I keep saying that to my wife and she doesn't understand pit stop strategies, so I've had to explain why it's funny and what it means to go for a one stop or two stop stuff, so.

Jackie: I reckon we need to have a steward's enquiry as to why Mr Roy is not here.

Gavin: Yep.

Shaun: I think the splash and dash, that's what we should use whilst we're on the panel if we need to go to the loo. We should just say that, and then go.

Alex: Maybe that's the answer, Shaun.

Gavin: What, in lieu of banning refuelling, I'm already sorted out.

Alex: Lou's banning refuelling?

Scott: Since when was she part of the FIA? That's news to me.

Lukeh: Something else to blame Lou on.

Shaun: Refuelling's drinking alcohol, surely?



Scott: No, Lukeh, isn't it common courtesy to blame Steven for everything?

Alex: Yea. So maybe team names we should have is Kathi versus Skype privacy? We could have that.

Amy: I like that she's not tracking down not just us but also the family of actual Formula One drivers.

Alex: It's really good. Or scary.

Gavin: Have you guys ever played the game 'see what famous people you can find on Facebook?'

Jackie: Nope.

Shaun: No.

Lukeh: No.

Gavin: Find some famous people that have Facebook.

Amy: But wouldn't most of them be fake though? Like, if you search for someone like Lewis Hamilton, you get like a thousand of them.

Gavin: Yea, but there are signs you can tell that they're the real person. Like depending on who they know and stuff.

Alex: How about, oh sorry.

Steven: Evening guys, I'm here to face the music now.

[Cheers]

Alex: I was gonna just suggest that it should be Steven Roy versus Man Flu as team names.

Mr C: Ready.

Christine: Ready for what?

Mr C: Okay.

Jackie: Steven Roy versus Killer Questions.

Scott: If Steven was on the opposite team, he'd face the prospect of being beaten by himself.

Mr C: What's wrong with, where's Lou gone?

Christine: I think Kathi's just gonna try her mobile.



Mr C: Okay. From Finland?

Steven: Yea, Lou's having problems with her internet connection. She keeps saying she can hear two seconds and then it dies out.

Mr C: Can we call Lou from a landline whilst on a conference call?

Christine: No.

Mr C: Right. A mobile from Finland is gonna be extortionate though. What else can we do?

Steven: Can Lou get on a landline somewhere, and Kathi can phone her if she's got a Skype package?

Scott: Kathi said it's fine.

Mr C: Okay.

Scott: According to Skype chat.

Mr C: If she does have the Skype, yea, if she has the Skype thing, that's cool. Does Kathi have no speakers at all?

Christine: We've got a little chat.

Mr C: I can't see that chat, that's the problem.

Scott: She's writing again.

Mr C: Okay.

Scott: She's got the little pencil going saying she's writing.

Gavin: God, the suspense is killing me. Come on pencil.

Jackie: Hurry up. So are we having four on each team?

Mr C: Is it four on each team, Christine?

Alex: What about Steven Roy versus Refuelling?

Mr C: Three.

Scott: She says she can't get her mobile number because her internet cuts out before she can give me her number.

Gavin: This is wrong!



Mr C: We're setting new heights of lows. Right. We have Lou's mobile number, presumably she doesn't mind giving it to Kathi, is that what we're saying?

Alex: Yes.

Mr C: Okay. Do you have it on your phone there, Christine?

Christine: I haven't got my phone.

Mr C: Do you want me to go out and get your phone?

Alex: She said if ringing me on my mobile isn't too expensive that would be great so she sort of has consented to it.

Jackie: Is her mobile charged?

Steven: She has agreed to her mobile number being plastered all over the internet.

Mr C: It would actually be... it would almost be worth buying her a new sim just so we could publicly put it now and then buy her a new sim for next week. What are they, like ten pounds?

Jackie: Is her mobile charged?

Steven: I think she's gonna be leaving you on your own.

Jackie: I've got the questions anyway.

Alex: 012-JENSON. That's great.

Scott: Annie's just suggested that Steven needs his own amusing pinger á la Alan Davies on QI.

Alex: He already has his own pinger, which is the tick, tock, tick, tock.

Mr C: Is Steven on the call, by the way?

Christine: Yea.

Mr C: How come?

Christine: Because he's on the show.

Mr C: Oh cool. Have we got enough people for enough teams and everything else?

Jackie: Yes, if you play.



Mr C: Oh really? Oh cool. I only went to the loo, what did I miss?

Gavin: We need to ring 021-JENSON and we'll have Lou as well.

Mr C: Wow, this is gonna be a massive show.

Jackie: Yea, but eight of us, plus two hosts.

Mr C: Eight of us. Kathi's internet is awesome!

Gavin: We could have a two-tier panel!

[Laughter]

Mr C: I wanna move to Kathi's house and use her internet.

Alex: Budget Cap versus something.

Christine: I don't remember saying four was alright.

Alex: Spend. Okay.

Steven: I wonder if it's... the pinger... hang on a second everyone.

Mr C: What's he doing?

Christine: Don't know. I don't remember sanctioning four people on each team. What about the poor person who has to edit this?

Mr C: I went out the room for two minutes and I come back and suddenly I'm on the show, and there's eight people on it.

Lou: Hello?

Mr C: Hello Lou!

Lou: Hello!

Mr C: Yay, that sounds much better.

Lou: Good.

Alex: I like the fact that Christine is sanctioning people now. It's like the FIA.

Gavin: What's happened is, Christine has received application for the panel, and she's had to tell the ones that didn't make it that they weren't serious enough.



Mr C: When is our deadline, Christine?

Christine: I've notified the unsuccessful applicants.

Mr C: Chris has a good idea, Chris has a good idea. Chris has a good idea in the comments, have we got enough people for three teams, or does it not work out like that? How many people have we actually got?

Steven: You'd need one more person.

Alex: If Christine was in there, then we'd have nine, so we'd have three, three, three.

Mr C: Ah. Well Christine can't.

Christine: We've got seven. How many people have you got?

Jackie: Plus me.

Christine: One, two...

Jackie: Apart from Lou and myself we've got seven. And if he takes part, that would give us two teams of four.

Mr C: Okay, so that's what we're doing. Two teams of four.

Steven: Yep.

Mr C: Sorry. Good stuff.

Christine: Team names.

Steven: I find it interesting that Christine finds an extra two people on the panel awkward. But setting up Alex and Katherine's wedding, that's okay.

Christine: That's easy.

Steven: It's just a minor detail.

Christine: We need team names then. Anyone?

Shaun: Suggestions? Mexico, Texaco?

Christine: Lou and Jackie are in charge, so it's up to them. Either?

Jackie: I think we both like Sniffles and Man Flu.



Mr C: Man Flu versus the Sniffles. Good stuff.

Christine: Right, cool. And have we assigned teams?

Mr C: Okay, would Kathi and Lou, not Kathi. Would Lou and Jackie like to assign the persons per team?

Lou: Hello? Am I still here?

Mr C: Yep. If you don't know, we sure as hell don't, Lou!

Gavin: You're the one that studies psychology, you tell us!

Mr C: Lou, assign... [laughs]

Christine: You just got that, didn't you?

Mr C: Yea, sorry. Lou, assign somebody to a team.

Christine: Or Jackie.

Lou: Who's playing? We've got Alex, Amy, Luke, Gavin, Scott, who else?

Mr C: Steven.

Christine: Shaun. And you.

Mr C: And me.

Jackie: Have we just lost Luke?

Lukeh: No, I'm here.

Mr C: Just very quiet. So for Team Man Flu, Lou, who do you want in Team Man Flu?

Lou: Man Flu and Sniffles, so if we have Amy, Alex and Scott on Team Sniffles, and then everyone else on Man Flu?

Christine: It's four per team, isn't it?

Mr C: You need one more. You need one more for Man Flu.

Lou: Oh, we've got three team names?

Mr C: We've got two team names but four per team.

Lou: Four per team. Okay. Who's in... who? I'm really confused.



Mr C: Christine?

Jackie: You've got Amy and Alex in Sniffles.

Scott: And me.

Jackie: Who's 'and me'?

Mr C: Christine give us a roll call, first, tell us who's... Lou have you got a pen and paper handy?

Christine: You know what? I will assign the teams, it's just easier that way.

Mr C: Okay.

Alex: Yes.

Christine: We've got three people in there, so Amy, Alex, Scott and let's have Lukeh up there.

Mr C: Okay, but Lou is going to need to know what you're writing down.

Christine: Yea, I know, I will read it out.

Mr C: Okay, good.

Christine: This is doing my head in.

Mr C: It's fun.

Christine: And then we've got Gavin, Mr C, and Steven and Shaun.

Gavin: Steven and Jackie.

Steven: Shaun and I.

Christine: So, Team Man Flu: Amy, Alex, Scott and Lukeh. Team Sniffles: Steven Roy, Gavin, Mr C and Shaun.

Shaun: Okay. Sniffles.

Mr C: Lou, did you get that?

Lou: No, do it again.

[Laughter]



Alex: Oh no.

Lukeh: It's going to be a long evening.

Amy: Seriously.

Christine: Right, I'm saying it once more and then I'm gonna go and cry. Team Man Flu: Amy, Alex, Scott, Lukeh. So that's Team Man Flu.

Lou: Sorry, yep.

Christine: Team Sniffles: Steven, Gavin, Mr C and Shaun.

Shaun: Okay.

Lou: Ok.

Mr C: Good stuff. Jackie, would you like to do the introduction, and the rules?

Jackie: Yes. Okay, alright then.

Mr C: Hold on a second, Christine will do the quick introduction and the music, sorry, and then you introduce everybody. And we're ready to rock and roll, are we Christine?

Christine: No.

Mr C: Christine's not said yes.

Steven: RG's just posted the team's in the comments for anyone that didn't get it.

Mr C: Legend, RG.

