

THE RED

GP BRAZIL
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BULLETIN

AN ALMOST INDEPENDENT F1 NEWSPAPER



FIGHT TO THE FINISH!

MASSA STORMS
TO POLE, HAMILTON
PLAYS SAFE

THE RED BULLETIN
AWARDS
2008



BRAZIL 02.11.08 SUNDAY

Lewis Hamilton played the percentage game in qualifying yesterday, slotting into a comfortable fourth place, but it was Felipe Massa's stunning pole lap that sent the home crowd crazy. The championship is perfectly poised now. Meanwhile, away from the title battle, who is fighting fit and who has fought for a better deal? Turn the page to find out...

Calm and collected

Lewis Hamilton doesn't seem fazed by his fourth-place grid position. "It would be nicer to be a bit further up ahead," he said. "But I think with the strategy we have, it's quite good. I don't need to do anything spectacular. I just need to bring the car home with some good points."

Photography: Crispin Thruston





SMALL TALK

Finnish TV summariser Jyrki Järvillehto reflects on Kimi's quiet year



Good morning JJ, how's life in the commentary box?

It's good! But it's much harder than being a race driver – people expect intelligent things to come out of your mouth.

This season must be a bit of a disappointment for the Finnish audience...

Very occasionally you will have a year where a Finn isn't fighting for the world championship, but that doesn't stop the sport being popular. There's a little over five million people in Finland, and two million of them are our viewers, so the audience share is massive, and it doesn't matter that it's Lewis against Massa. Actually, this year has been good, and there's two young guys fighting for the championship in the last race.

That's how it should be.

Who'll win this afternoon?

The McLaren is a very strong car and Lewis seems to be keeping his cool. Massa's always strong here, but he's going to need a crazy race. Maybe the weather will intervene.

Will we see a return to form for Kimi next year?

With the new rules, he'll have as much chance as Lewis or Massa... maybe Vettel too, who knows?

Kimi hasn't been happy with set-up this year, always saying the car is almost there, but it isn't 100 per cent to his liking – and 98-99 per cent isn't enough to win a championship; it has to be perfect.

You got all that from Kimi? Is he more chatty in Finnish?

You would think speaking in your mother tongue would make a difference... but to be honest, Kimi doesn't say much more in Finnish than he does in English.

And will we see you back in Speedcar next season?

It's really up to them! I haven't heard anything, but I'd like to do it. There's plenty of work to do with TV, but it's good to have some fun outside, and it's always nice to race.



Top architect designs trophy

A podium today will be worth even more than usual to the recipient, and not just because there's a championship at stake. The trophies have been designed by Oscar Niemeyer, one of the most stylish and successful architects of the last century. The Brazilian's work has always been characterised by its stirring curves, which is echoed in his F1 trophies. The prizes, inspired by his masterpiece, the Alvorada Presidential Palace, are 100 per cent renewable polymer, and are made with environmentally friendly sugar cane ethanol. "Architecture follows the path of a work of art, and what characterises art is emotion, surprise," says the architect, who is 100 years old. There's sure to be emotion, and maybe a few surprises, on the podium today.

It's dangerous out there

It's rather lucky there's a Red Bulletin at all this morning, as we were nearly three staff members down. Leaving the circuit at 8pm on Friday night, our art editor Phil Slade, chief sub-editor Nancy James and sub-editor Alex Hazle had only driven a couple of hundred metres down the road when they stopped at some traffic lights and were suddenly surrounded by gun-toting bandits. "There were at least five of them," said Nancy, "and all three of us had guns pointed at us. They tried to smash the windows, but they wouldn't break, and they ran away when the lights went green." Their car was blocked in by traffic so they couldn't move, but fortunately the doors were locked. Three police cars were parked 100m away, unaware of the trouble. In light of the incident, the advice from the FOM is that people cover up team uniforms, while the police suggest that you should not fight assailants and should give the robbers what they want. So, be very careful when you leave the circuit tonight, and try to get away in daylight if you can.

Felipe's dad fighting fit

Felipe Massa's father, Luiz Antonio, was admitted to hospital this week to have some kidney stones removed. Massa senior was desperate to get the operation out of the way so that he could fully enjoy this weekend. "He checked in earlier this week, but he's here now and he's fully fit," Felipe's wife, Rafaela, told the Bulletin. TV Globo reporter Mariana Becker tells us: "Apparently he told nurses if he wasn't given an all-clear and released in time for qualifying, he'd be going out the hospital window."

Club 100

Reaching your 100th grand prix might not be a record – some veterans have 500-plus – but getting to your 100th when you're only 25 is quite an achievement. Force India mechanic Chris King has been with the team for a decade, since he was at school and spent

all his holidays working there. In fact, his mum, brother and father have all worked for the team that started out as Jordan. So, Chris' mum called team manager Andy Stevenson to let him know that they should be celebrating. Not only did he get the beers in, but Andy got every F1 driver to sign a race programme for the biggest fan inside the sport. "He's a bit of a 'bobble hat', you see," said Andy.

Expensive connections

There's a joke doing the rounds in the media centre that F1's photographers are financing Bruno Senna's forthcoming Honda test. That might be a bit wide of the mark, but Senna's sponsor Embratel is supplying internet lines to the press at rather expensive rates. Slow wi-fi lines were costing US\$265 for the weekend, until the powers that be stepped in and had the rate halved. However, photographers, who require a quicker dedicated line, still have to pay a huge US\$600 over four days – just to check Facebook. Oh yeah, and promote the Brazilian Grand Prix.

Ex-F1 driver in GP2 talks

Former Jordan and Midland F1 driver Tiago Monteiro is rumoured to be in negotiations to buy GP2 team BCN. The team has confirmed that is it "discussing a commercial operation which will be decided before the end of November".

THANKS GUYS!
A surprised David Coulthard receives a 'traffic cone trophy' from the FIA, to the delight of everyone else at yesterday's F1 drivers' briefing.



Who will win one of Oscar Niemeyer's striking trophies this afternoon?

It has also been reported that Tiago, who now races for SEAT in the WTCC, may be looking to move the BCN team to a base at the new Algarve circuit.

Ring-a-bling-bling

To celebrate the end of the 2008 season, 'jewellery design powerhouse' Wade Royd-Taylor has created a one-off Red Bulletin ring in solid silver worth over £1,000. To be in with a chance of winning it, just answer this simple question: How many circuits on this year's calendar feature the word 'ring' in their name (as in Nürburgring)? Is it (a) One, (b) Two, or (c) Three? Send your answer with your name, address and daytime phone number to web@redbulletinf1.com. The draw will be made on November 5, and the winner announced online.

Today's schedule

10.00 – 10.30	Formula BMW race two
10.50 – 11.20	Trofeo Maserati race
11.40 – 12.15	Porsche Cup race
12.35 – 13.15	VIP charity drive
13.25	End-of-season F1 drivers' photo
13.30	F1 drivers' parade
15.00	Brazilian Grand Prix

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SIX OF THE BEST: SING WHEN YOU'RE WINNING

Lewis Hamilton is considering a musical career. With 'Jacques' and 'Villeneuve' ringing in our ears, here are six other unlikely singers.

YANNICK NOAH

As any 10-year-old with a mirror can tell you, having a tennis racquet is the first step to rock stardom. While Wimbledon just has Cliff Richard, Roland Garros has Yannick Noah. After retiring from tennis, the 1983 French Open champion developed a career as a popular singer all over Europe. A big hitter on the court, he aced the charts with nine hit albums and performed at Live 8 in 2005.

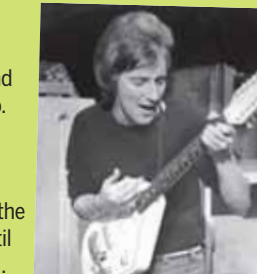


RUSSELL CROWE

When he's not throwing telephones or tantrums, Crowe is singing in his rock band 30 Odd Foot of Grunts. They've been labouring away in obscurity since 1992, but music was in fact his first love: he dropped out of school, renamed himself Russ Le Roq and put out a single, I Wanna Be Marlon Brando. Instead of chart success, it led to a role in The Rocky Horror Show, and so began his acting career.

