

# BELGIUM GP

AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

13TH RACE

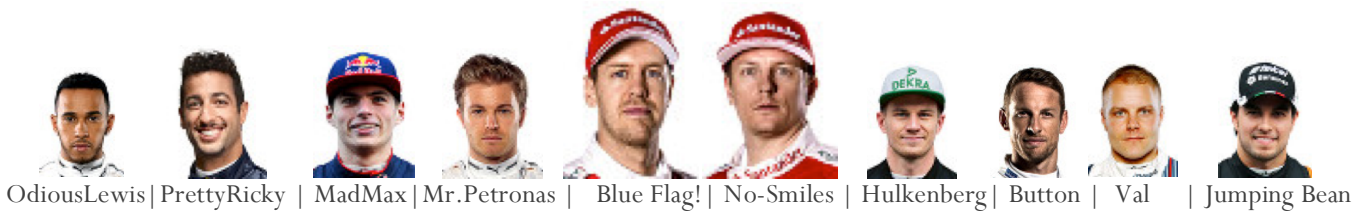
PRACTICE 1	FRI	4 AM
PRACTICE 2	FRI	8 AM
PRACTICE 3	SAT	5 AM
QUALIFYING	SAT	8 AM
RACE	SUN	8 AM

*"If you're not first, you're last"*

— Ricky Bobby's Dad



## OFFICIAL OUTCOME – GERMANY



# REWIND WITH ROB

---



(P1) Scuderia Drew | (P2) Tonka BMW | (P3) Schweizer F1

Welcome back race fans. After your month-long holiday, you may have forgotten about the race results from Hockenheimring. Rest assured the teams of the Pit Road Hooligans league didn't, as they fight for every last point. As you can see, with the exception of the fading PRH squad, it's a pretty close battle as we come out of the summer break. The remaining 9 races will be decisive. In Germany, the scoring was back to historical norms after the highs seen in Hungary. In the race itself, the top 3 constructors still took the top 6 places, but their order was mixed enough that the winning team only got one prediction correct out of the top 5 places. Odious Lewis had an easy race off the front, but the Red Bulls were able to beat out Mr. Petronas for the other podium spots. It was a pretty tight affair in the League, with only 10 points separating P1 from P5. With that, let's get to the results.

## Key Corners

- Most teams correctly predicted Odious Lewis would win the race (and received the corresponding bonus points)
- Mr. Petronas was the overwhelming favourite to take second, but he missed the podium entirely
- Most teams thought Blue Flag! would be the best of the rest after the Silver Arrows; he finished two positions away in P5
- Alonso (P5, Schweizer F1) was the only driver outside of the Big 3 constructors to be predicted to be in a top 5 position. After struggles with fuel, he finished P12.
- There were not a lot of bonus points handed out in Germany

-- two teams correctly predicted Mr. Petronas would take pole; one team predicted Pretty Ricky would have the fastest lap and two team predicted Grosjean would gain the most places; but none of those teams finished on the podium in Germany

## Scuderia Drew (49)

Odious Lewis in P1 and No Smiles in P6 were the big scorers, accounting for 30 of the 49 points. Scuderia Drew undersold Red Bull, which is not too surprising given the team's allegiance to the boys in red. The team did correctly predict that Force India and McLaren would be the best of the rest, but it was slightly off on positions and drivers.

## Tonka BMW (47)

Using the same picks two weeks in a row didn't backfire too badly. Of course, Odious Lewis won again, which cost Tonka BMW dearly, but the team got Mad Max (P3), No Smiles (P6) and the Jumping Bean (P10) correctly. After throwing in the close calls, the team came away with a respectable haul. It will have to rethink that Young Spaniard pick though (P9). The 2015 Ferrari engine in the Toro Rosso just isn't cutting it at this point in the season.

## Schweizer F1 (44)

only predicted Odious Lewis correctly, but had four predictions only one position off for another 20 points. Schweizer F1 had the Silver Arrows followed by the Red Bulls and then a real mix, with Alonso beating both Ferraris and a Toro Rosso in the top 10.

## FO Racing (41)

Nearly half of FO Racing's points came from the pick of Odious Lewis in P1. The mix of Haas, Alonso and Toro Rosso filling out the top 10 did not yield points. FO Racing predicted that Ferrari would mix it up with Red Bull, with Blue Flag! taking the last podium position. Ferrari disappointed the Italian fans and FO Racing alike.

## Sauber Alfa Romeo (39)

was one of the few teams to predict someone other than Odious Lewis in P1. It correctly predicted Mr. Petronas on the pole, but incorrectly thought he would hold the position. Sauber Alfa Romeo F1 made up for that mistake by correctly slotting No Smiles at P6 and took a smattering of close calls and the 5 bonus points for Most Positions Gained by Grosjean.