Gavin: And I've put it in the Skype conversation too, so it's doubly covered.

Mr C: Perfect.

Scott: So as Man Flu, we were beaten by Mr C last week, but this time we get to take our revenge on him.

Mr C: How is it that I'm not in Man Flu?

Christine: Don't start!

Scott: I thought that as well.

Lukeh: Do you want it again?



Mr C: No, no, no, no, no! No.

Steven: I think Christine's belittling your man flu.

Alex: Christine will kill you.

Steven: Maybe she's giving you just one chance to beat your man flu?

Mr C: Amy has two hours. What am I missing Amy?

Gavin: Until work.

Amy: Two and a half hours.

Mr C: Two and a half hours before you go to work?

Amy: Yea.

Mr C: No worries. We'll keep a note. What time is that gonna be? That's gonna give us...

Christine: I am not talking for two and a half hours.

Mr C: Christine said it's only gonna last an hour anyway.

Gavin: We've got Steven Roy on the panel, so it could be quite close.

Mr C: There's going to be a lot of tick tocks.

Steven: I think the tick tock's gonna come out about fifteen seconds into everything tonight. So nobody breathe in the middle of a sentence, or you're a goner.

Mr C: No worries, Amy, we promise we will make sure it is done within two and a half hours. And if we can get it done within an hour, you can sleep.

Amy: Hooray!

Mr C: Okay, Christine? Frantically writing still.

Christine: Shut up.

Mr C: It's an essay. Okay, I just got a look. You didn't see that look on camera.

Gavin: Is she blogging it?

Mr C: I don't know, I'm not saying anything else.



Alex: Don't say anything, Mr C. Just be quiet. So Christine... it looked like you had a new haircut, maybe, earlier on?

Mr C: Give him a ping.

Christine: Right. No, that wasn't actually a ping, I was just testing.

Gavin: It's a struggle for the easy pings now, Christine doesn't like Bourdais anymore.

Alex: Don't mention him, what are you doing?

Christine: Welcome to the penultimate of Sidepodpanel, Season 2. [Intro music] This is a bumper show today, with two hosts: Jackie and Lou, and four panellists on each team. Jackie will tell us more. Take it away.

Jackie: Hi everyone, I'd just like to say a big... I've lost my place. I'd just like to say a big hi to everyone, to the eleventh panel of the year, and we've got two teams tonight, we've got Team Man Flu and on that team we have Amy.

Amy: Hello.

Jackie: Alex Andronov.

Alex: Hello.

Jackie: We've got Scott Woodwiss.

Scott: Hello.

Jackie: And we have Lukeh.

Lukeh: Hello.

Jackie: And in Team Sniffles, we've got Gavin Brown.

Gavin: Good evening.

Jackie: Mr C.

Mr C: Hello.

Jackie: Steven Roy.

Steven: Hello.

Jackie: And Shaun.



Shaun: Hello.

Jackie: So, oh yea, of course we also have to introduce the other host, Lou.

Lou: Hello!

Jackie: We'll ask a range of questions, Lou and I will alternate between us a range of questions, and the scores will be tallied by Christine and her decision will be final. But there are a few sound effects you should be aware of before we start. So firstly, if you say something funny, you'll hear this sound.

Christine: Oh my god, hang on, I haven't written them down.

Mr C: She isn't ready yet, hold on.

[Yes ping]

Christine: That's a ping.

[No ping]

Christine: That's a no.

Mr C: Give us a second, Jackie.

[Falling ping]

Jackie: Okay.

Christine: Sorry.

Mr C: You were doing really, really well, as well.

[Crying ping]

[Laughing ping]

Jackie: It's a bomb going off.

[Tick tock ping]

Mr C: I don't think we get enough of those.

Christine: No. No one says anything epic fail-ish, do they?

Mr C: Hello to Dom, by the way.



['He's fallen in the water' ping]

Mr C: I don't know why Dom's saying hello but hi Dom!

Christine: Right, um, so, funny is... [laughing ping]

Mr C: Good. Okay. Continue, Jackie.

Christine: Sorry.

Jackie: Okay, shall I start from the first one again? Okay, so if you say something funny, you'll hear this sound [laughing ping]. And if you say something that Christine doesn't like, and especially if you diss Franck or now Rob, you'll hear this sound [No ping]. And if you take too long to give your opinion, you will hear this sound [Tick tock ping]. And finally, if you make a blooper, you might hear this sound...

Mr C: Blooper.

Christine: Which one, is that water?

Mr C: Uh, yea.

Jackie: Yea.

Christine: Sorry. ['He's fallen in the water' ping]. I don't remember.

Jackie: And I'd like you just to remember that those in the comments can also score points, so keep the comments rolling in. That's about it for the introductions, out of the way, so without further hesitation, we'll hand over to Lou and she'll ask the first question.

Lou: Okay, I hope you're ready. First question: Eddie Jordan seems to think that KERS is a bit of a waste of money and time, what do you think about this? Do you agree? And first question goes to Amy.

Amy: I think that this year, KERS is a good thing, obviously the cars that have got KERS are slow and it's giving them something back to fight with. The problem, I think, will be next year, if they do go down the route of the standardised KERS, it'll be like what they said on the panel after Bahrain, everyone would use it at exactly the same time thus it would give no benefit to anybody, and they might as well not have it. [Yes ping]

Lou: Brilliant. Okay, and the same question to Mr C.

Mr C: I think that KERS as it currently is, is wonderful. It's probably missing a little bit of headroom in the fact that they can't recover as much as they'd like to and they can't use as much as they're capable of recovering. So the rules do need tweaking. Like Amy, I think standardised KERS is a terrible, terrible idea, and it defeats the point of Formula One using it in the first place. I think what they should do is what they're doing for the budget cap teams in the future, which is basically to allow unrestricted KERS in the



future and teams should be allowed to recover as much as they can and then reuse it as often as they can, because that is how you can promote Formula One as being useful to the rest of the world. [Yes ping]

Lou: And the same question to Lukeh.

Lukeh: I'm extremely mixed on KERS, because on the one hand, you've got people like Nelson Piquet using it and working, and on the other hand you've got people like Nelson Piquet working and using it, so... and I'm just, something about KERS bothers me, I don't... maybe it's because of the fact he used it on Barrichello and that's just put a sour taste in my mouth. [No ping.] That's just rude. But no, plus Eddie Jordan says a lot of crazy things, so I'm just gonna see how the season plays out with KERS. [Yes ping.]

Lou: And Shaun, what do you think?

Shaun: I think KERS is very good at the moment, it's quite exciting whenever you talk to anyone that doesn't know a lot about Formula One about KERS, they'll always say well that's like something that you have on a computer game. The only problem I've got with KERS, I'm a big fan of Robert Kubica and I think that they should up the weight limits of the cars so that it can be fitted into all the cars and very talented drivers like Kubica then can get on with doing what they do well [Yes ping] which is driving Formula One. But I'm sure that, I don't quite know why they can't up the weight the cars so easy, maybe there's other things that the teams can do with lighter drivers, to give them an advantage. I don't know. But I'm all up for the KERS anyway. Okay?

Lou: Scott, do you have anything?

Scott: Sorry, I'm back. Yea. I think KERS is pretty good, it's good for things like using it off the line, out of corners. It does give something to the racing, it obviously makes it more exciting and it's good to see a whole mix of cars with cars and without it, because it kind of adds a lot of variance in the field, and I think it's generally a good thing. But as has been said a couple of times already now, standardised KERS would just defeat the object of racing because then... [Skype drops]

Mr C: We missed that last line, say that last line again Scott? Then...

Christine: I think it's broke.

Mr C: Oh. What broke?

Christine: It looks stuck to me.

Mr C: What's stuck, is anybody there?

Steven: I'm still here.

Lukeh: Yep.

Christine: Yea, no, Scott's gone.



Mr C: We've lost Scott. Scott?

Christine: It's coming back... wait for it...

Shaun: Radio check, Scott.

Steven: He's fallen in the water.

Jackie: Kathi.

['He's fallen in the water' ping]

Lukeh: KERS electrical fault?

Mr C: Scott?

Christine: No, it's gone to voicemail.

Mr C: Okay, no worries.

Gavin: Scott, five point check, including tyres.

Mr C: Lou, move on to the next one, Lou.

Lou: Okay, Steven, do you have anything to add?

Steven: What, apart from the fact that Scott obviously wasn't wearing his marigolds to answer that question? I think that the problem with KERS as has been said is, if you're going to bring in KERS, bring it in and let the teams do what they like with it. If they want to put a lot of money in it and to recover lots of energy and use lots of energy whenever they want to use it, let them do it, and that way it'll develop. [Yes ping] And the same should go for any other energy recovery. If they want to take the heat out of the engine, instead of putting it in the radiator and venting it out to the air, take that, use the power from it, great. The more stuff like that they do, the better. But the idea of bringing in this year something which is optional, which is of marginal benefit, and then next year going to a standard plug in unit, complete waste of time, just adds complication and cost, and okay, may gain a little bit in racing but in general it does nothing for anyone.

Lou: Thank you. And lastly for Man Flu is Alex.

Alex: Well the thing that's really unfortunate is, that next year there's a fantastic opportunity here. If they bring in this rather interesting restriction on fuel, I know, I'm sure that'll be debated later on, but if they did bring in the restriction on fuel use, then it's kind of interesting that they'll have KERS because the people who can take the less fuel throughout the race might actually go faster because they could actually use KERS to actually do what it would do on a car. Which is to use, be more efficient on fuel, and that to me would make it a much more road relevant technology and that could actually be something quite exciting. [Yes ping.] But only if they also allow everybody to go and be as efficient as possible. Imagine that, the idea



that, you know, you could get to the end of the race as fast as possible because you actually used the least fuel because that meant you were fastest all the way through, because you didn't have to put as much fuel in at the beginning. That sort of thing would be really interesting, and actually incredibly popular I'd imagine, with people who don't understand Formula One. Of course, maybe we shouldn't be trying to make Formula One interesting to people who don't like it in the first place, but that's a different thing. Anyway.