ROD STEWART

One evening, singer Long John Baldry heard a drunk busking for his train fare in London and invited the young man to join him in his studio. The drunk called the blues man a pervert and threatened to punch him. Two weeks later, Baldry discovered Rod Stewart, also singing drunkenly, at Twickenham station, and made the same offer. Also a promising footballer, up until then Rod had been working as a gravedigger...



JOHNNY DEPP

Johnny is impossibly good-looking, a movie star who is also a respected actor – and his wife is Vanessa Paradis. As if this weren't annoying enough, he's also a talented guitarist who performs under the name Tonto's Giant Nuts and has played on albums by Oasis and Shane MacGowan. In fact, he financed his early acting career by fronting a KISS tribute band and even supported Iggy Pop.

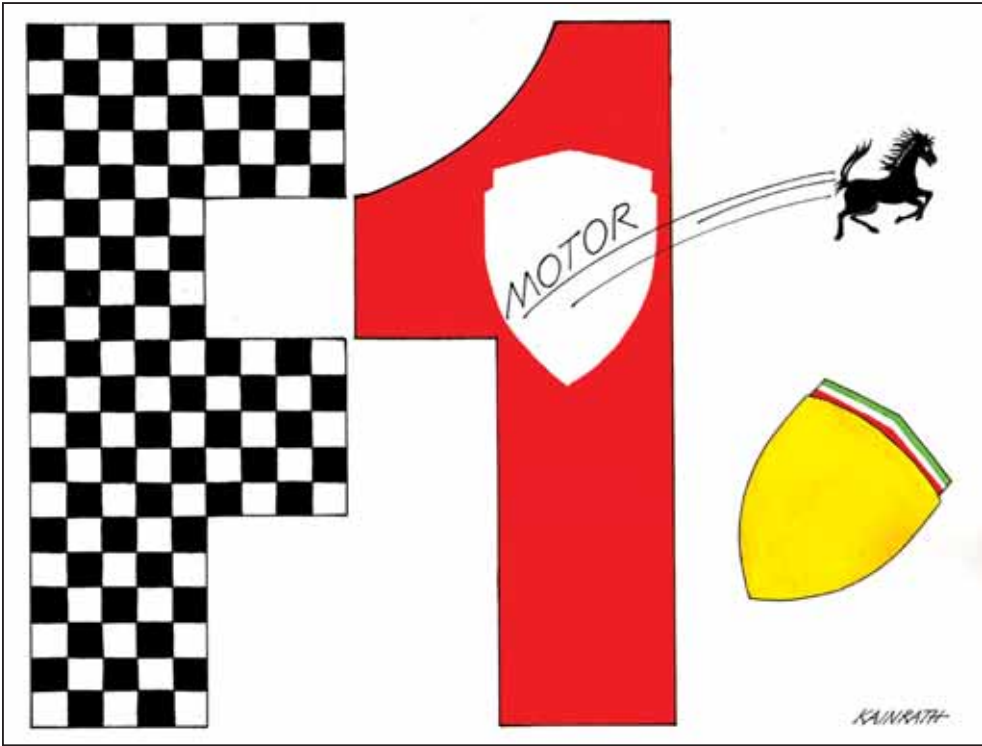
THE CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE

William Shatner's enduring musical career began with 1968's The Transformed Man, featuring jaw-dropping versions of Mr Tambourine Man and Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds, and culminated in Has Been, which featured collaborations with Ben Folds and Henry Rollins. And where Captain Kirk boldly goes, the rest follow, notably Leonard Nimoy (Spock) and Brent Spiner (Data).



FIGWIT

Even though this obscure companion of Legolas only appears fleetingly in the Lord of the Rings films, the character has won an army of adoring female fans, who coined the name Figwit. He was so popular that Peter Jackson even gave the extra, Bret McKenzie, a line or two in the final film. After leaving Middle Earth, Figwit/Bret found greater success as one half of Kiwi comedy act Flight Of The Conchords.



PIT BITCH: UNREAL EXPECTATIONS

Goodbye São Paulo, hello normality

BY HELEN PARADYCE

Congratulate yourself, because if you're reading this it means you've survived another F1 season. Let's face it, it's not the work that's tiring, its surviving the hours in between leaving the track in the evening and coming back in the morning, as it seems to be written into the F1 cahier-de-charge that excessive eating, drinking and smoking must be the basis of all nights out.

If you don't believe me, transpose your race weekend behaviour to a normal night at home with your partner and see how it sounds. "Hello darling, I'm just having two big glasses of wine before leaving the office. Hello darling, I'm home, so let's have two large vodka Red Bulls. Oh look, it's already 10 o'clock. Let's eat a three-course dinner and have a bottle and a half of wine each. Mmmm, I enjoyed that two-hour meal so much, I think I'll end it with a large brandy or maybe a carafe of limoncello. Oh dear, I appear to have smoked all 20 of my cigarettes. I'll just pop out and buy some more. While I'm gone, please go into the lounge, turn the lights out, turn the volume on the sound system up to 11, turn the heating up to 35°C, and then we can jump up and down shouting at one another while drinking four more vodkas.

"I think that's about it, darling. Oh wait, I forgot to burst into tears, fall down and break one of my stiletto heels while tearing my dress. Gosh, it's 3.30am, so let's go and lie on the bed with our clothes on.

"But wait, I forgot the usual evening finale. Run



out into the middle of a busy road and steal a traffic cone with a flashing light on top, making sure you leave your wallet and passport in the gutter. I'll make sure I leave all my make-up on so I look like an extra from a horror movie in the morning, then that means we get two hours' sleep before getting up and driving to the office for another day's work." Madness, sheer madness.

Years ago, I used to write for a Benetton F1 magazine, and I upset the mayor of São Paulo, who urged his citizens to boycott Benetton stores because I'd dared to suggest this could be a dangerous city. At the risk of getting Red Bull banned, I'm going to repeat myself after some of our Red Bulletin boys and girls got held up at gunpoint leaving the track on Friday night. 'Motor racing is dangerous' used to be written on entrance tickets to races, but that shouldn't include weapons being pointed at your head.

That's about it from me for another year. Just tonight's party to live through and then I'm off on a beach holiday with the boyfriend. This one's a bit of an intellectual type, and he wanted to take me to some Greek archaeological sites. I'm a fair bit older than him, so maybe he thought I'd have first-hand knowledge of such places. In the end, I forced him into the beach option on the basis that all we've learned from archaeology is that previous civilisations consisted of skeletons living underground, eating off broken crockery.

A final word of warning to any young F1 lads considering a Sunday night of passion with one of the too-pretty-for-their-own-good local girls: it's a little-known fact that the world's first sex manual, the Kama Sutra, was actually written by a Brazilian, and the long forgotten subtitle to the book is Ouch!

You're Standing On My Hair.

'Just tonight's party to live through and then I'm off to the beach'

ON THIS DAY... 02/11/08



1947: GOOSE TAKES OFF
Aviator Howard Hughes' prototype Spruce Goose, the largest fixed-wing aircraft ever, makes its only flight.
Some footage of this enormous plane.
YouTube.com search: Hughes + Hercules

1898: GO, JOHNNY, GO
Johnny Campbell of the University of Minnesota, USA, leads the first troupe of cheerleaders in history at a college football game.
Cheerleaders getting it wrong a century on.
YouTube.com search: cheerleaders + go + wild

2000: REMOTE STATION
The first crew arrive at the International Space Station orbiting the Earth.
USS Discovery docks at the ISS.
YouTube.com search: Discovery + docks + raw

BIRTHS

1966: DAVID SCHWIMMER
TV comedy show Friends' Dr Ross Geller.
YouTube.com search: Ross + Friends + tanning

DEATHS

2004: THEO VAN GOGH
Dutch film director, murdered by an extremist for his outspoken criticism of Islam in the film Submission.
YouTube.com search: Van Gogh + Submission + Ali

ON THIS DAY, VISIT...

EMBU
This suburban satellite of São Paulo boasts fine architecture, hundreds of craft workshops and many antique shops. As well as a weekend art market, there are many other museums and galleries to enjoy.
Embu is approximately 27km south-west of São Paulo. Take the Rodovia Regis Bittencourt (BR-116) in the direction of Curitiba.

ON THIS DAY IN F1...