## O'Brien Red Bull Audi (37)

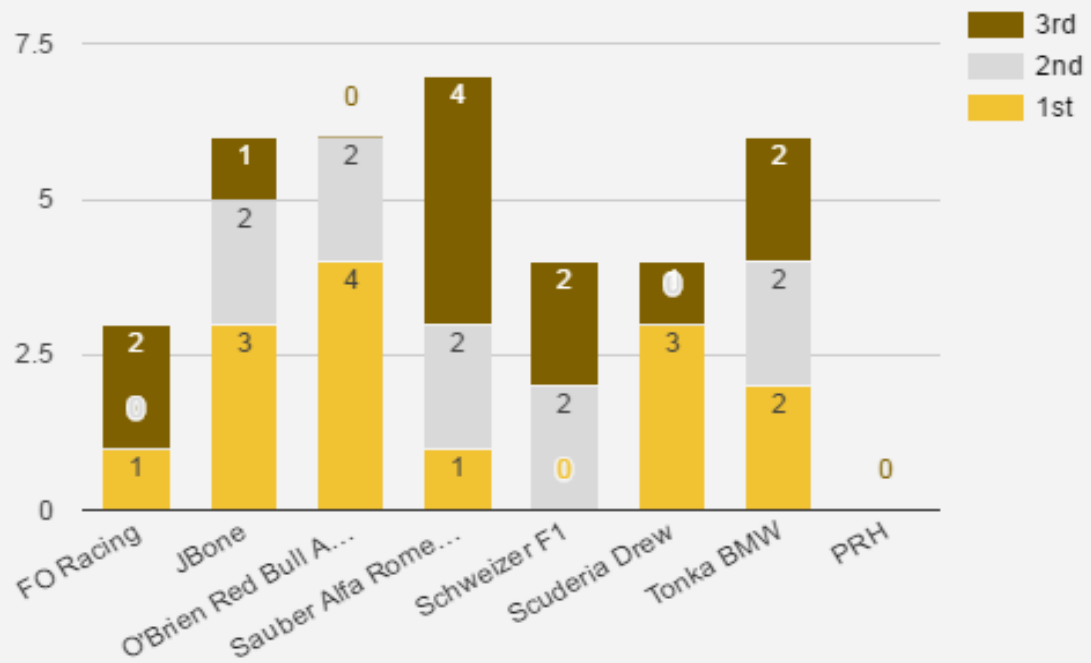
slid back in the pack after the runaway win in Hungary. It thought Ferrari would split up the Red Bulls with Blue Flag! in P3. O'BRBA had Williams dominating after the Big 3 constructors, with a Force India and McLaren rounding out the top 10. Not a huge haul of points following Odious Lewis in P1.

## JBone (62)

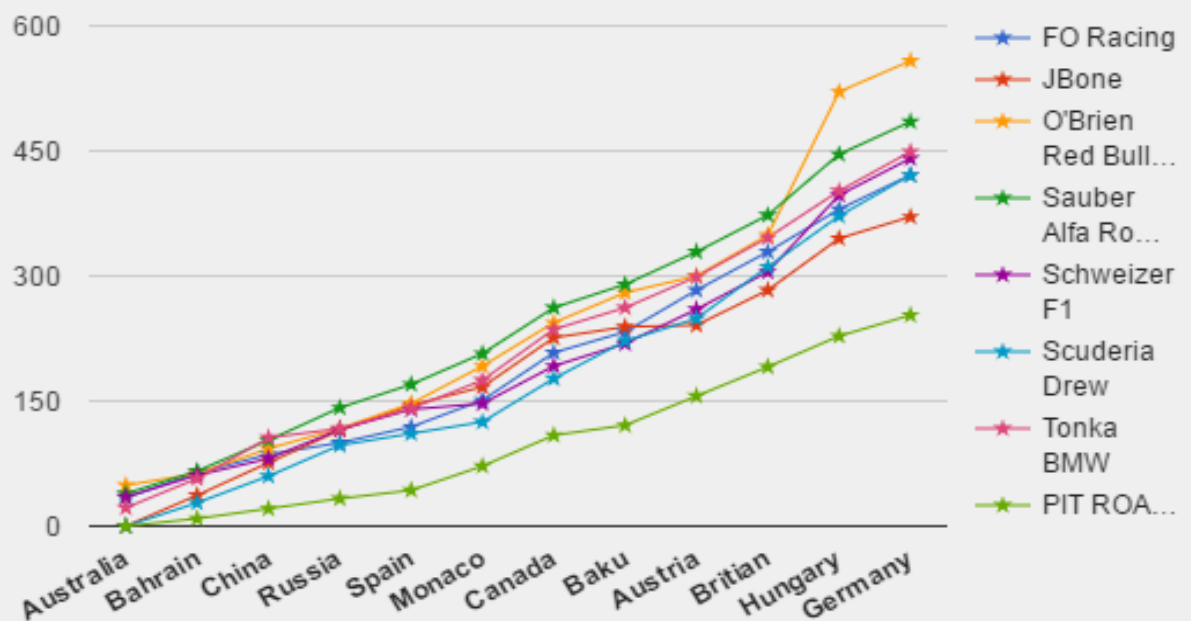
had a podium of Mr. Petronas, Blue Flag!, Odious Lewis that really doomed it from the start. It can be proud of being one of one two teams to get two of the bonus categories correct (Mr. Petronas-Pole and Pretty Ricky-Fastest Lap).