Lou: Thank you. And lastly, Gavin.

Gavin: Yea. I don't want to repeat what everyone else said, because they're all good points. But I was thinking earlier on that when turbos were first introduced, not everyone could see the value in them. Not everyone could see that they were going to be beneficial to Formula One, and then eventually it became the thing to have and you weren't going to win without a turbo, and I think, if we allow unrestricted KERS, in a year or two's time, you can already see that it's going to be the thing you have to have to win, so I think it's gonna be a good thing. I think anything that allows Nelson Piquet to actually race somebody and show a bit of skill has to be a bonus because I've never, ever seen him race anybody and the way he raced against Barrichello, maybe it was a little bit artificial but he could actually do something in a race, so it's got to be a good thing. [Yes ping.]

Lou: Thank you, some great answers there. I'm gonna hand over to Jackie for the next question.

Jackie: Okay, just before we get on to the next question, could we get a recap of the scores please, Christine?

Christine: Absolutely, the scores after the first round. Team Man Flu have 2, and Team Sniffles have 4. It looks like our bumper show has already fallen off because Scott has disappeared.

Mr C: Can he come back?

Christine: It doesn't look like, it keeps going to voicemail, so I was thinking for now...

Gavin: And apparently Kathi's done a David Coulthard, because her computer's already crashed.

Mr C: How are we still on the call?

Christine: So I was thinking you can just disappear.

Mr C: Okay, no, I will sit out. Until Scott comes back, I will sit out. That sounds like a very good plan. Especially when we get to the killer question.

Christine: So, Jackie, please continue.

Jackie: Okay, so question two: Virgin are in talks with Brawn GP about extending their sponsorship to become title sponsors. It's also announced that Virgin Galactic have started selling seats on these flights and that Rubens Barrichello and Niki Lauda, who it's suggested will pilot the craft, have paid for tickets. So



my question is, who would you most like to send into space and why? And that question, first of all, goes to Lukeh.

[Laughter ping]

Lukeh: Ohhh, um. Oh. I can't... I can't think of anyone at the moment. I just didn't expect that to be honest.

Jackie: Shall I move on and come back to you?

Lukeh: No, I've got an answer for you, actually. I'm just gonna have to say Flavio Briatore at the moment, because, at the moment he's just... the past few weeks, the comments he was saying, and the ridiculous things... well, the past few years really. If anyone could just get off this earth, it would be lovely to see Briatore fly off into space. And he'd probably still complain it was Brawn's fault he was in space or something. [Laughter ping] I don't know, I'd be happy to see Briatore go.

Jackie: Okay, would you like to see him come back?

Lukeh: That's erm, that's erm... no. [Yes ping]

Jackie: Okay, for Team Sniffles, can we hear from Shaun please?

Shaun: Yea, I was wondering, does it mean they have to come back again, you know? Because the obvious ones are Max Mosley and Ecclestone and they can go into space and keep going, couldn't they? I don't know, Richard Branson. He's okay, on one hand he's very good, on the other hand he's on television so much, he's always trying to get into the pictures with the winners of the races and things like that. [Yes ping] I just think he should be sent off into space, you know, until the season ends, then come back and they tell him how well, or how much money the sponsors have generated. Something like that, there we go.

Jackie: Excellent. So for Team Man Flu, could we hear from Alex please?

Alex: Yea, oh god, it's a difficult one. Who do you send into space? I think, er... I think probably, it's probably going to have to be Michael Schumacher for me. I think I'd like to send him into space because obviously he would probably try and break all kinds of records and then on his return, we'd realise that he'd probably been filming all of those scenes in the New Mexico desert and hadn't really been true.

Jackie: Okay. For Team Sniffles, Gavin please?

Gavin: I was just thinking, if you put DC, Piquet, Sato and Nakajima on the same spaceship, what are the odds of it actually landing without crashing?

[Laughter] [Yes ping]

Gavin: I guess, who would I like to see go into space? I'd like to see Bernie go into space, and see him try to set up a Grand Prix up there. Because he's tried everywhere else so why not the vast reaches of outer space? [Yes ping]



Jackie: Excellent. Steven?

Steven: And of course, to add to Gavin's point, Bernie likes to have a grand prix somewhere where there's no atmosphere.

[Laughter] [Laughter ping]

Steven: I guess the first thing, if I had the choice, is I'd go myself because I'm desperate to go up and have a look but if I'm going to avoid that, I think Christine could go because it's the one place she's not going to find someone asking her about her song. [Yes ping] Or we can send Eddie Jordan up so we can get Mike Gascoigne back on the TV.

Mr C: Yay! [Yes ping]

Christine: Raking in the points there.

Mr C: Did it all go quiet?

Christine: Oh, it's gone.

Mr C: We've lost everybody.

Christine: Yea.

Mr C: Okay, I'll fill. What else is news then?

Christine: It's good timing though because it was right at the end.

Mr C: That was perfect. That was a great haul of points, I love it.

Christine: One, two, three, four, five...

Mr C: What actually went, did our Skype go?

Christine: I don't know, ours died but I don't know if it's because something happened...

Mr C: Something else went wrong. Okay, we might be able to get Scott back on then. I'm loving the massive panel.

Christine: Five points he got then.

Mr C: Five points in one round. Some kind of record.

Christine: 'Have they not heard Felipe Baby on the ISS yet?'



Mr C: [laughs]

Christine: Dom said that.

Mr C: Dom, that's brilliant. That's just genius. So what's coming back? Just give me a quick running commentary, Skype is rebooting and we're looking for everybody. Kathi, call us back please? Is anyone else still in the chat, or has it all just vanished?

Christine: Kathi is still on.

Mr C: It might have been ours that has gone wrong. We have flaky equipment too.

Christine: It is really hot in here.

Mr C: I can't do much about the heat. No, I can turn the light off, of course I can.

Christine: No, you don't have to turn it off.

Mr C: Why? It's blurred, no one can see anyway. It's fine. There's no point, you're not standing in front of it.

Christine: Only because I've only got so many hands.

Mr C: Right.

Christine: Well, I'm back on.

Mr C: 1, 2, 3, 4, is anybody there to talk to? I'm feeling quite lonely actually.

Christine: I know.

Mr C: It's like, I've just got you to talk to.

Christine: That's the rest of your life.

Mr C: [laughs] Oh. Kathi says it's us. We're just missing. Kathi, we can't see you. Can you call us? No one's ringing. Please call us Kathi. We miss you. [long pause] Hello?

Christine: Should I start it again?

Mr C: No, no, it's just... well, I don't know. Can you talk on the conference call? Can you type anything there?

Christine: Well, I'm not in the chat. I'm in a chat with Kathi and it says she's on but it doesn't say anything else, so...



Mr C: Ummm. Hold on, I'll type.

Christine: Oh, hang on, hang on.

Gavin: Well, he hasn't revealed his identity or anything.

Mr C: Hello?

Gavin: Wahey, there we go.

Mr C: Who hasn't revealed what identity?

Gavin: Well, you're having to be careful or something, we wandered what you were doing.

Shaun: Blinding or something?

Christine: He said he was feeling very lonely and he only had me to talk to. And I said 'that's the rest of his life.'

[Laughter]

Alex: I think you should get a ping, Christine.

Steven: A definite ping for that.

Christine: Right, are we back?

Mr C: Yea, we are back. Sorry guys, I think our Skype may have crashed.

Christine: That was good timing though because we just got to the end of...

Mr C: Steven's massive points haul.

Christine: Steven Roy just got five points in a row.

Mr C: Brilliant, back to you Jackie.

Steven: Five?

Jackie: Wow. So I think we've heard from everyone, so Christine could we have a recap of the points please?

Christine: Did we hear from Amy?

Mr C: Amy, no we didn't hear from Amy. Amy?



Amy: Everyone else heard from Amy, awww.

Jackie: Yep.

Mr C: Ah, we didn't hear from you Amy, I think we may have lost you. Did you come after Steven?

Amy: I did. My very selfish answer.

Mr C: Can you repeat your answer? Jackie, can you ask Amy again and then Amy can you repeat your answer, and then we'll all hear it for the first time. And if everybody else can laugh on cue, no one will know the difference.

Jackie: Okay. Do you want me to go through the whole question again then?

Mr C: No, no, just introduce or just ask Amy.

Jackie: Okay, and so finally for Team Man Flu, we have Amy.

Amy: Okay, from a selfish point of view, I would like to send Sebastian Bourdais into space, so that Brendan Hartley can take his drive, because there hasn't been a New Zealander in Formula One since 1980 and I would love to see another one. [Yes ping] Plus Bourdais whines a lot and we wouldn't be able to hear him if he was in space. [Yes ping]

Jackie: That's a surprise that having that little go at Mr Bourdais didn't get a uh-uh.

Steven: I think Christine is over him.

Alex: Not any more.

Lukeh: She's not a fan anymore.

Jackie: Oh dear.

Mr C: She's fickle, Jackie.

Steven: She's switched Sebastian's.

Jackie: Okay, so Christine, can we have a recap of the scores at the end of round two, please?

Christine: Um. Team Man Flu have seven, Team Sniffles have twelve, and Jackie has two.

Jackie: Wow. How'd that happen?

Christine: Good question.



Gavin: Cos you're awesome, Jackie.

Steven: Just out of curiosity, who was the last New Zealander in Formula One, was it Mike Thackwell?

Gavin: Yep. I was gonna say, don't you know the answer Steven?

Steven: I just didn't associate him with 1980, I thought he was a couple of years later than that.

Amy: He was back in 1984 actually. He debuted in 1980 and then he did a couple in 1984 as well.