1991: AUSTRALIA
It is Ferrari test driver Gianni Morbidelli who appears for qualifying at Adelaide after Alain Prost is sacked for his critical comments about the team. The shortest F1 race in history followed – abandoned halfway through because of atrocious conditions.
YouTube.com search: 1991 + Adelaide

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Dr Marko tried to whistle innocently while pretending to look at the timing screen, but Rocky knew he'd just had a hand up his kilt.



"Right, that's it, I don't care what DC says about tradition, I'm going to put some underpants on."



Beat Zehnder was finding it difficult not to laugh. "I don't believe it," moaned Christian. "When the team said it had a seat for me, I didn't think they meant garden furniture."

Lewis had promised his girlfriend the biggest diamond out of the window at Tiffany on Fifth Avenue, but didn't know how he was going to pay for it... "Quick, darling, while no one's watching – this is worth \$50,000, so just slip it under your coat and walk out of the garage."



Not much good had come out of the Hamilton-Alonso partnership, but it had left Lewis with an enduring love of bullfighting.



"Listen, Timo, this is an old-fashioned circuit and the facilities are not the best, so there's bound to be the occasional cuddly little rat running around the garage – you can't spend the whole session on the pitwall."

LAST LAUGHS

It's the end of the 2008 season, and to celebrate, here's our final selection of strange paddock behaviour.



MASSA'S THUNDER ROAD

Felipe keeps his hopes alive with pole position

SESSION 01

Nelson Piquet began proceedings in front of his home crowd. His time of 1:13.208 was eight-tenths slower than his best morning run and, predicably, didn't stay at the top of the timesheets for very long with Toyota's Timo Glock and both Hondas immediately superceding it. Felipe Massa's first appearance was greeted with an enormous cheer – Interlagos is the one track that sounds more like a football ground – but he could only manage third. The circuit was slippery; Glock swapped ends at the Senna S and Nico Rosberg had a few twitches too. With five minutes remaining he joined David Coulthard, Sébastien Bourdais and the Force Indias in the drop zone. DC immediately managed to pull himself clear, going 12th, Bourdais set 10th. Inconsequential though it was, another huge cheer greeted Massa going quickest, while the real action was at the other end. Force India locked out the bottom row, and were joined by both Williams and Jenson Button, who also had to contend with his Honda stopping on his in-lap.



BARRICHELLO
Outqualifies Jenson again on his way to Q2.



WILLIAMS
Dire qualifying for Williams, both cars out in the first session.

SESSION 02

Toyotas in line astern made the early running in Q2, Jarno Trulli this time taking the lead with a time of 1:12.107. Kimi Räikkönen went faster, posting the first sub-1:12 time of the weekend. Massa went quicker, Lewis Hamilton quickest, and Glock slotted in just behind them: the Toyotas look very competitive indeed this weekend. With 10 minutes gone and five remaining Robert Kubica was an improbable 11th, followed by Mark Webber, Coulthard, Rubens Barrichello and Nick Heidfeld. Heidfeld improved to sixth and Heikki Kovalainen briefly held top spot, but with only a tiny margin between pole and elimination, everyone came out for a precautionary run, the only exception being Massa, who was playing it very cool. Räikkönen managed fifth, Sebastian Vettel went second and Bourdais eighth, making it a very good day for Toro Rosso. Not so good for sister team Red Bull Racing, with Webber only managing 12th and Coulthard in his final tilt 14th. Joining them in elimination was an unlucky Piquet, a surprising Kubica and Interlagos native Barrichello, resplendent in the colours of the retiring Ingo Hoffmann. There were less than four-tenths between first and 11th.



HEIDFELD
Touch-and-go, but Nick qualifies for Q3 while Kubica fails.



RED BULL RACING
The team fail to get either car into Q3 for the fourth consecutive race.



01

Nico Rosberg blamed 18th position on a lack of grip, inability to warm-up the tyres, traffic and a race-oriented set-up compromise. He also said the Williams was "tough to drive".



02

Sébastien Bourdais hailed his third consecutive qualification to Q3 as simply "super".



03

A first front row start since France 2005 for "flu-ridden Jarno. "I have to thank the whole team for the job – the mechanics, the engineers... and also the doctor."



THE RED BULLETIN AWARDS 2008



The Winners



Paddock Trend Of The Year Bourdais' Glasses

Poor old French Séb. There you are, an F1 newbie, and in a bid to make yourself stand out from the crowd, to forge some kind of identity, you hit upon some stylish red-framed glasses. Très chic. And what happens? Like all the best French fashion, within days it's adopted by every clod-hopper in the paddock. The best Séb could do now is don a comedy Groucho Marx moustache and spectacles combo out of spite.

Worst Airport Melbourne

Lots will say lovely Guarulhos is the natural winner, or user-friendly Heathrow, but we've done the sacrilegious and chosen Melbourne. Crap check-in, huge queues, nothing to do airside and the most draconian and soul-destroying baggage claim and customs area this side of the Lubyanka. No wonder there are so many Australians living abroad – none of them wants to go home via Melbourne airport.

Worst Airline British Airways & Lufthansa

This naturally depends upon which airport you call home, but the two that stood out from the others in the totally rubbish stakes were the national carriers of Britain and Germany. British Airways claims to be the World's Favourite Airline, but that can only be true if the world is populated by 1m-tall masochists. For the rich among you, it also seems to have the narrowest business class seats on the planet. Lufthansa plumbed the depths for the sole reason that their long-haul fleet seems devoid of any in-flight entertainment whatsoever.

Best Dressed Raquel del Rosario

Last year this award went to Kimi Räikkönen's gorilla-suit look, but this time out there was no such levity. Indeed, everybody knows that Formula One's boys possess all the sartorial elegance of Cher shopping at a thrift store, so it's no surprise that the award went to one of the girls. Step forward Fernando's better half, Raquel del Rosario. Never less than stylish, the El Sueño de Morfeo singer is also incredibly photogenic. No contest.



Driver Of The Year Robert Kubica

The expected flood of votes for Lewis Hamilton or Felipe Massa never materialised, savvy paddock people instead looking a little deeper at how this year's championship has unfolded. While the duo who'll battle for the title have provided plenty of excitement this year, it's been Robert's measured progress to the front of the pack that most impressed. To say that the Pole has not erred once this season would be only a marginal exaggeration. There was a spin at Silverstone in the wet, but that apart, Kubica has not put a foot wrong all year. Quick, consistent, with superbly controlled aggression, Robert has grown in stature markedly this year. The Canada win could have been the start of a very real title bid but BMW's then sensible decision to look ahead to next season made the second half of the year more of a struggle. A genuine champion-in-waiting.



BEST RACE Monza

And no, we're not just saying that because Toro Rosso won. Monza was the best race of the year for the sheer dramatic tension that only a mixed-up grid and three days of torrential rain can create. Rain at Monza has novelty value anyway, but the volume of water was amazing. Teams were leading animals two by two into their motorhomes. In the race there were more passes than the rest of the season put together; it was breathtaking, exciting and almost farcical in equal measure. Chuck in Kubica's march from 11th to third, a fabulous recovery drive from Hamilton, and you have a classic. Oh, and a Toro Rosso won the race.

WORST RACE Europe

It all looked so good, didn't it? Nice smooth tarmac, stimulating location, a paddock inside a fish market... it had a corner where racing cars had to jump across a shark-infested harbour and three long straights followed by twisty little bits that had everyone jumping up and down, clapping their hands at the prospect of some overtaking. But it didn't happen; the Valencia Street Circuit had all the excitement of a wet Wednesday in Magny-Cours. The race was a procession; a study in tedium. It takes real genius to come up with a Spanish F1 race more boring than Barcelona, but hats off to the Valencians for pulling it off.

TOP ROOKIE Singapore

Nobody quite knew what to expect from F1's first night race. Would the lighting be bright enough? What if it rained and the glare from the lights meant cancellation of the race? Would the drivers be able to cope with the time shift? Would any of us? But Singapore silenced the doubters. It was, not to put too fine a point on it, amazing. Truly different, truly spectacular and good fun, all rare commodities for jaded paddock souls. Plus it turned into one of the season's most exciting races thanks to some bizarre safety-car action. As one voter said: "Great to wake up at 10am and go to the paddock at 1pm. Great setting for a race and great shopping too!"