# HIGH SPEED CHARTING

## Podiums



## Cumulative Points







## IF THESE TRACKS COULD TALK

Racing is finally back and it is about time. The summer break always drags on. It seems ridiculous that these Euros need an entire month off to recharge. I swear, if we had it our way, Haas would have been burning both ends over the last month and sitting on pole come Sunday.

But, official rules state you need to take the time off, so this is where we are.

Racing wise, Lewis won last year, Ricciardo the year before. These are also the two drivers who have been most active on social media over the break. Lewis doing his weirdo emo stuff; sunset instagram posts by himself, just hanging with his dogs, you get the picture. Ricciardo was cruising along the West Coast with the bros during the day, hitting the LA hot spots, probably letting off some steam with the co-eds at night. We are all adults here, you get it. Who do you think is going to perform better this weekend? Seems pretty clear to me.

My favorite thing about this race weekend, though, is the false hope that it gives fans like Rob. I guarantee Rob has been day dreaming about Fernando Alonso somehow making his way onto the podium this weekend. Magically, McLaren-Subaru spent the summer break creating a semi-respectable car. I predict that those dreams will be smashed come lap 20 on Sunday when Fernando is instructed to box due to engine/break issues. Sorry Rob, summer time is for dreaming, but school is back in session.



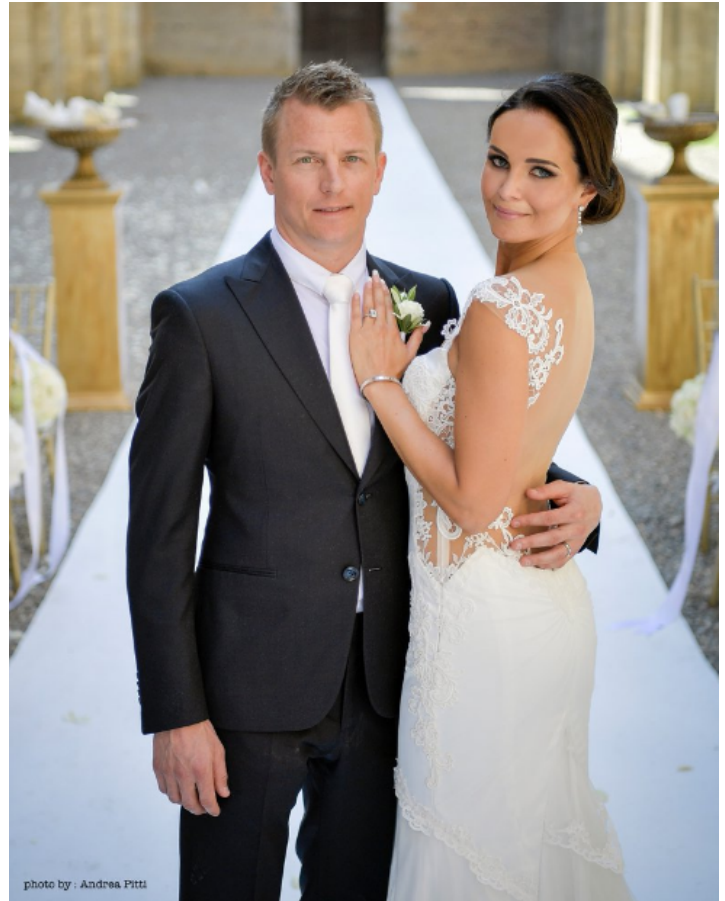
## CHARLIE'S CHATTER

- Rio Haryanto has revealed he was 7 Euros short of his funding target at Manor, but still hopes to return to the grid next season. Haryanto is now the team's reserve driver.
- Esteban Ocon, a Frenchman making his F1 debut this weekend, has replaced Haryanto as Manor's second driver.
- Felipe Nasr had a meeting with the acting President of Brazil last week in a bid to secure a Renault seat in 2017.
- Lewis Hamilton looks likely to take his engine penalty and start at the back of the grid at the Italian GP, rather than this weekend's race in Belgium.
- An entry into F1 is not on Lamborghini's radar at the moment, according to Stefano Domenicali, the former Ferrari team boss who is now in charge of the sports car company.
- Red Bull could find it tricky to balance the future ambitions of drivers Daniel Ricciardo and Max Verstappen, says team boss Christian Horner.