Steven: Okay, that's what's confusing me.

Mr C: Wow, that deserves a ping. Just for confusing Steven. Doesn't happen that often. Okay, over to Lou for the next question.

Lou: Okay, so, it's the Spanish Grand Prix next weekend and many cars are going to have new pieces of development on the car, do you think this is going to affect the order again and if so which teams do you think will improve, and do you think any won't improve at all? And that question is to Shaun.

Shaun: Yes, there definitely will be improvement there. I think the teams at the moment are developing their cars a hell of a lot faster than anyone can predict or anyone believes. And you're gonna see, I believe, I have a feeling you're gonna see McLaren really taking on the front runners in Spain, that's just a bit of a feeling I've got. Possibly even Ferrari, sort of getting their act together a bit more this time, so we certainly will. And one team that really needs to make some improvements are BMW. So, yea, sure, sure, definitely. I can't quite think... oh of course, Brawn. [Tick tock ping] They're improving their car again, aren't they? So, oop, there we go.

Lou: Thank you. Same question to Alex.

Alex: Well I agree about McLaren, I think they probably are gonna have some big improvements. You can see that they've already been improving all the way through this season so far, but I think that actually it's probably, it's for the smaller teams to keep ahead at the moment. I think Brawn probably, Brawn and Red Bull are probably the teams that you want to look for because they probably have some advantages. They are ahead anyway and the big pushes they're going to try and make right now are gonna be crucial. The downheartedness of the BMW and Ferrari teams in all of their conversations, and Renault as well, the fact that they keep going and saying 'oh it's somebody else's fault, somebody else's fault' tells me that they probably don't have anything to bring in, whereas McLaren are keeping themselves to themselves and I think that's probably a sign that they're just getting on with the job. [Yes ping]

Lou: And Gavin? What do you think?

Gavin: I'd like to think that BMW are going to make an improvement because I've got Robert Kubica on my Fantasy Racers team and he's the worst driver. From my stats, he's the worst driver. But I don't think it's going to happen. I think Brawn are going to make an improvement because Ross Brawn's awesome, and I



think McLaren are showing some really good signs of improving. This is the race where we're going to get another shift because it's the first European race, so I think probably Brawn, Red Bull a bit, and McLaren. [Yes ping.]

Lou: Brilliant. And Amy?

Amy: I'm hoping that Williams might be making an improvement because they've had so much pace, or Nico's had so much pace in practices and yet he hasn't been able to translate that at all into race pace. [Yes ping] Hopefully some aero upgrades or something might help there. As for who won't improve, I'm gonna go against the trend, I don't think McLaren are going to improve that much, they've admitted themselves that they had a lot of upgrade in the flyaway races that a lot of other teams didn't have. So they don't have as much to bring to Barcelona, and especially considering that it's a track where everybody tests, everyone else is going to have a lot more knowledge as well about what's needed there. Although I do hope that Kovalainen will have the new front wing so that he can catch up to Lewis again. [Yes ping.]

Lou: And Steven?

Steven: I don't think there's going to be any significant change in the general order. I think it's going to be pretty much the same as we've seen. McLaren and Renault obviously have new floors and diffusers which they've run, I think in one race each, so they may have had time to do a little bit of tweaking in those to get a bit more performance out of them. But I don't think it's going to change much. I think Monaco's going to be far more interesting because of the nature of the track, and we've seen in the wet that the Red Bull seems to have a lot of mechanical grip so I think we might see Red Bull just fly away when it comes to Monaco. But I don't think much will change in Barcelona. [Yes ping.]

Lou: And lastly, Lukeh.

Lukeh: The only real big change I can see is Ferrari, personally. Because they really need to sort themselves out and get their season going. BMW again need to sort their season out otherwise Kubica's leaving at the end of the year, which I can see that happening as well to be honest. But in, you know, like Steven says, I can't see a huge shake up happening. Brawn just need to keep going, get a bit faster, but in general no, just Ferrari improving. [Yes ping.]

Lou: Okay, thank you. And Christine, can we have the score for that round, please?

Christine: At the end of that round, Team Man Flu have twelve and Team Sniffles have fourteen. Jackie still has two.

Lou: And over to Jackie with the next question.

Jackie: Okay, ready for round four. And I want to start with Team Sniffles. And the question is: We've just heard in the Debrief that Max Mosley and Luca di Montezemolo exchanged letters last week about the budget cap of £40 million being brought in for next season. Luca's not too keen on the idea, and now Max is quoted in the Financial Times as saying "the sport could survive without Ferrari" and "it would be very sad to lose Ferrari, it is the Italian national team." So in this three part question: do you see this argument



developing? Do you agree with Max's statement? And if so, what kind of future do you envisage for Ferrari within motor racing? And that one will go to Gavin please, for Team Sniffles.

Gavin: I'm just more interested in seeing what the love letters between Max Mosley and Luca di Montezemolo. Clearly Max has fallen out of love with Ferrari and Luca is trying to win back the love of the FIA because, from the comments that we've heard. But there is no Formula One without Ferrari. Whether you like it or not, Ferrari have been in it from the start. Ferrari have such a position that they can say what they want and do what they want, and it eventually works for them. There's been changes in the rules proposed, and they've threatened to leave and the rules have gone their way. So what's going to happen is that Ferrari are going to get the teams on their side somehow, and then they're going to convince the FIA to go their way, and then it's going to go their way.

Jackie: Great, so for Team Man Flu, could we hear from Alex please?

Alex: Yep. I mean, I think it's a complete ploy. He knows that he has signed some kind of deal with the devil, him and Bernie did kind of give this huge rights to Ferrari, the last time they had a big argument with the other teams, Ferrari jumped shipped first away from the constructor's championship, and they gave this whole thing. And I think, basically, this is them putting Ferrari on message. He saw that Bernie repealed the actual extra money they gave Ferrari the last time, and that caused a bit of disturbance in the team's union. And now, again, this thing puts an extra bit of pressure on there, and I think they're just trying to put a little bit of a wedge between Ferrari and the rest of the teams again, and why not? I mean, Ferrari are Formula One to an extent [Tick tock ping] but on the other hand of course, we know that we'll, they'll just... oh, I don't know. Anyway, they can't have Formula One without Ferrari. I don't think so, even though Steven will tell you otherwise. [Yes ping.]

Jackie: For Team Sniffles then, we'll go with Steven.

Steven: You can have Formula One without Ferrari.

Alex: Nooooo!

Steven: We had Formula One without Maserati. We had Formula One for fifty years without Mercedes. We had Formula One, or we've had Formula One for god knows how long without Lotus. If Ferrari go, they go. The thing is, they're not going anywhere. Ferrari have a whole history of putting out garbage like this and getting the governing body to jump to their tune. If you go back to 1964 when Enzo was in a huff with the CSI as it was then, before it was even the FIA, John Surtees, when he won his world championship, didn't win it in a Ferrari. [Tick tock ping] He won it in a blue and white car called a NART, which is the North American Racing Team, which is an American Ferrari importer. So if you look at the last two races of that season, he wasn't in a Ferrari, and that was Enzo just saying, we're not going to enter, so this team just happened to enter in our cars. [Falling ping] Ferrari were nowhere. Christine's trying to pile on the sound effects... Ferrari are going nowhere, Max and co are just trying to get them to dump FOTA again. I don't think it's going to happen again this time. The sooner FOTA set up their own championship and dump Max, the better.

Gavin: It's going to be Montezemolo's revenge.



Mr C: I think every time, did Steven lose points for that bomb?

Christine: Yea.

Mr C: Ah, okay, so every time you hear that, you are losing points, even if you keep talking.

Jackie: Oooh. Okay. Team Man Flu, Lukeh's go.

Lukeh: I'm not a big fan of Ferrari, and I'm not a big fan of Luca di Mozzarella. [Laughter ping] I couldn't pronounce his name, so I thought mozzarella would be the most appropriate word to fit in there. I can't see them leaving the sport because they have got, like Steven said, such a big history with the sport. And they've got a nice red car and I like red, so I hope they don't leave. [Laughter ping]

Jackie: Great answer. For Team Sniffles, finally, we've got Shaun.

Shaun: Okay, yea, it's a real complicated one. I want the budget cap but there's gonna be horrendously complicated logistics, or whatever. To make this work is gonna be virtually impossible. Ferrari, I totally agree, they are kind of half of Formula One. They'll stay in Formula One, they've got to. Formula One would have a big side-swipe if they went. It's kind of, maybe I'm being a bit naive, but maybe Mosley is trying to show that he doesn't favour Ferrari and he's really trying to stand his ground here with them, and if so, I hope he wins and I hope Ferrari kind of, maybe I'm living in cloud cuckoo land here, but I hope they go with what he wants. But I really can't see the budget cap working without teams thinking out of the box. They're all worlds within worlds, aren't they, these groups and teams and organisations. I mean, how are they gonna account for all the money that they've capped them with? I mean, even if they've got people [Tick tock ping] in the accounts. So good luck to him. [Yes ping.]

Jackie: Quick, before the bomb comes.

Gavin: I just want to add something here. It seems strange that for years Max and Bernie have been courting the manufacturers to come into the sport, and have let the spending go through the roof and go to astronomical levels, and now suddenly they want to cut it back. And it's sort of like shutting the door before the prancing horse has bolted.

Jackie: Nice.

Steven: But that's how they operate in everything, they don't have a strategy for anything. We've now got slick tyres and reduced aero because we need more mechanical grip and less aero grip to get overtaking. Before that, Max introduced grooves because we need aero grip and less mechanical to get overtaking. These guys don't have a clue of the long term plan of everything, it's just a knee jerk reaction to a set of circumstances.

Jackie: Okay, finally then for Team Man Flu, we have to hear from Amy.