PHOTOGRAPHY: SUTTON IMAGES, THOMAS BUTLER

OVERTAKING MOVE OF THE YEAR Lewis v Kimi at Spa

F1 must be getting better, as there were quite a few contenders for this, but the one that blew most of you away was the almost lap-long slugfest between Lewis Hamilton and Kimi Räikkönen at Spa. Mix some dreadful rain, cars not up to the conditions and two drivers pushing each other to more and more daring moves as they played out a private war on a different plane to everyone else, and you have all the ingredients for something as titanic as Arnoux v Villeneuve. It didn't quite scale those heights, but seeing Lewis and Kimi feint and dive, punch and counter-punch was mesmerising. The best racing incident of the season, and so it should have been adjudged by those who rule on these things. A great moment rendered less so by a pointless aftermath.

PR OF THE YEAR Fabiana Valenti (Scuderia Toro Rosso)

In a paddock where communications departments often specialise in exactly the opposite, Toro Rosso's press department do just what good press officers are supposed to do: disseminate information, provide honest and accommodating answers to requests and do it all with a generous sense of humour. Fabiana is the embodiment of that ethos: funny, smart, honest and straightforward. Not easy in a season when Toro have suddenly become media darlings. So, this year, she's the best.

MOTORHOMER OF THE YEAR Bianca Schnell (Red Bull)

Formula One's army of motorhome staff are among the hardest-working people in the paddock, keeping everyone fuelled, and are all deserving of the award. But this year's prize goes to Bianca Schnell, usually found serving downstairs in the Energy Station and always in good humour. "She's calm in stressful situations, has strong organisational skills, loves a challenge and immediately corrects mistakes," says hospitality manager Erik Ammer. "She's always smiling, very professional and makes everyone feel welcome. She's a great person to work with."

CHEF OF THE YEAR Dave Freeman (Honda)

Formula One is all about speed, adventure, bravery and the pursuit of glory... Rubbish! Everyone knows that F1 is really about having lunch, and there's no one better at providing that than Honda Racing Development's Dave Freeman, who has been a model of consistency for more years than we care to remember. The true sign of a good paddock free lunch is how big the queue outside is. HRD's is long, and has a very lean (it's health food, you know) and hungry look.

MARKETING SPONSORSHIP Phil Kennard (Williams)

It's hard to argue with the voting when an entire team puts forward one name, so stand up Phil Kennard – your colleagues seem to think you're quite good at your job. As Account Services Manager, Phil has looked after some of Williams' major partners over the last three years. Multi-talented Phil not only takes care of the guests, but does live commentary for paddock club, conducts driver interviews and handles garage tours. He's even been known to hang a pitboard out for Kazuki Nakajima during races. Next year he'll move on to the Commercial Acquisitions Team.

TRUCKIE OF THE YEAR Riccardo Neri (Toyota)

The Toyota truckie and pitboard maestro won masses of votes, not just for being a top bloke, but also for being one of the most fashionable men in the paddock – if you think bright yellow sunglasses are fashionable, that is. Never far from the dancefloor, Rico still manages to keep Toyota reliably ticking over like, well, a Corolla. "Nothing is any trouble, and you never have to ask him to do something twice. He's motivated, and positive, and this is the kind of guy you need in a team," says chief mechanic Gerard Le Coq.

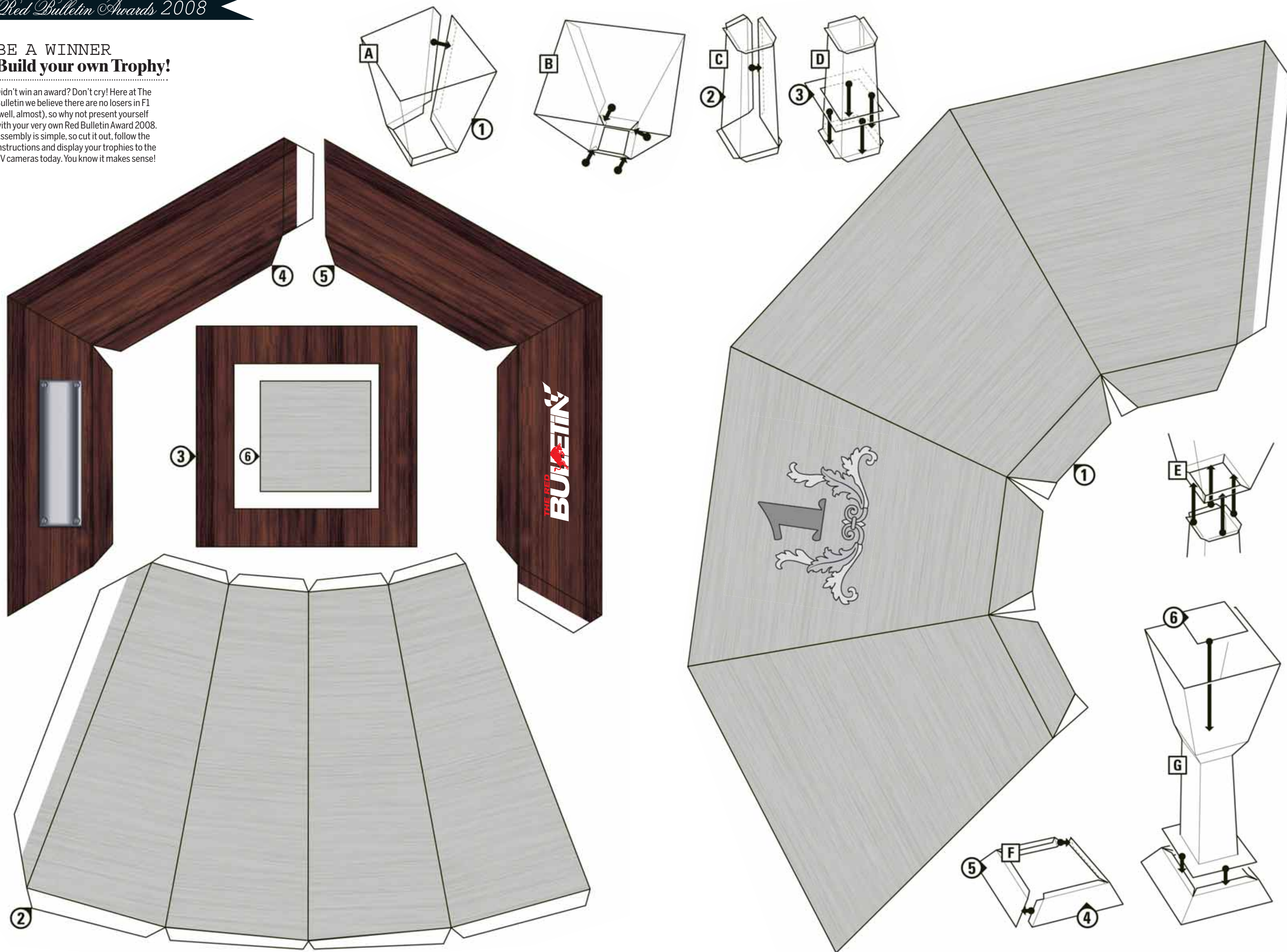
JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR Brad Spurgeon (Int'l Herald Tribune)

While some teams may think those who inhabit the media centre are simply freeloading annoyances, it does host some very fine writers – journalists who do the sport a massive service by keeping it in the news, keeping the information flowing and providing a platform for sensible analysis. One of the best is the International Herald Tribune's Brad Spurgeon. Often without a great deal of room to work with, Brad's reporting of F1 has clarity, is concise and economical with hyperbole, and never overdramatises events. He tells it like it is. And that's pretty admirable.



BE A WINNER Build your own Trophy!

Didn't win an award? Don't cry! Here at The Bulletin we believe there are no losers in F1 (well, almost), so why not present yourself with your very own Red Bulletin Award 2008. Assembly is simple, so cut it out, follow the instructions and display your trophies to the TV cameras today. You know it makes sense!





