



Video 23 – F1 Rewind (Pilot)

[Opening credits]

Chris: Welcome to Sidepodcast TV. Today we're piloting a new show – a news show, in fact. The idea is for this to be a weekly show that discusses the Formula 1 happenings from the previous seven days. As a pilot, its future entirely depends on your feedback. Let me know if this is of any interest to you, what kind of things you would like to see, or even if you don't think it's a good idea at all. Email me at christine at sidepodcast.com or leave comments wherever you happen to be watching.

So, on with the show. Today we'll be looking at the Alonso/Kovalainen swap, upcoming launch dates, and Toyota's latest problem.

But first, as Christmas is notoriously a period of slow news, I would just like to point out some of the changes that have been happening at Sidepodcast. We're going for a whole new look, rebranding and hopefully making things better.

F1 Minute has its own site. It used to be lost on the main Sidepodcast page, amongst the show notes and blog entries, so f1minute.com is its new home. My little baby has all grown up. Sidepodcast has a new theme, handwritten by yours truly, with the odd bit of help here and there. This video is part of Sidepodcast 2.0, and the audio will be getting some updates as well.

We're aiming to provide plenty of options so you can choose more of what you want and less of what you don't. That's the way F1 coverage should be, isn't it?

News

Chris: Before Christmas, Alonso finally announced he'd be returning to Renault, and in response, McLaren announced they'd signed Kovalainen in the champ's place. It's the second time Heikki has filled the Spaniard's boots, and he didn't do too badly last year. If you don't count the first race, when Flavio said it must have been his brother driving. But Heikki should be fine in his new team, he's already talking the talk and sounding like he will fit right in. Although, is it just me that thinks he doesn't look quite right in the silver outfit? Maybe it's the blond hair or something.

McLaren have also announced that they will be launching their new car, after previous statements saying it would just slide onto the track with no fuss. We now know the launch date of pretty much every team.

[Display chart: Scuderia Ferrari Marlboro – 6th January. Vodafone McLaren Mercedes – 7th January. Panasonic Toyota Racing – 10th January. BMW Sauber F1 – 14th January. Red Bull Racing – 16th January. Honda Racing F1 – 29th January. ING Renault F1 – 31st January. AT&T Williams Toyota – 2nd February.]

Toro Rosso and Super Aguri have decided they'll be starting with the old car for the first few races, whilst Force India have yet to announce their launch dates. They also haven't decided their complete driver line up, even though it was supposed to be announced at the end of December. Having said that, the FIA haven't actually released the official entry list, and that's usually done in early December. There doesn't seem to be any reason for that, but I'm sure



there's something going on in the minds of those in charge. It's all very frustrating for a podcaster wanting to discuss the 2008 entry list in full detail.

It also appears that Kingfisher Airlines have pulled out of their sponsorship deal with Toyota. This isn't exactly surprising news, as the Kingfisher boss is Vijay Mallya, who has his own F1 interests. It's hard to tell if this is a huge blow for Toyota or not. Kingfisher was a major sponsor but the team has their own big budget to play with.

Chairman and Team Principal Tadashi Yamashina said: "I would like to thank Kingfisher Airlines for its support during 2007 and I wish Dr Mallya good luck with his new Formula 1 venture. I look forward to seeing him next season, even if he is now associated with a rival team."

I would just like to say, he's not associated with a rival team - he is the rival team!

F1 On The Web

Chris: For this part of the show, I think it'd be nice to have a look elsewhere on the web and see what's available for F1 fans like you and me. It may be a website that you already know, a big site like Formula1.com, or it could be a relatively small blogger with some interesting things to say. We want to create a directory of the best places to go on the web for your Formula 1 information.

In this pilot episode, I'd like to feature our forum partners Forumula1.net. There's a great news blog attached at the front end of this site, but its pride and joy should really be the excellent forums. Sidepodcast has their own small slice of the action where we like to chat about things we've said on the show, but there are plenty of other topics and conversations to get involved in. The people there have up to the minute information, and especially when there's a race going on, you'll find the live chat irresistible.

That brings us to the end of the show. If you've got any comments or feedback, maybe even a site or two you'd like to see featured, why not leave us a voicemail? It's free if you're a Skype user – find us under the username sidepodcast. Or you can ring us in the UK on 0121 28 TRACK, internationally it is +44 121 28 87225. If you are the more shy and retiring type, you can always email me: christine at sidepodcast.com. Look forward to hearing from you and until a possible next time, try not to pair silver and blond.

[End credits]