Amy: Okay, as far as the argument developing on this one, I don't know that it can because of the fact that they have to have their entries in, in like two week's time. And anything they want to argue about after they've already made their decision and given their entry to the FIA is irrelevant. Because if they apply to go with the budget cap and then start arguing about it afterwards, it doesn't matter. As to whether Formula One could live without Ferrari, I would like to think that they can but that's probably biased because I'm not a Ferrari fan, and I guess [Yes ping] living in Melbourne, everyone in the stands is a Ferrari fan, and if there was no Ferrari, the grand prix probably couldn't exist here, which personally that would be rubbish. And Ferrari's future, if they don't go for it, like what else do they do? Ooh, they provide cars to the A1 GP which unfortunately looks like it's not coming back next year, so they don't have anything else to do really, apart from Formula One. [Yes ping.]

Jackie: Great answers, Amy. Thank you. Christine, can we have the scores at the end of round four please?

Christine: At the end of that round, Team Man Flu have nineteen and Team Sniffles have fourteen. Jackie still has two.

Jackie: So, over to Lou.

Mr C: Just checking, just checking Amy, you're okay for timewise at the moment, aren't you? We don't have to give the killer questions yet?

Amy: Yea, I've got a while. Like an hour and a bit.

Mr C: We're just keeping an eye on the clock. Lou, over to you.

Lou: Okay. As you all probably know, it's possible that we might have three new teams in F1 next year, US GP, Lola and maybe even Prodrive. My question is, if you were able to create and enter a new F1 team, what would you call it and who would your ideal drivers be? [Yes ping] And that first question goes to Amy.

Amy: Ooh. I would have a team called, well, I don't know what I would call it. But the drivers clearly would have to be Franck [Yes ping] and...

Alex: Going first is such an advantage!

Amy: And Anthony Davidson. I would like a team of ex-Super Aguri drivers coming back. That's what I'd call them. Team Ex-Super Aguri. [Laughter ping]

Lou: Okay, and next question to Steven?

Steven: Great question. I like this one. Like Amy, I don't know what I would call the team. I think what I'd like to do is have one experienced driver and one really new driver. The new driver won't come as a surprise to anyone that I'd put Paul di Resta in. I'm slightly baffled as to who I'm going to have as an experienced driver. I'm tempted to bring McNish in and let him have a run. Or someone similar. But maybe someone like Alex Wurz, or De la Rosa. Someone who's a proven tester. [Yes ping.] Really, I should come up with a good team name, but just can't think of anything. Sorry.



Mr C: Just to jump in, Scott in the comments, we've obviously lost him off the call. He said he'd name his team after himself, he'd have Sutil and Button, and apparently we've got to sponsor him. [No ping.]

Steven: First commenter ever with minus points.

Lou: Okay, Lukeh, what do you think?

Lukeh: Oh, I wonder. Erm, I would just, this is just a dream I had once. I would call the team, I don't know why, it's just a word that came to mind, I'd call them Brawn. [Yes ping.] And I'd have, oh what's his name, Jason...

Jackie: Buttocks.

Lukeh: No, no, you know. Dennis Button. [Laughter ping] And the other one. I would have them in my team and they'd be sponsored by Branson, oh I don't know, you could leave the Branson bit out, to be honest. [Yes ping.]

Lou: Okay, and Gavin, what do you think?

Gavin: Well, I'd call my team Team Five Pints of Awesome [Yes ping]. I'd paint the cars red because red cars always seem to win, and always seem to get their way with the rules. And I'd probably have Lewis Hamilton and Scott Dixon because they're my two favourite drivers. And I think I'd get sponsored by somebody awesome.

Lukeh: Five Pints of Awesome Man.

Gavin: Yea, probably have Five Pints of Awesome written in giant letters on the side and everybody would be scared and we'd win. Simple as that.

Lou: Okay, and same question to Alex.

Alex: Okay. My team's gonna be called The FIA Knows Best and I'm going to have as my first driver, I'm going to have Mr C. I think that would be a good idea. [Yes ping.] And then my second driver is going to be Sato, so that Mr C then has to prove that he actually is better than Sato. [Laughter ping]

Mr C: [Laughs and claps]

Gavin: I was thinking that for those that don't like KERS, they should put Montoya in the team for obvious reasons.

Mr C: Can I also jump in with RG's got a suggestion for his team, in the comments. He'd have a team called Team O'Racing. Sorry, he'd have Timo Glock in his team, somebody awfully slow to make Timo look good, and he'd call it We're Not Biased to Anybody But Timo Racing. [Yes ping.]



Lou: Okay, and lastly, Alex. Oh no, have I asked everyone?

Jackie: Shaun.

Shaun: You haven't asked me.

Lou: Oh Shaun, sorry. And lastly Shaun.

Shaun: Okay, for what it's worth. I think I would have to, the company that I work for that I can't mention their name, they would own the team and sponsor the team and then what I would do is, I would need a subordinate driver and I'd need a really fantastic driver so I would get sort of Anthony Davidson in, and he could be the consistent subordinate driver and then I'd have to have Alonso or I'd try and get Michael Schumacher back in. One of those drivers. [No ping.]

Gavin: Oh no.

Alex: Oh no!

Shaun: Get it going again, you know, something like that. Or get John Surtees or someone like that to drive for them, I don't know. There you go.

Alex: Chris has just pointed out in the comments that having Mr C as a driver will cause real problem in the post-driver's press conference.

Mr C: Why?

Alex: Because you'd have to be on screen.

Mr C: Oh no! [Laughter ping] That's a silly idea.

Jackie: You could always wear a panda suit. [Yes ping]

Alex: It would be the first driver's press conference sponsored by LG, with LG and not you.

Gavin: So where do you find the fireproof panda suit then?

Lou: Okay, the scores at the end of that round are, Christine?

Christine: Oh, that's me again.

Mr C: She's sitting down now, she got tired.

Alex: The points at the end of that round are Christine, I thought that's what that meant.

Christine: I am the points.



Alex: Yes.

Christine: Um, okay. Team Man Flu are running away with it now, they've got twenty-nine points to Team Sniffles' fifteen. Jackie has three, Lou has one, and from the comments, RG has one, Chris has two and Scott has minus one. He started off on the show, and now he's in the comments on minus one.

Gavin: Can I call a stewards' inquiry? I think the other team are using an illegal use of humour? They should only be using six seconds per answer [Laughter ping] and I believe they are using more per answer and that's just not acceptable and we're going to refer you to the council for it.

Alex: Gavin, there's a two-tier system in Formula One these days.

Mr C: You're in a lower tier.

Alex: We're not subjected the budget cap, we're allowed to use humour.

Shaun: We'll have points taken away some time next week.

Jackie: Okay, ready for round six? We're only four races into the season and already there are calls for Piquet to lose his seat at Renault. Räikkönen doesn't seem to be particularly a happy bunny right now at Ferrari, and Lewis has seemed a bit disillusioned at McLaren. We've had for the first time in years, a very stable grid last season, with no changes in team personnel at all. With the current teams pecking order well and truly mixed up this year, some drivers like Button and Barrichello are enjoying a turnaround in fortunes. Whilst others like Kubica must be rueing missed opportunities. So my question is this: if you could change any of the current drivers and put them into any team on the grid, would you just mix them up a bit or bring in new talent? Who would you replace and why? And that's to Team Man Flu, and we'll start with Lukeh, please.

Lukeh: Oh that's my name, sorry. I'm in my own little world, again. I would, the obvious answer straight away would be Piquet. He'd be straight out that Renault and in a little £3.99 buggy from Toys R Us or something. Just let him drive around the circuit, do whatever he likes, just get him out that Renault, please. [Yes ping] The other driver, I think the obvious one as well would be Bourdais, because he's just not getting the job done at Toro Rosso and Buemi is just... he's doing so well, Buemi, he can actually go off the track, swear on the pit radio, and sound comedic and still beat Bourdais, that's how bad Bourdais is doing. [Yes ping.] So it would definitely be Piquet and Bourdais going out, and bring in, oh I don't know, Spiderman and Batman, anyone. Just whatever.

Jackie: Excellent. For Team Sniffles, we'll hear from Gavin please.

Gavin: Well, we're desperately behind in the points, so any team please take Franck, please, so I can get a ping... [long pause] Oh, okay.

[Laughter]



Gavin: Oh a proper answer then. The fact that Buemi was in GP2 last year, and did pretty much nothing and was average and got a Formula One drive and he's pretty good, means there's at least five drivers in GP2 that should deserve to be in Formula One right now. There's three drivers in Formula One that I really think are endangered species. One is Piquet, just by the fact that we've coined the phrase 'a little bit Piquet'. That says enough about Mr Piquet, how good or bad he is. Another is Fisichella, he may be driving for free but clearly that's too expensive because he's just terrible. And Bourdais is having such a bad start that clearly he's got to be on borrowed time as well. I think Romain Grosjean, Lucas di Grassi, Bruno Senna, they should be in Formula One car out of GP2 because... [tick tock ping] Okay, I'm going to stop now. [Yes ping]

Jackie: Excellent, can we hear from Amy next for Team Man Flu?

Amy: Oh my answers are gonna be, I guess, similar to everyone else's in that you've got your usual suspects like Piquet and Fisichella. Obviously, Nakajima is another one, maybe there's something about drivers who had fathers who were drivers, I don't know, but yea, Nakajima's really unimpressing me. [Yes ping.] To be honest, I'm not that impressed with Rosberg either, I know everyone loves him but he's done nothing for me since he's been there. As to who I would put in in place of these people, yea, anyone really. I know everyone wants to see Bruno Senna in a car, so I don't know if I do. I think he's another one with the last name thing. Yea, anybody. Just get rid of them. And Fisichella who's been in it since I was born. [Laughter ping]

Jackie: For Team Sniffles, Steven please?