UNSUNG HERO Rubens Barrichello

Has there ever been a driver to set a finer example than Rubens? It's been a horrible season for Honda: last year the team hit rock bottom; this year they started to dig, but Rubens has triumphed in adversity, whenever the performance of the car has been less important than the skill of the driver. Three points in the deluge at Monaco; two more on the crumbling tarmac in Montreal, and a podium performance during the Silverstone monsoon. But that isn't why Rubens is an unsung hero. Honda haven't produced a car worthy of his talent, everyone knows that, but not once has he publicly displayed any bitterness; instead he's gently reiterated a faith in his team's ability to turn it around – and that makes Rubens a hero.



COMEBACK OF THE YEAR Renault

The definition of a no-brainer. In the first half of the season, Renault couldn't beat an egg. Fernando walked around under his own personal thundercloud; Nelson Piquet looked like a rabbit in the headlights. But Renault are nothing if not resilient, and slowly, surely, they turned it around. It took a little luck to take back-to-back victories, but who doesn't need luck? More impressive has been the speed of the package in recent weeks. And it isn't just Alonso. Alonso would score points if he had to pick up the car and carry it; the real measure of Renault's progress is the way that Nelson Piquet is suddenly looking very predatory...

FAREWELL OF THE YEAR Super Aguri

When Super Aguri were turned away from Istanbul, reality finally caught up with the littlest team on the grid. An operation held together with gaffer tape and powered by Aguri Suzuki's faith in the power of menthol cigarettes, the final bow only served to highlight the shock of them having stayed afloat for so long. Several teams were thrilled when the axe finally fell (shame on you!), but for the paying punters, F1 without its perennial underdogs was a diminished event. They came, they scored, they didn't outstay their welcome.



BEST PITCREW Toyota

While all about were cheerfully shooting themselves in the foot, Toyota's pitcrew have been a model of efficiency all year. Perhaps more than any other team, Toyota have relied on pit strategy to make up places, and they've done a very good job in pulling it off, occasionally leaving teams with a faster car scratching their heads and wondering exactly how it is they ended up behind a red-and-white car. BMW did a pretty good job too, but with the white overalls and helmets there's always the impression that they look like happy sperm.



PHOTOGRAPHER
OF THE YEAR
Vladimir Rys

With the paddock voting inconclusive, it was left to our photo department to choose this year's winner, and after looking through, literally, tens of pictures, they made their choice. Flippancy apart, after examining a vast number of pictures, those of Vladimir Rys were the ones we kept coming back to. For looking beyond the obvious, for an ability to find something more descriptive and more telling than just the straight sports story, he's provided us with all we could want this season. Atmosphere, drama, an empathy with his surroundings and, overall, a sense that there is something greater going on than just a tale of winners and losers.



RACE PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR Vettel in Monza

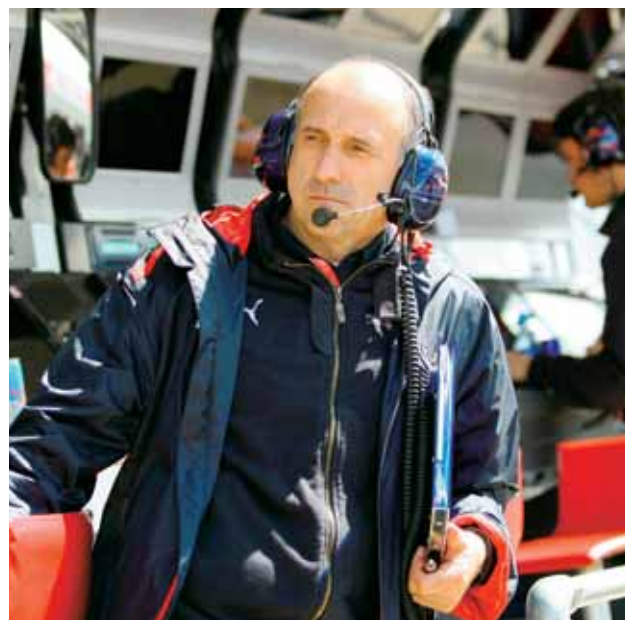
There have been plenty of great race performances this season. Hamilton's in Monza was pretty spectacular, Alonso's in Singapore a thriller, Massa's superb but ultimately heartbreaking run in Hungary provided something to shout about. But the one that lifted everyone to their feet was Vettel's victory at Monza. From the moment he first steered the car out of the garage on Friday to the moment he guided it across the finish line, screaming in Italian, Vettel was imperious. And on Sunday, he was on another level altogether, with Heikki Kovalainen, in a McLaren, admitting ruefully that he had just not been able to live with Vettel's pace. Despite the dreadful conditions, every corner, every kerb, ever apex was hit with metronomic precision. Vettel's potential was never in doubt, but in Monza he finally demonstrated that when the car is right and he is too, then he's very, very hard to beat. A stellar drive from a bright new star.

TEAM OF THE YEAR Toro Rosso

Formula One is a pretty unforgiving environment and not renowned for being overly sentimental, but when Sebastian Vettel crossed the Monza finish line to score Toro Rosso's first win, it seemed as if the entire paddock joined in the celebration. For many of the team members, it was the culmination of 25 years of hard labour. But while the win was emotional, sentimentality doesn't obscure the fact that the team has made a massive leap forward this season. Some have pointed to an excellent Ferrari engine, but that seems too facile an argument. Toro's progress has been down to making all the right things work at the right time. The team has been a revelation in 2008 and testament to the fact that determination, honed expertise and considerable guile can propel you a very long way up the grid.

TEAM PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR Franz Tost

If success as a team principal means providing consistent, focused direction leading to incremental improvements in pursuit of defined goals, then Toro Rosso's Franz Tost has in 2008 set new standards for those criteria. Of course, nothing happens in a vacuum, and the stunning progress made by Toro Rosso this year has been achieved in concert with not just Giorgio Ascanelli, Gerhard Berger and the driver pairing, but thanks to a passionate workforce who have translated two decades of experience into something magical. But the responsibility for focusing that passion lies with Tost and, in making Toro a real force to be reckoned with this year, no one deserves this award more.



THE RESULTS 2008

BEST DRESSED
Raquel del Rosario

Paddock Trend
of the Year
Bourdais' glasses

Worst Airport
Melbourne

Worst Airline
**British Airways/
Lufthansa**

Driver of
the Year
Robert Kubica

Best Race
Monza

Worst Race
Valencia

Top Rookie
Singapore

Overtaking Move
of the Year
**Lewis Hamilton v Kimi
Räikkönen at Spa**

PR of the Year
**Fabiana Valenti,
Scuderia Toro Rosso**

Chef of the Year
**Dave Freeman,
Honda**

Truckie of
the Year
Riccardo Neri, Toyota

Motorhomer
of the Year
**Bianca Schnell,
Red Bull**

Marketing/
Sponsorship
Phil Kennard, Williams

Journalist of
the Year
**Brad Spurgeon,
Int'l Herald Tribune**

Comeback of
the Year
Renault

Farewell of
the Year
Super Aguri

Unsung Hero
Rubens Barrichello

Best Pitcrew
Toyota

Photographer
of the Year
**Vladimir Rys,
Getty Images**

Race Performance
of the Year
Vettel in Monza

Team of the Year
Scuderia Toro Rosso

Team Principal
of the Year
Franz Tost

HAMILTON
The middle of the pack
going into the Senna
S isn't really where
he needs to be with a
championship to win.

TRULLI
Jarno may be sick this
weekend, but he looked
incredibly quick on the
way to a front-row start.

ONE TO WATCH RUBENS BARRICHELLO



Rubens has prospered this year
if conditions are treacherous –
and eventually something
has to go right for him
at Interlagos.