## WAG OF THE WEEK

While many F1 drivers went on relaxing vacations during their summer break, Kimi Raikkonen used his free time to marry his partner and fiancée Minttu Viratanen. The bride and groom, who are parents to their twenty-one month old boy Robin, exchanged vows at the Abbey of San Galgano in Tuscany. The couple's son played a prominent role in the wedding as the Finnish racer was spotted carrying him into the church. Ice Man Jr. has already been linked to the Red Bull Young Driver Program. When asked by F1 Newsletter to comment on the deal, Robin was noticeable reluctant to discuss the rumors.

This is not the first time Kimi has been married. Raikkonen previously married former Miss Scandinavia winner, Jenni Dahlman, in 2004. It was only after finalizing his divorce in 2014 that Kimi starting dating Minttu. "It took some time before he trusted me," said Viratanen. "Kimi is very wary of people. He always wonders if people are sincere or not. But eventually we established trust between us and in May last year he asked me to stop work to move in with him in Switzerland." No word yet on where and when the couple plan to honeymoon.





# TYRE ME OUT

In 2015, Pirelli offered the white Medium and yellow Soft compounds to the drivers. The dominant and winning strategy was to start on the Softs, run an intermediate stint on the Mediums and then finish on the Softs. Spa features a number of high speed corners, drastic elevation changes and rough asphalt, all of which degrade the tyres more quickly than usual. Those features, combined with the length of a lap, meant that the Soft compound only lasted about 10 laps in the opening stint (remember, those tyres were used in qualifying too) and 15 laps in the closing stint. Meanwhile, the Mediums could for 18 to 22 laps of this 43 lap race.

Tyre strategy at Spa is exceptionally important because of the oft variable weather, the lap length and the high likelihood of a safety car. In 2015, Vettel was memorable caught out on strategy when he pitted early and then a virtual safety car was deployed, allowing his competitors to pit and lose only half of the usual track position. That forced Vettel to an alternative tyre strategy, which saw him suffer a tyre blowout as a result of trying to run Mediums for more than 25 laps.

This year, Pirelli continued with the Medium and Soft compounds, but added the red SuperSofts (SS) as the “qualifying” tyre. Mercedes has opted for the most conservative tyre strategy, bringing only four sets of the SS and three or four sets of the Mediums. The Silver Arrows are not known for being abusive to their tyres, so this may signal that the bosses at Mercedes are being cautious with their lead in the Constructors’ championship. Ferrari, on the other hand, has gone with one of the most aggressive strategies, opting for 7 sets of the SS, 5 sets of Softs and the minimum 1 set of Mediums. Ferrari has been passed by Red Bull in the standings and may feel the need to be aggressive at this point in the season.

But will the Ferraris be able to run a two stop strategy without using the Mediums? The rest of the teams are closer to Ferrari’s strategy than to Mercedes’ so perhaps Hamilton and Rosberg on the back foot for the first time this season. We will see when the lights go out at Spa.

PIRELLI			
FORMULA 1 GRAND PRIX OF BELGIUM SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS - SELECTED SETS PER DRIVER			
DRIVER	WHITE MEDIUM	YELLOW SOFT	RED SUPERSOFT
#44 HAMILTON	3	6	4
#6 ROSBERG	4	5	4
#5 VETTEL	1	5	7
#7 RAIKKONEN	1	5	7
#19 MASSA	3	3	7
#77 BOTTAS	3	3	7
#3 RICCIARDO	4	3	6
#33 VERSTAPPEN	4	3	6
#27 HULKENBERG	3	4	6
#11 PEREZ	3	4	6
#20 MAGNUSSEN	3	3	7
#30 PALMER	3	3	7
#26 KVIAT	2	4	7
#55 SAINZ	2	4	7
#9 ERICSSON	1	5	7
#12 NASR	1	5	7
#14 ALONSO	3	4	6
#22 BUTTON	3	4	6
#94 WEHRLEIN	4	4	5
#88 HARYANTO	4	4	5
#8 GROSJEAN	2	4	7
#21 GUTIERREZ	1	5	7

The F1 FORMULA 1 logo, F1 FORMULA 1 FIA FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, GRAND PRIX and related marks are trademarks of Formula One Licensing BV, a Formula One group company. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2016 Pirelli & C. S.p.A. [speedcave.com](http://speedcave.com) get your daily racing fix!

# CIRCUIT CITY

## CIRCUIT DE SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

FIRST GRAND PRIX	NUMBER OF LAPS	CIRCUIT LENGTH	RACE DISTANCE	LAP RECORD
1950	44	7.004 KM	308.052 KM	1:47.263 SEBASTIAN VETTEL (2009)