Steven: I think the first thing I'd say is on your intro, I think Kimi's gonna do well this year. I know everyone thinks he's down but I reckon he's gonna beat Massa this season. I think certainly there are a lot of very good young drivers around who need to get a break and Piquet's had way too long, Bourdais just doesn't look like he's gonna cut it, Fisichella has been mentioned. Nakajima. But the people like Di Grassi, Hülkenberg, Adam Carroll, who won A1 GP, Bruno Senna, all sorts of people who deserve a break, so let's get them in there and get rid of the dead wood. [Yes ping.]

Gavin: Just judging what Amy said, if Fisichella's been in as long as Amy's been born, Amy, you're up way too late on a school night, girl.

Amy: I'm also ignoring the fact that Barrichello was there first, because I actually like him, so shhhh.

Jackie: Okay, I'm surprised that didn't get a ping. Team Man Flu, can we have Alex please?

Alex: I don't really want him to go but I think I'm desperately trying to think of someone who hasn't been mentioned, so I'm going to go for Bernd Mayländer, simply because I'd like to have some more races without a safety car involved. I think that may be a good option. [Yes ping.] But that's it.

Jackie: Brilliant! And finally, Shaun, please.

Shaun: Right okay yea, definitely Piquet, Nakajima and Bourdais out of Formula One. But to be fair on them, it's so competitive now that drivers like them used to be in the kind of diesel Manardi and all of that,



back in those days, so maybe when this budget cap comes in they could come back in in the Lola and those sort of cars at the back. Kubica should get out of BMW, get him into Brawn and get Barrichello out of Brawn. So Jenson Button and Kubica would be quite an awesome pairing there, I think. I think Kubica's one of the better drivers in Formula One [Yes ping] so he would really show everyone what he could do then. And I tell you something... [Tick tock ping] There we go, there's my answer.

Jackie: Excellent, some excellent stuff there. Christine, could we have the scores please at the end of round six?

Steven: While Christine's doing that, can I make a quick comment? Every time I say Hülkenberg, I upset Kathi. His name's not Hülkenberg, Hülkenberg.

Mr C: It's what?

Christine: Hülkenberg?

Alex: Hülkenberg.

Steven: Hülkenberg.

Gavin: There's an umlaut on the u, so it's ue.

Mr C: Hookenberg?

Alex: There's like seven umlauts on the u as far as I can see from her comment.

Gavin: So it's Hooooookenberg.

Steven: I think one gets added every time I mispronounce it.

Mr C: I kind of prefer Hülkenberg.

Alex: Poor guy, how does he ever get by in his life?

Mr C: Surely, hold on a second...

Gavin: Actually, that kinda sounds like a racing car going by, Hooooookenberg.

Jackie: It sounds like someone being sick.

Mr C: If it's Hookenberg...

Gavin: I just hoooookenberged in my helmet.



Steven: You can imagine him signing his autograph like that, he'd do his name and then it's got to have dot, dot, dot, dot, dot, dot, dot all the way along.

Mr C: I disagree, I have to say, it's not Hookenberg, because he is the Hulk. And you can't be the Hulk if you're name's Heuk. He's not the Heuk.

Shaun: I've heard of Hulk.

Gavin: There's an umlaut, he's dropped it.

Mr C: But how can his nickname be the Hulk?

Lukeh: Yea!

Mr C: It doesn't make sense. People, we all call him the Hulk.

Gavin: I don't know!

Mr C: I don't understand!

Alex: The British press have called them the Hulk, haven't they?

Mr C: In that case, I adhere to that standard.

Lukeh: The Hulk.

Alex: [laughs] Kathi's there without a microphone, just screaming at us.

Steven: The thing is, that's about the third or the fourth time that I've done that and it's the third or fourth time it's annoyed her, so.

Mr C: If we have to call him Hookenberg, he has to be know as Captain Hook, as opposed to The Hulk. That's my only agreement.

Gavin: I'm wondering if Kathi's turning into the Hulk right now, because she's got so angry with us saying the name wrong. Argh, it's Hoookenberg.

Lukeh: I just like him because he's got a smiley face in his name.

[Laughter]

Alex: Oh Lukeh, that's brilliant.

Christine: Right, anyway. Team Man Flu have thirty-five, Team Sniffles have twenty, Jackie has three and I think the rest are all the same.



Gavin: Yay, we're still winning the second tier, guys.

[Laughter]

Steven: More laughs per dollar.

Lou: Okay, so I think it's about time we moved on to the three killer questions. [Yes ping] I have two and Jackie has one, so we'll start off with mine. It was pointed out to me a while ago that Mario Theisson looks very similar Ned Flanders from The Simpsons.

Gavin: Lukeh!

Lou: Can you think of anyone else from the F1 paddock who acts like a... acts or looks like a cartoon characters. And first question to Lukeh.

Lukeh: Oh jesus.

[Laughter]

Lukeh: I'm just laughing at the image of Ned Flanders and Mario Theissen again. Every time it gets me. Oh. I can't think of anyone else apart from Ned Flanders now. All I've got is Ned Flanders in the mind. Can I skip that and answer that in a minute?

Lou: Yea, okay. We'll move on to Alex.

Alex: Well not currently from the paddock but I can think of Montoya as Homer Simpson, obviously, for the "Mmmm, donuts".

Lou: And Steven?

Steven: This is a tough one. This is a tough one. I mean, the first thing...

Lou: Blame yourself for playing.

Steven: Absolutely! When you think of lookalikes in the paddock, Bernie looks like Andy Warhol, but you know Andy Warhol more like... [unintelligible] The only thing I can think of is Kimi and his enormous hat, reminds me of a cartoon that used to be on the TV years ago, called Calimero, which is a little black bird with its eggshell on its head. No one else remembers.

Jackie: I do!

Lou: Amy, what do you think?

Amy: As much as it pains me to say this, it really does, but Heikki does look a lot like Beavis.



Mr C: He does.

[Laughter ping]

Lou: Shaun?

Shaun: Well, the only one I can think of is David Coulthard looks like Peter Perfect out of the Wacky Racers. [Yes ping.] If you're old enough to remember them of course. Okay.

Lou: And Luk... sorry. And Lukeh?

Lukeh: The only one I can think of, and I don't know why this comes to mind, is, I don't know if anyone remembers, oh what was his name? The guy who used to present on CBBC, I think it was Otis the Aardvark. It was basically a puppet aardvark and it reminds me of Robert Kubica for some reason.

[Laughter]

Shaun: How??

Alex: Something about the nose.

Lukeh: The other one I was thinking of, I mentioned it earlier, it's Martin Whitmarsh looks like the Demon Headmaster. Just thinking he's got creepy eyes, apparently.

Shaun: I think Robert Kubica's diet so low now, he's just eating ants and that's about it, you know. Which is what an aardvark eats, by the way.

Lou: And Gavin?

Gavin: I can't believe no one's said this yet, Sébastien Buemi looks like Mr Potato Head! [Yes ping.] But also, what was the other one. There are a few more. We've had Heikki, haven't we? So I would say Jonathan Legard looks like Frankenstein, Kubica looks like Lurch. [Tick tock ping]

Alex: I have one more, which is, he's also left as well. But Jean Todt did look an awful lot like Greenback from Danger Mouse. [Yes ping]

Gavin: Oh that was the other one! I was gonna say Jean Todt looks like Mr Toad from Beatrix Potter.

Steven: There's one in the comments from Flibster, saying Massa looks like Ernie from Sesame Street.

Mr C: He's also got Jean Todt as the Count. Flibster deserves a point for that one. [Yes ping]

Shaun: Kovalainen looks like someone else, the Munsters, doesn't he? Grandpa, he always reminds me of him.



Lou: Okay, so at the end of that round, what are the scores Christine?

Christine: Team Man Flu have thirty-eight and Team Sniffles have twenty-two.

Mr C: I did just think of another one. Totally off the wall, but Holly Samos looks like a Teletubby when she walks around the pitlane with her little aerial on her head. [No ping] Oh.

Alex: You're so mean! So mean!

Jackie: Do you want negative points?

Gavin: Thank god you're not on our team anymore!

Mr C: I'm getting a right frown, why? She does! Carry on. Jackie, save me. That's a right old stare.

Jackie: Sorry, I've lost a bit then. Can we have the scores on the doors after Lou's first killer question, please?

Mr C: She just did them.

Jackie: Did you?

Mr C: Yea, next question.

Jackie: Next question. Oh dear, I was so stunned after hearing about Peter Perfect. Okay, yea, okay. My killer question. Christine penned and sung an absolutely brilliant good luck song for Felipe Massa, to the music of Santa Baby. Which driver or F1 personality would you like to compose a song for, what would you sing and can you suggest any suitable soundtrack? And maybe, if you're very, very good and sung a little bit, Team Sniffles, Christine might give you an extra point or two. That question, first of all, is going to go to Gavin.

Gavin: Oh fantastic. I have thought of a song. I've been thinking about the lie-gate, and I'm thinking, seeing as Lewis is my favourite, I'm gonna have to sing a song about Lewis. And I was thinking, maybe a little rendition of Little Lies by Fleetwood Mac might do the trick here. May I? May I sing a bit and you can stop me when you get bored?

Shaun: Oh we don't have to...

Jackie: Please do.

Gavin: [Sings] If I could tell a fib, the stewards would re-arrange a position or two. [Yes ping.] So said Davey, Davey Ryan. But they found our radios, there's no way we can get away with it now they heard us say, Lewis, let him, let him by. Tell them lies, tell them sweet little lies. [Yes ping.] Tell them lies, tell them, tell them lies. You can't disguise, oh no, you can't disguise. Shall I do a bit more?



Mr C: No, that's great. That's perfect.

Gavin: I'll send you the full song later, because there's quite a few more verses.

Mr C: Jesus!

Jackie: That was fantastic.