SESSION 03

As the final qualifying session of the Formula One season got underway, the chase which began in the late Australian summer is still undecided in the early Brazilian spring. Glock and Vettel, both finishing their first full F1 season on a high note, led the way in Q3. Glock's 1:14.311 was 2.3s slower than his previous time. It hinted that Timo may well run his often-used one-stop race strategy. Vettel going over a second quicker seemed to back this up. Massa's time was in a different league. To the approval of his home crowd, he set a lightning 1:12.453, only sixth-tenths off his Q2 best. Massa, it seemed, was running light, though his engineers avow the Brazilian's pace had everything to do with talent, and nothing to do with weight. Hamilton, close behind, had a twitchy lap and didn't get near. Massa came out again, improving on his second run. Hamilton followed: this time there were no slides, but he couldn't get nearer than half a second behind his championship rival. At the time, it took provisional second place, setting up an intriguing front row for this afternoon's race, then Räikkönen, having had a comparatively quiet weekend, popped up to snatch second. That looked like an all-Ferrari front row, but there was yet another twist to come. Jarno Trulli, running a fever but red-hot out on track all weekend, hammered across the line to grab his first front-row start in over three years. It consigns Hamilton to fourth; one place ahead of team-mate Heikki Kovalainen and directly in front of Fernando Alonso. Row four is an all-German affair with Vettel seventh and Heidfeld eighth; Bourdais and Glock completed the top 10. For Massa, it's the best he could have hoped for; for Hamilton, that first lap through the Senna S will be nerve-jangling. For the neutral, the scene is perfectly set.

THE STATS

Venue: Autódromo José Carlos Pace, Interlagos (4.309km)
Race length: 71 laps (305.909 km)
2007 pole position: Felipe Massa, Ferrari 1:11.931
Lap record: Juan Pablo Montoya, McLaren, 1:11.473 (2004)

THE FORM

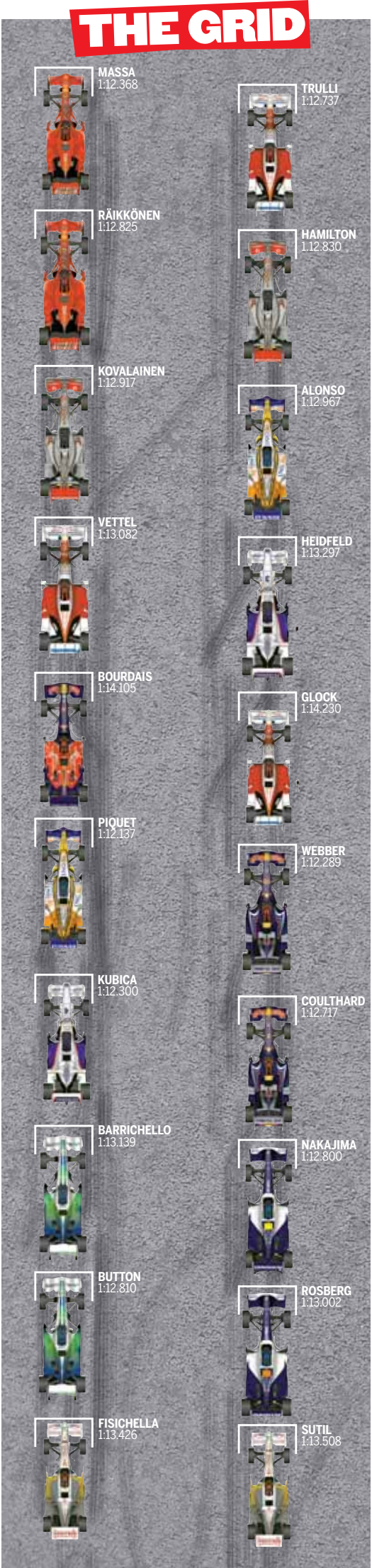
TODAY'S TOP SIX AND THEIR RECORD AT INTERLAGOS
Massa: 2, 1, 11, 8, X, R
Trulli: 8, R, 13, 12, 8, R, 5, 4, R, R, 12
Räikkönen: 1, 5, 2, 2, 2, R, R
Hamilton: 7
Kovalainen: R
Alonso: 3, 2, 3, 4, 3, X, R

THE STRATEGY

In the modern era, a two-stopper is the likely strategy for 71 laps of Interlagos, though last year Toyota, albeit unsuccessfully, tried a one-stop approach for Ralf Schumacher. This year, with Bridgestone going one tyre compound harder, that option becomes a little more viable; however, conditions this weekend count against it. The combination of mid- and high-speed corners, the slippery surface, unusual cambers and the low temperature have resulted in heavy graining, particularly for teams that struggle to get heat into their tyres. If it stays cool, these teams – McLaren in particular – might opt for three stops, following the same strategy employed under similar conditions in Turkey. Another factor to consider is the possibility of the safety car. Interlagos has a slippery track and a long walled section that encourages debris into the middle of the track. And there's a storm forecast...

THE BOX OF SPANNERS

BUTTON: After posting 17th in qualifying, Jenson's Honda didn't make it back to the garage, mysteriously grinding to a halt and leaving him stranded out on the circuit.



COOL HEADS

It's down to the wire and the pressure is on for Lewis and Felipe. But what's the secret to keeping calm when you really need to?

LIKE MOTHER USED TO MAKE...

Anyone who has scored more than 20,000 runs in first-class cricket must be pretty calm. Two weeks ago, Sachin Tendulkar surpassed the West Indies' Brian Lara's record of 11,953 test runs, but two of his most crucial innings came against the mighty Australia in the 1997-98 round-robin series of one-day games against Australia and New Zealand in Sharjah. In their final game of the group phase, India not only faced everything Shane Warne could throw at them, but also a sandstorm which stopped play for 25 minutes. While the other Indian batsmen wilted, the Master Blaster's 143 took them to the final – where they faced Australia again. Tendulkar took the attack apart, scoring 134 to lead India to victory. Shane Warne later confessed that Tendulkar hit him for sixes in his nightmares. So, what's the maestro's secret? According to Ramit Kohli, senior chef at the Taj Hotel in Chandigarh, "Tendulkar has a special preference for hot milk for his breakfast the day he has to play a match. We give it to him with some turmeric, which he mixes in the milk."

Technique: Be a genius.

COOL BUM, COOL MIND

James Toseland made a strong start to his first season in MotoGP, proving to be more competitive than he expected on eight unfamiliar tracks, and shrugging off bronchitis to finish sixth in Jerez. But the going got tougher for the 2007 World Superbike champion, falling off and finishing 17th at his home grand prix, struggling mid-season and drawing criticism from fellow riders for his aggressive approach. But Toseland is most impressive when the heat is on – such as at Imola and Phillip Island, where he kept his cool. What's his secret? "Simple. I pop my pants in the fridge before I go to bed," he said. "You wake up in the morning and, although it's a bit cold at first, your body is cooler and your mind is calmer, as it has one less thing to think about when you're flying round a track at 200mph."

Technique: Become a real Iceman.

GIVE YOURSELF AN EDGE

On the one side stands Angel Eyes, a sadistic, murderous and cold-blooded US Army sergeant; on the other side, Tuco, a cowardly, oafish and scheming bandito; facing them is Blondie, cunning but also compassionate and noble. It's a face-off between

three deadly gunfighters: the survivor will walk away with a fortune in Confederate gold, the losers will be left to rot in a desolate cemetery. Who will make the first move? Who will be quickest off the draw? Whose aim will be truest? It doesn't matter, because what the others don't know is that Blondie has an edge; he's Clint Eastwood, 'the good' in The Good, The Bad and The Ugly. Unknown to Tuco, 'the ugly', Blondie's already disarmed him so he can concentrate on killing Angel Eyes, 'the bad', which he does after about an hour of climactic music from Ennio Morricone.

Technique: If at first you don't succeed, cheat.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

In 1997 the Denver Broncos ran out for their fourth Super Bowl in a decade, but their quarterback, John Elway, had been there three times before... and had lost. His third attempt in 1989 hadn't just been bad, it had been abysmal. While the Broncos weren't exactly bristling with talent, their star player had completely failed to shine and San Francisco had won 55-10 – the

biggest winning margin in Super Bowl history. Eight years later, Elway came back and led the Broncos to victory against defending champions the Green Bay Packers. The next year, the Broncos won again, with Elway playing his last – and some say his best – game.

Technique: If at first you don't succeed, try again.

USE THE FORCE

As Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace reaches its climax, inside the Theed Palace generator room, apprentice Jedi knight Obi-Wan Kenobi is trapped behind a big laser thing, watching helplessly as his master Qui-Gon Jin is engaged in deadly combat with a mysterious warrior. The Sith Lords had been eradicated centuries before, but this savage, black-cloaked Zabrak wields his double-bladed lightsaber with frightening speed. Suddenly, Qui-Gon is cut down and, in the heat of anger, Obi-Wan rushes forward and attacks. The warrior uses the Dark Force energy created by the Padawan against him and sends Kenobi tumbling into the shaft of a melding pit. Obi-Wan remembers his teaching, focuses his mind and leaps back into action, cutting the evil Darth Maul in half.

