

Formula 1's Retromobile Salon

By Juliette

Correct me if I'm wrong but we are in a nostalgic, past-wannabe era. Whatever's old-school is trendy again and so is Formula One. So Lotus is back – okay, it's not the same team as before because Malaysians cannot use the brand logo thanks to copyright issues – and Renault's livery is very much the same as they had made to celebrate their 30th birthday.

But is it a clever idea to focus on the past in such a period? First of all, Michael Schumacher, Pedro de la Rosa and Jacques Villeneuve – I'm predicting the worst here – what are they all doing here? Hakkinen or the wise Finnish has understood that it was useless for *him* to come back. Do we really need Schuey for a F1 rebirth? I don't think so, I really don't. I reckon it is no good for F1 at all. He is now 41 and wants to come back for fun after he has already won everything – but F1 is no fun. He still wants to say he's the best out there or take some young, talented driver's place? The young ones deeply want to be there... Okay, I'm being told he's still in good shape and stuff – stop it. I read newspapers, too. We've all read that since Massa's accident. We even read that when his neck was not in good shape...

But I'll leave here this endless debate, for it is going to be fed by the first races. What about Pedro de la Rosa? If there's someone who had the opportunity(-ies) to drive a F1 car, I know for a fact that it's him. Badoer's bis repetita? PDLR will do some testing, so no. Can you believe that: a 15-year-gap between the teammates. You'll tell me that I didn't know the glory of the old school F1 so I cannot understand. I will answer that de la Rosa is a great – test – driver. He takes the opportunities in races but he struggles overtaking.

What about Villeneuve? He has already tried a comeback. And then he needs Stefan GP to enter in the F1 championship, and I very much doubt about it. There are huge obstacles preventing him from coming back. I'm not in favour of such a comeback, anyway. I'm not in favour of ANY comeback, actually. The reason for that is very simple: when we stop something, we don't comeback for a fancy or something.

There are even people talking about a comeback from Raikkonen in mid-season or maybe next year if he gets bored of rally. But no, the guy is smiling more than he used to when he's removing snow from his car – we must say here that he has never done that in F1 so this is reminding him Finland, where he had to play hide-and-peek with his karting buried in snow – so he is happy. This is the ongoing debate dealing with the Finn's smile that people watch as if he was a gorilla or something. They're all like: when the hell he's gonna smile?! Get a life.

In short, if we come back to the retro topic, in the world, this topic is kinda lame when we look at the future and when we don't do things at 100%. Modernizing retro is not exciting at all. Think about it with this simple example: there won't be any pit stop in 2010. But every driver will have to pit so as to change his tyres. Alright, but it means that there are pit stops – they are useless, yes, but they still exist. This is the only way to support Bridgestone because they even cannot make tyres for a whole race (just remember 2005, this real disaster for Tifosi, I just want to cry, that is so...) When the hell Michelin is back for a real competition against manufacturers? That is useful retro.

So in the 2010 season, what we love is:

- The new Renault livery.
- Lotus being back (although denatured).
- New teams reminding us a bit Lola Mastercard (yes, you do remember).
- Montreal's back in calendar.

But we can't do with:

- The recycling of old stuff. You can do something like Brundle, Bludell or Coulthard did. Comment a F1 Grand Prix.
- The media excitement related to the Great Schumacher, the saviour of F1, the one who almost killed it in the noughties – or how to make fun of the whole world in only one lesson.
- The fact that BMW is still written in the new name of the Sauber. Ri-di-cu-lous.
- The Bahrein opening season. Especially when you think that they wanted to do that so as to put Interlagos at the end of the season. Eventually the Abu Dhabi track will end the F1 season because they fancied it and Melbourne is screwed. Thanks for the gift...