Gavin: Let me just do the next bit of it, because you'll like this bit. [Sings] Although Matt is the making plans... [Tick tock ping] He said I hope you don't understand there's a reason why, Davey, Davey's fired. [Falling ping] [Falling ping]

Jackie: Absolutely brilliant. Next, for Man Flu, can we have Alex please?

Alex: Oh dear. I'm starting to go for Nick Heidfeld, BMW, and I hope that you'll recognise the song as I start to sing it. [Sings] Don't stop me now, I'm the only driver with KERS, in my team. Don't stop me now, my name is Nick Heidfeld, I wanna believe, don't stop me now. You can give me the KERS, don't give the KERS to Robert, he goes too fast. Don't stop me now. [Laughter ping.] My only chance of winning is because of Robert's fat ass. [No ping.]

Mr C: Oh dear. That was unexpected. Just in the... [laughs] Composed. Just in the comments, a quick note for RG who's Holding Out for a Timo. [Yes ping.] He's holding out for a Timo till the end of the night.

Steven: I was gonna steal that one.

Jackie: Brilliant. God, I can't see now, Shaun please.

Shaun: Oh right, this is the worst sort of question for me. I really, terrible this. There's... look, I'm not gonna do anything controversial this time. There's a song that's called Every Loser Wins, which could apply to quite a few drivers, isn't there? And then, getting right back to the 1970s, there's a group called The Sweet did a song called Hell Raiser, that could apply to Lewis Hamilton, I think. And that's about it. [Yes ping.] As good as you're gonna get from me on that, sorry.

Jackie: Smashing. Amy, now, please, for Team Man Flu.

Amy: Oh, my song writing debut, okay. I'll give you one guess who I wrote a song about, to the tune of The Everly Brothers, their song All I Have to Do is Dream. I've written a song called All You Have to Do is Win. It goes a little like this. [Sings] To keep your seat, for next year, to keep your seat, for your career, to stay at McLaren, all you have to do is win. [Yes ping.] Win, win, win, win, ignore that your teammate's Lewis and your car, is number two, to stay at McLaren, all you have to do is win. [Yes ping.] The end.

Jackie: Fantastic, thank you.

Mr C: [claps]



Jackie: Steven, for Team Sniffles.

Steven: Oh my god. I thought maybe Bernie, do something like D.I.V.O.R.C.E. [No ping.]

Mr C: Ooooooh.

Steven: The other one that I came up with, and I notice a couple of people have come up with the same thing in the comments. I thought for Kimi and his taste in desserts, we could have Ice, Ice Baby. Or as someone's changed it to Ice Cream Baby. [Yes ping.]

Jackie: Oh dear. And finally, for Man Flu, Lukeh.

Steven: [Laughs]

Lukeh: I haven't even said anything yet!

Steven: Sorry, Andy put one in the comments, for Kubica we could have Firestarter.

[Laughter]

Shaun: I like that.

[Yes ping.]

Lukeh: That is a brilliant idea, actually. Just one I'm thinking of in my head, just then, I'm just trying to... does anyone remember the Cornetto adverts?

Jackie: Yea?

Shaun: Yep.

Lukeh: Alright, the song from the Cornetto adverts then, about a certain team boss. [Sings] Just one Flavio Briatore, he says silly things, shouting at Brawn GP, jealous of their wins. He's been at Renault for so long, it's been a while, considering Piquet's still in the car, he's gone senile. [Yes ping.]

Shaun: Good one.

Mr C: For some reason, I thought it was the other Cornetto advert you were gonna sing. The one, shake me, bite me, any way you'd like me. I thought you were gonna sing that for Flavio!

Jackie: Fantastic, I loved that round. Cheers, well done everyone for doing that. Christine, could we have the scores please at the end of the second killer question.

Mr C: Is there anyone in the comments who hasn't got a point yet?



Christine: There's a lot of points. Okay, Team Man Flu have 42, Team Sniffles have 23, Jackie has 3, Lou has 2, and from the comments, Scott has minus 1, RG has 2, Chris has 2, Flibster has 1, Andy has 1, and Mr C you have minus 1 as well.

Mr C: What did I say? No, me neither. Oh, was it the teletubby?

Christine: That's right.

Mr C: Sorry, yes.

Alex: I think my lung might have fallen out, I've laughed so much. It's fantastic.

Mr C: Where's Katherine, btw, Andy, is she still there?

Christine: Andy?

Alex: No, she's hiding downstairs watching TV.

Christine: Is this the last question?

Jackie: Over to Lou now for the final question.

Lou: Okay, right. With the continued popularity of Twitter, and expressing one's self in 140 characters, I would like you to describe one moment in F1's history as a tweet.

Mr C: Wow. That's the best question that we've ever had on this game!

Lukeh: Oooh.

Lou: Okay, have we got any volunteers for who wants to go first?

Lukeh: No.

Christine: Do we have to count the characters?

Lou: Are you volunteering?

Mr C: What we'll have to do, we're gonna have to type the question into Twitter to make sure. I can do that in Tweetdeck. Can you do it, or do you want to do it in Tweetdeck?

Christine: Otherwise, how are you gonna know?

Mr C: Yep. Is it gonna ping if you open Tweetdeck?



Christine: Yea.

Mr C: Annoyingly. Well, just do it, okay, do it.

Shaun: I should just say, I'm not on Twitter or anything like that.

Mr C: That's okay, whatever you say, Christine's gonna type, and if you get it less than 140 characters, she will know. This is a great question.

Gavin: Does it have to be less, exactly or...?

Mr C: Just less. Is that right, Lou?

Lou: Yep?

Christine: If you got it exactly, you'd get double points, I reckon.

Mr C: Okay, Christine says double points for 140 characters on the nose.

Alex: Okay, I've got one if you need one.

Christine: Right.

Lou: Okay, Alex, you go first.

Alex: Oh god. Okay, well, I just went for, I'm gonna use the same answer as last week. 'And Jenson.... wiiiiins.' No? [No ping.]

Mr C: Why was that a point away? For re-using the same question? Okay.

Alex: Okay.

Lou: Okay, Steven? Your turn.

Steven: Okay, the only one I can come up with is the famous Coulthard/Schumacher Magny-Cours: 'Coulthard passes Schumacher. Schumacher blocks him. Coulthard, a hand gesture.'

Mr C: Hold on, Christine's typing it.

Steven: I make it about eighty characters.

Mr C: Yep.

[Yes ping.]



Jackie: Are you submitting these to Twitter?

Mr C: No? No. Although maybe you should. Do you want to submit them to Twitter? Yea, I think we should. Go on Christine, do that. No one will understand it but it doesn't matter. How many people do you have following that are gonna think, what the hell is going on?

Christine: Some.

Mr C: Some people, okay.

Christine: Okay.

Mr C: Is that gone?

Christine: Yep.

Mr C: That's been submitted to Twitter.

Christine: I've got to do the Jenson one.

Mr C: Yep, Jenson.... wins. Have you got enough dots in there?

Christine: I've just put three, because it could be as many as you like.

Mr C: Yea, put more in there because it was a hell of a pause.

Alex: It's unfair, everybody's just using my answers from last week, including me.

Mr C: Back to Lou, we've submitted those two.

Steven: It's the new, green F1, we've got to recycle stuff.

[Laughter.]

Mr C: Sorry, back to Lou, sorry.

Lou: Okay, Lukeh, are you ready?

Lukeh: Yea.

Lou: Go on then.

Lukeh: Okay, I'll describe Lola's debut into Formula One in 1997 in less than 140 words.

Christine: Characters.



Mr C: Characters.

Lukeh: 'Damn.' That's it. Damn. That's all they did.

Mr C: D-A-M-N, just Damn. Christine's submitted it.

Lukeh: I think that's less than 140, yea.

Mr C: I don't think she gave you a point for it, though, but she has submitted it. Lou?

Lou: Okay. Shaun?

Shaun: Right. What have we got to do? I really, I don't get this. What have we got to do a quote, have we?

Lou: Describe one moment in F1's history in less than 140 characters.

Shaun: Oh right, okay. Oh that's easy enough. 'And I've got stop because I've got a lump in my trous... I mean, my throat.'

[Laughter]

Jackie: I don't like that.

Mr C: Christine... again, you're being stingy on the pings here Christine?

Christine: I'm typing, for goodness' sake!

Mr C: Oh, she's typing.

Steven: She's typing, she's tweeting and she's got to ping.

Mr C: There's a brilliant one from Chris in the comments which is exactly 140 characters. And that is 'David Coulthard...' This is from Canada, 1998. 'David Coulthard loses it in the wet on the first corner. He takes nearly everyone else out. The race is red flagged. Now what?' [Yes ping x2] There you go, two points for Chris. That's how it should be done.

Steven: That was Spa, that wasn't Canada. Minor detail.

Mr C: He got the wrong race. Was it the right year?

Steven: It's the right year, yes.

[No ping.]



Mr C: Okay, he's just lost one of them. Back to Lou.

Lou: Okay, Amy?

Amy: Mine is from the most heart-breaking race I have ever watched which was the 2005 European Grand Prix. 'Last lap, Kimi's gonna win. Wait a minute, wait a minute. He went off in the gravel, he was going so fast. Nooooo!'

Mr C: Christine's catching up.

Christine: The gravel. He was gonna win.

Mr C: Noooo. I don't know which event that was from, which one was that?

Amy: You've got to get it, you've got... the 2005 European Grand Prix.

Mr C: Ah, when his tyre exploded.

Amy: And his tyre exploded on the last lap, and he went into the gravel. Nooo.

Mr C: Less than 140, Christine?

Christine: Mmhmm. [Yes ping.]

Lou: Okay, and Gavin?

Gavin: Ooh. 'Watching F1 race. Loads of stuff is happening on the track. Legard is rubbish. I can't type and watch a feed at the same time. Go Lewis Hamilton.' And that should be 140 characters because Twitter says it is.

Jackie: Ooh, cheat.