Technique: Nurture your inner Midichlorians

COME FROM FINLAND

While it may be a bit of an exaggeration to describe an entire nation as calm under pressure, Finns do seem to have an innate edge, and it can't all be down to vodka. "Our mentality is very good for racing – never give up," says Mika Salo. "Very stubborn, jealous and selfish people. So you'd rather do well yourself than let somebody else do well." Finland has produced three F1 world champions in Kimi Räikkönen, Mika Häkkinen and Keke Rosberg, and six WRC champions: Ari Vatanen, Hannu Mikkola, Timo Salonen, Juha Kankkunen, Marcus Grönholm and Tommi Mäkinen. For a country with just five million people, that's pretty staggering. Try this from Salo: "Things like family stuff are not close to us. During my time in F1, my grandfather and grandmother died, and I never went to the funeral."

Technique: Be born in a country that borders Sweden, Norway and Russia.

KEEP KNITTING

After the fall of Troy, peace-loving Odysseus, the king of Ithaca, set off for home. But the various gods had other plans and they spent the next 20 years messing him about by attacking him with monsters, turning his ship to stone and murdering his crew. This, of course, is a rather glib summary of one of the greatest works in literature, Homer's The Odyssey. However, all the time Odysseus was travelling around and being seduced by nymphs, his wife Penelope was left in charge of the kingdom and, as a single, beautiful and very rich woman, she was like catnip to ambitious princes all over antiquity. They pestered Penelope to choose a new husband, so she spent the next two decades stalling, mainly by knitting a very large shroud. Eventually Odysseus returned, killed all the suitors – it was ancient Greece after all – and they lived happily ever after.

Technique: Stay faithful, because you never know when your partner will be home.



MELBOURNE
MARCH 29, 2009
Dear Dr Robert,
My eyeballs are red, I feel sore all over, everything sounds too loud, it's too bright outside and my stomach hurts. I'm really tired, and last night I somehow fell asleep in my clothes. I must also be having memory lapses, because I can't remember how I got there. I had a similar problem last year, but I've been fine for four months now. I have a strange alcoholic taste in my mouth and I'm sweating like a pig. Could I have diabetes?

SEPANG
APRIL 5, 2009
Dear Deirdre,
I think I've finally found my soulmate! She's quite a bit younger than me, but we work in the same place and spend all of our time travelling the world. Our relationship is so wonderful because it's based on mutual respect and honesty – but do you think I should tell her I'm married with three children?

BAHRAIN
APRIL 19, 2009
Dear Mike the Mechanic,
I'm having trouble with my gearbox. It keeps leaking oil, and it's grinding itself to pieces. Whenever I take it apart, there's a layer of finely ground particles covering everything. Can you help?

BARCELONA
MAY 10, 2009
Dear Dr Robert,
I'm having trouble with my gearbox. There's some leakage, and it feels like it's grinding itself to pieces. Might I have the 'flu?

MONACO
MAY 24, 2009
Dear Deirdre,
Both my wife and my girlfriend have decided to leave me. I may have been a little rash, but I think their response is totally disproportionate to my offences, which have totally cleared up now anyway. What do I have to do to win them back?

ISTANBUL
JUNE 7, 2009
Dear Mike the Mechanic,
Can you help me repair my love life? I've tried to fix it myself, but I've only made things worse, and the advice I've received from other sources just hasn't been very helpful. I've lost my bearings and I'm worried about my crank...

SILVERSTONE
JUNE 21, 2009
Dear Deirdre,
Can you help? I'm so depressed. I've had a really bad week; it seems that it's always raining, there's always a traffic jam, the food tastes vile and everybody is being rude to me all the time.

NÜRBURGRING
JULY 12, 2009
Dear Deirdre,
I've taken your advice and come away to a holiday camp in the mountains, but it's still raining and there are still lots of traffic jams, and while the food is better, the place is filled with hairy Neanderthals and I think I'm getting altitude sickness. Do you think I might be better off taking a city break?

BUDAPEST
JULY 26, 2009
Dear MoneyExpert,
I recently went on a cultural exchange programme to Budapest where I made several new friends. We went for a meal in a place they recommended. Imagine my surprise when I received a bill

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM IN 2009?

A new season of ailments and catastrophes beckons for next year. We'll be feeling far too sorry for ourselves, so you won't get any sympathy around here, but there's always someone else out there willing to offer advice...



for \$3,000! I don't speak any Hungarian and my new friends had minutes earlier rushed off to visit a sick relative, so couldn't translate. The proprietors wouldn't let me leave until I settled the bill with my credit card. How can I get my money back?

VALENCIA
AUGUST 23, 2009
Dear Dr Robert,
Wherever I go, there seems to be a faint smell of fish. Is this a symptom of a brain tumour?

SPA
AUGUST 30, 2009
Dear MoneyExpert,
I've run up a huge credit card debt, which, on top of the child support and alimony payments, is very stressful. My solution is to take what little money I have to the local casino and turn it into a small fortune, but my friends don't understand, and seem determined to stop me. Can you help me make them see sense?

MONZA
SEPTEMBER 13, 2009
Dear Mike the Mechanic,
My previous project went disastrously over budget, and to make ends meet I've been forced to sell some F1 keepsakes on eBay. But, as is always the case, you only need something the week after you've got rid of it. Can I replicate a low-downforce-configuration single-element rear wing from materials other than carbon-fibre? Will papier-mâché work just as well?

SINGAPORE
SEPTEMBER 27, 2009
Dear JusticeWatch,
I've been falsely imprisoned in a totalitarian police state! Originally they arrested me for chewing gum, but now they're talking about the death penalty for drug trafficking – I explained that there's nothing suspicious about having white powder in your pockets if you work in F1, but they don't believe me. Help!

SUZUKA
OCTOBER 11, 2009
Dear Dr Robert,
I fear I may have done something inappropriate for a bet, with half a kilo of fresh wasabi. I have tried to rinse the affected area but that just makes it worse. Is there anything I can do to make the stinging stop? I would really like to sit down again soon.

SHANGHAI
OCTOBER 18, 2009
Dear MoneyExpert,
I've been offered a genuine Vacheron Constantine watch, Chloé handbag, set of Gucci luggage and a dozen blockbuster movies that I didn't even know were out on DVD yet, all for \$5. Should I shop around for a better deal? And is Burberry back in yet?

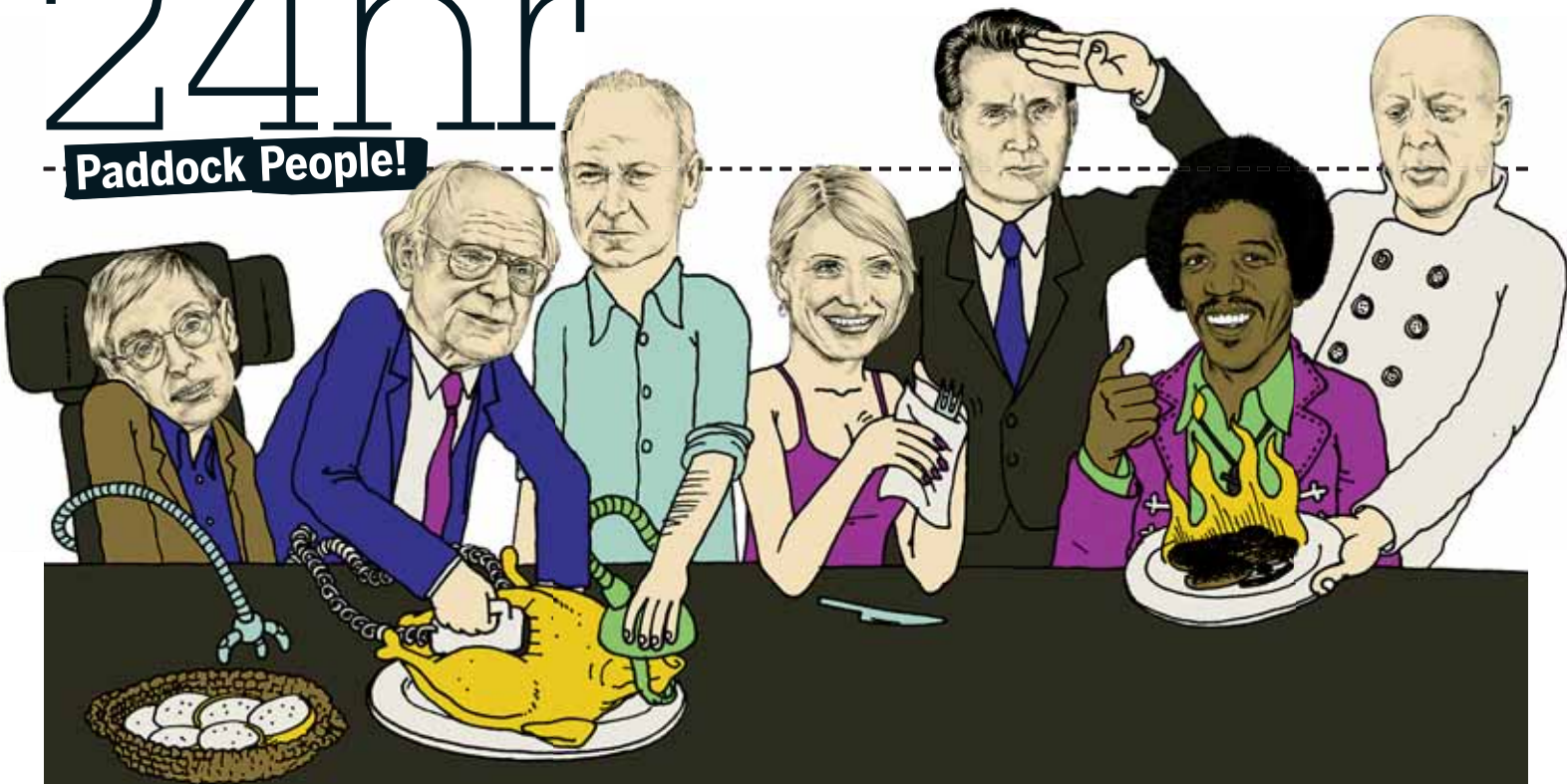
SÃO PAULO
NOVEMBER 1, 2009
Dear Dr Robert,
I've been existing on an all-meat diet for five days. They add plenty of salt, so I'm sure it's hygienic, but I've noticed that my teeth are falling out, my gums are bleeding, I'm lethargic, and large open sores are forming on my body. Might I have the 'flu?

ABU DHABI
NOVEMBER 15, 2009
Dear Deirdre,
I'm coming to the end of an eight-month project at work. I haven't always enjoyed it, though my friends at home envy my lifestyle. It's destroyed my social and family life, tarnished my professional reputation and ruined my health, but what's really worrying me is the possible effects of withdrawal. Can you help?



24hr

- Paddock People!



Reservation For... Dr Gary Hartstein

Learned, charismatic, inspirational, tough – and then there are the guests...

PROFESSOR STEPHEN HAWKING

It would be fascinating to sit down with the greatest mind since Einstein, and find out from him what this is all about.

PROFESSOR SID WATKINS

He's the most charismatic person I've ever met and has so many stories to tell. I've heard them all before, but I'd love to listen to them again. He'll have everyone enthralled, and as the evening goes on he'll get better and better.

CAMERON DIAZ

Need I say more?

PRESIDENT JED BARTLET

The best President the United States has never had. Jed Bartlet is the fictional commander-in-chief in TV's The West Wing, played by Martin Sheen. He is wise, charismatic, intelligent, strong, and concerned about everything we've been unconcerned about for far too long. People actually wanted Sheen to go in for the nomination

this year, and I think he'd be brilliant. But I'd want him to come to dinner in character.

JIMI HENDRIX

I'll serve him something pharmalogically interesting so he can pick up a guitar after the meal and handle it properly.

THIERRY MARX

He's a three-star chef, but before that he was in the French special forces and fought in Lebanon. I've never met him, but I've seen

him on TV and he just seems the most unbelievably cool guy with an incredible life philosophy. He's one of the people I'd most like to meet on the planet right now.

THE MENU

Despite inviting along a cordon-bleu chef, what I really want is good old New York steakhouse food. We'll start with a big salad with blue cheese and a vinaigrette dressing, followed by a huge filet mignon, and panna cotta for dessert. Cigars to finish, of course.

Make my Life Complete: Silvi Schaumloeffel

It's an epic time for the **XING** marketing head and partner of Mike Gascoyne.



FILM

I love the movie Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, and also House of Flying Daggers. They both have amazing fight choreography, as has the Matrix trilogy. Throw in a brilliant soundtrack and great costumes. Epic.

LITERATURE

I love reading and, as I have so much time at the track, I'll read entire series. I've just finished the Outlander series by Diana Gabaldon. I love Scotland! Now it's all about vampires. The Black

Dagger Brotherhood by JR Ward is dark and erotic. Again, epic!

FOOD

A simple German Brotzeit – fresh bread, fresh butter, some ham, salami and cheese, tomatoes and cucumber. Perfect.

DRINK

A caffè latte in the morning, a Campari orange at lunchtime and a big Mai Tai in the evening.

MUSIC

If I could get anyone to come and

play a private gig, it would be the Orishas – hip hop from Havana! I've been to one of their concerts in Cologne and they are hot. For Mike, I would invite David Bowie. Our place would rock.

CAR

I sold my VW Polo when I came to England and blew all my Toyota savings on a red 1968 Jaguar E-Type.

PLACE

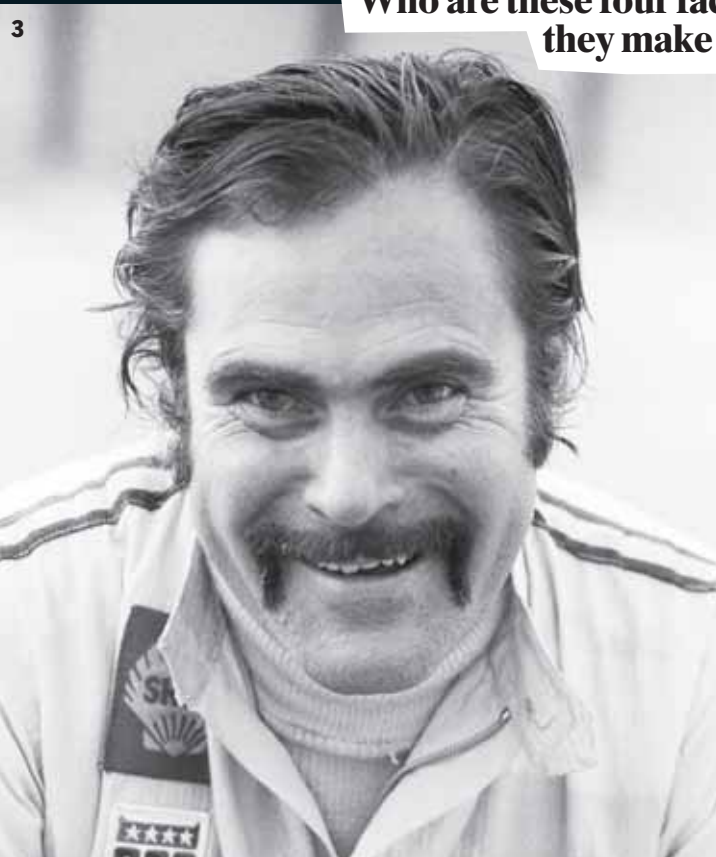
Our plan is to move to Scotland before sailing around the world.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CRISPIN THRUSTON; ILLUSTRATION: LIE INS AND TIGERS



Debutants

Who are these four faces, and where and when did they make their F1 debuts?



1. FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ, BRAZILIAN GP 1984. 2. WOLFGANG VON TRIEPS, ITALIAN GP 1966. 3. PADDY DRIVER, SOUTH AFRICAN GP 1974. 4. JO BONNINER, ITALIAN GP 1966.

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