Christine: I can't remember it. Do it again?

Gavin: I'll put it in the comments.

Mr C: Hold on, Gavin's gonna comment it.

Christine: This is great audio.

Mr C: Back to Lou?

Lou: That's it, I think.

Mr C: Is it? Has everyone done one?



Steven: Can I do another one then?

Mr C: Go on.

Steven: 'Paaaaaaaaaiiiin.'

Lukeh: I've got one to describe Sato's career. 'Crash bang wallop bump.'

Steven: Sorry.

Shaun: 'Worse than his dad's.'

Jackie: Can I do one?

Gavin: I've got another one from Hungary 2006. 'Jenson Button.... wiiiiins.' Until you get to 140.

Jackie: Can I do one?

Mr C: Yea, go on Jackie.

Jackie: Mr Potato Head. 'Oh noooooooooo.'

Mr C: Christine? Go on.

Christine: No, I have to do the two points for Gavin's. [Yes ping x2] From before. I think that's it.

Mr C: Yes. Okay. Right then, back to...

Alex: They did another one in the comments but it's too late now. It's too late.

Gavin: Oh that is a good one.

Alex: It would spin away to Gavin, that was the main thing. Or Gavin with Senna.

Mr C: Back to Lou, do you want to call Christine for the scores?

Lou: Christine, what are the scores for the end of the quiz, please?

[Long pause.]

Christine: So, the final scores. Team Man Flu have 42, Team Sniffles have 26. Jackie has 3, Lou has 2, and from the comments: Chris has 3, Flibster has 1, Andy has 1, RG has 2, and Scott and Mr C have minus 1 each.



Mr C: Well done to... which team one? Sorry, I wasn't listening. Well done to Man Flu. I was just trying to work out how the hell so many people in the comments got so many points. So, of the two hosts, Jackie beat Lou by a point. That's good going. Thank you for hosting this week, you two.

Jackie: You're welcome.

Mr C: Did you enjoy hosting?

Jackie: Yea, it was good fun.

Lou: Yea, it's been fun. Yea.

Mr C: And thank you to Kathi for managing to host nine simultaneous Skype conversations, which is absolutely fantastic. We are moving to Finland, it's official. Thank you to everyone who joined the call, sorry we lost Scott halfway through, although I'm quite glad that I missed out on the killer questions. That's a bit of a bonus, thank you Scott. Are we gonna do one more panel this year? One more to go. Is anyone gonna come back?

Alex: We want to know what Mr C's song was.

Mr C: I didn't have a song.

Alex: But you must have been prepared, it was the killer question.

Mr C: No, I wasn't expecting to be on the show at all, actually. I was not gonna be on it and I didn't prepare myself whatsoever. If I had to sing one, it would probably He Had it Coming for Max Mosley.

Christine: Ahhhhh. [No ping.]

Mr C: Ah, I just lost another point. Fine. Alright, we shall wrap it up there. Thank you everybody, thank you hosts, wonderful panel, and Christine will edit it and hopefully have it out tomorrow because it's a bank holiday Monday and you have nothing else to do.

Christine: Thanks.

Gavin: Yes, happy Bank Holiday everybody. I don't get mine till Friday, so boo to you all.

Amy: I don't get one at all! I have to go to work in an hour!

Gavin: Move to a proper country!

Amy: I'm trying!

Steven: So are you glad you did the panel, Amy?



Amy: Oh, it was great fun, I'm really pleased that I managed to sing in public, it was...

Mr C: What a debut! Will you ever come back?

Amy: Maybe. Maybe. There's no more panels though!

Steven: You said you would host one after you'd appeared on a panel.

Amy: I do kinda wanna host one now though, that's the problem.

Mr C: Oooh.

Amy: I actually want to now.

Alex: Yes!

Lukeh: Yes!

Mr C: Next week?

Gavin: Get in there, Kiwi.

Mr C: We have no host for next week's show, Amy, if you are volunteering right here, right now.

Steven: Well done, great volunteering.

Amy: Oh, okay.

Mr C: Yes!

Amy: No, no, I thought we were even earlier. This time next Monday I'll already be at work so I won't be able to do it.

Mr C: What time do you go to work next Monday?

Christine: We can do it...

Amy: I start at 7:30, so I leave my house at 7.

Mr C: What's the time there now?

Amy: Like, it's 7:30 here now.

Mr C: So we have to be done by about half nine.



Christine: Otherwise it'll be the middle of the night. You don't want to be getting up in the middle of the night. We can't ask someone to do that.

Mr C: I can.

Christine: You can't.

Gavin: Journeyer did it.

Steven: Amy doesn't sleep anyway. If she wasn't doing the panel, she'd just be watching tennis.

Gavin: Amy says her mum does her ironing at four in the morning if she does it too or something.

Mr C: Okay, we'll have a think. We won't put Amy through out of pressure. In fairness, Jeremy did it in a different timezone, therefore it was easier.

Christine: Journeyer.

Mr C: No, Jeremy. Jeremy joined us from Australia in a previous time zone.

Christine: Oh right, I see. Yes.

Mr C: Therefore it was much easier for him. Although for Journeyer, we did do an afternoon show, which we may be able to do but there is a race on in the afternoon which might be a little bit inconvenient. Right, well, Amy thank you for volunteering because even if we don't do it next week, there will be more panel shows coming very, very soon. Probably in the summer. Does anyone, by the way, know when Top Gear's coming back? Because all we're really trying to do is avoid Top Gear.

Gavin: I'm still two seasons behind so don't ask me.

Lou: End of June.

Shaun: It's repeated so much, you can't tell, can you?

Mr C: Lou, did you just say end of June - it's coming back or it finishes end of June?

Lou: No, it comes back at the end of June.

Mr C: And is it a six-run series?

Lou: Yea, I think so. I've got the details, I'll post them on the comments later.

Mr C: Okay, so we're basically talking mid-August before the next panel show. Which isn't that far away at all, is it? That's like six weeks till Top Gear comes back, then six weeks of Top Gear, then panel show. Sounds like a plan. No one's saying anything.



Steven: I think the most important thing we learned from tonight is that Man Flu can overcome anything.

Mr C: I wonder what the combined total of the comments is, though. Have the commenters not got more than Man Flu?

Alex: No, well, Man Flu won so it must be more than the other one.

Mr C: Man Flu got more than Sniffles, but I wonder if the comments got more than Man Flu? 42 plus... no they didn't. Not quite. See, the commenters could still overcome a team, potentially, if you had enough points in the comments.

Steven: I think Man Flu is just so powerful that even Sniffles couldn't beat it.

Mr C: Nothing can take it down.

Steven: It's a very good lesson, I think.

Gavin: Christine's Twitter looks fantastic right now.

Mr C: It looks like an absolute mess, doesn't it? You can imagine everyone following her just thinking she's gone loopy.

Gavin: It's even less... it makes even less sense than MC Hammer's Twitter.

Alex: Can we just say a big thank you to Christine for future editing of this show, which is going to be horrible, and also the fact that she's done this while she's sick so that's very nice, thank you.

Mr C: I will pass that on. She's gone away, actually, so I will pass that on.

Alex: Has she?

Mr C: I'm sat in a room by myself. I'm here all alone. She's not here.

Steven: Christine has a wedding to plan, so.

Alex: Oh god.

Mr C: Christine's got to buy a hat.

Christine: I'm back, what?

Mr C: I just said you'd gone away and left me all alone. But you've got to buy a hat for Alex's wedding.

Christine: Of course.



Mr C: Mmm, one like Kimi's.

Christine: Really? Okay.

Alex: No.

Christine: Fine by me. Hey, if I'm planning it, then that's all good.

Mr C: Alrighty, shall we end the call now? Kathi, it's over to silent Kathi, presumably she can't say goodbye to anyone, she's just going to hang up on you all.

Christine: How rude.

Gavin: She's asked us to hang up ourselves, she doesn't want to feel bad.

Mr C: Wouldn't it be fun if we just didn't? She just has to host the call all night, she can't tell us to go away.

Christine: I'm gonna hang up!

Mr C: Okay, bye all.

Alex: Okay bye everybody!

[Chorus of goodbyes]

Christine: That's it, done!

Mr C: Good stuff. Right, I'm gonna stop that recording. Yea, you have a massive editing job ahead of you.

Christine: Good! Are we still live?

Mr C: Yea. But it's just you and I. The good news is, the pinger track did record.

Christine: Hi. Did it? It didn't look like it was.

Mr C: No, halfway through the show, I thought there was no pinging.

Christine: Also, I did one ping that didn't ping, but it came back.

Mr C: That's good. So we had a few technical problems but hopefully, by the look of it now, it actually looks all good and you should be able to edit that without any problem. Everybody's Skype was fantastic today.

Christine: Um, yea!



Mr C: Much, much improved.

Christine: Jackie was the Pat of this week.

Mr C: Yes, she was right in my ears. That was quite scary.

Christine: Lovely, you mean. I need to update my Twitter now and explain what the hell is going on.

Mr C: Someone is going to start unfollowing you.

Christine: Yes.

Mr C: You're gonna have no followers at all. That was fun. Good luck with the editing, I don't know if it will come across on audio actually, I don't know if it really works but maybe it will, maybe it won't.

Christine: The Twitter question is great, but I'm not sure it was good audio.

Mr C: No. It's my favourite question ever, but I'm... yea, you're right.

Christine: When I edit it, it'll be perfect.

Mr C: I'm sure it will be great. We're gonna say goodbye now, it is half past ten.

Christine: Yep.

Mr C: We've been talking for at least three hours.

Christine: Mmhmm.

Mr C: Time to go.

Christine: Yep.

Mr C: Have you got a song?

Christine: I do.

Mr C: Which one, dare I ask?

Christine: It's not that one!

Mr C: Oh good. Ace.

[Beatrice Ericsson: All Through the Night]