

***Formula One***<sup>TM</sup>  
***Racing***  
FOR  
**DUMMIES**<sup>®</sup>

**by Jonathan Noble and Mark Hughes**



JOHN WILEY & SONS, LTD



***Formula One™***  
***Racing***  
FOR  
**DUMMIES®**



***Formula One™***  
***Racing***  
FOR  
**DUMMIES®**

**by Jonathan Noble and Mark Hughes**



JOHN WILEY & SONS, LTD

## **Formula One™ Racing For Dummies®**

Published by  
**John Wiley & Sons, Ltd**  
The Atrium  
Southern Gate  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO19 8SQ  
England

Email (for orders and customer service enquires): [cs-books@wiley.co.uk](mailto:cs-books@wiley.co.uk)

Visit our Home Page on [www.wiley.co.uk](http://www.wiley.co.uk) or [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com)

Copyright © 2004 by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, Chichester, West Sussex, England.

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except under the terms of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 or under the terms of a licence issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1T 4LP, UK, without the permission in writing of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Legal Department, Wiley Publishing, Inc., 10475 Crosspoint Blvd., Indianapolis, Indiana, 46256, United States, 317-572-3447, fax 317-572-4447, or e-mail [permcoordinator@wiley.com](mailto:permcoordinator@wiley.com)

Trademarks: Wiley, the Wiley Publishing logo, For Dummies, the Dummies Man logo, A Reference for the Rest of Us!, The Dummies Way, Dummies Daily, The Fun and Easy Way, Dummies.com and related trade dress are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and/or its affiliates, in the United States and other countries, and may not be used without written permission. Formula One and FIA Formula One World Championship are registered trademarks of Formula One Licensing BV. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

**LIMIT OF LIABILITY/DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY: WHILE THE PUBLISHER AND AUTHOR HAVE USED THEIR BEST EFFORTS IN PREPARING THIS BOOK, THEY MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS BOOK AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO WARRANTY MAY BE CREATED OR EXTENDED BY SALES REPRESENTATIVES OR WRITTEN SALES MATERIALS. THE ADVICE AND STRATEGIES CONTAINED HEREIN MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR YOUR SITUATION. YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH A PROFESSIONAL WHERE APPROPRIATE. NEITHER THE PUBLISHER NOR AUTHOR SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OF PROFIT OR ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL DAMAGES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR OTHER DAMAGES.**

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data: 2003017780

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN:0-7645-7015-3

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Biddles Ltd, Guilford and King's Lynn

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



WILEY is a trademark of Wiley Publishing, Inc.

## About the Authors

**Jonathan Noble** is Grand Prix Editor of *Autosport*, Britain's leading motorsport weekly. His motor racing journalism career began during university when he won the prestigious Sir Williams Lyons Award for young journalists – after interviewing a then relatively unknown David Coulthard. After graduating from Sussex University he joined news agency Collings Sport, helping cover Formula One, football and rugby for a host of newspapers and agencies, including *The Daily Telegraph*, *Reuters* and *The European*. He then moved to *Autosport* Special Projects in 1999, with one of his tasks being to edit the company's excellent *Grand Prix Review*. In 2000 he took on his current position and has not missed a race since. This is his first book.

**Mark Hughes** used to race cars before he began writing about them. His journalistic career began at British motorsport weekly *Motoring News* in 1988, where he would stay for the next five years, moving from club race reporting up to Formula One. After a spell in road car journalism, he went freelance in 1996 and was later contracted by *Autosport* – one of the leading motorsport titles in the world – to be its Formula One Editor at Large. In this role he travels to all races and writes the Grand Prix reports for the magazine.





# *Authors' Acknowledgments*

**From Jonathan:** I would like to thank everyone at Wiley Publishing, especially Jason Dunne, Daniel Mersey and Samantha Clapp, for the opportunity to write my first book – as well as their help, encouragement, feedback and tireless work to make this all happen.

Thanks also to Mark Hughes, for your assistance in putting this book together as well as the numerous shoulder-jerking giggling fits that we have enjoyed at Formula One races around the world for the past few years.

I cannot forget my parents without whose support many years ago I would never have achieved my dream job. I think it is fair to say now that those endless trips to a cold and rainy Silverstone just to watch some cars going around in circles, while I watched mesmerised, were well worth it.

Finally, and above all else, to Sarah for your endless patience and understanding while I filled up our lounge with books, magazines, CDs, faxes, and pamphlets as I wrote this book. You were, and are, wonderful.

**From Mark:** A special thank you to Heather, Joseph, and Mia for sparing me even within the precious time at home between races, enabling me to write this book.

## **Publisher's Acknowledgments**

We're proud of this book; please send us your comments through our Dummies online registration form located at [www.dummies.com/register/](http://www.dummies.com/register/).

Some of the people who helped bring this book to market include the following:

### ***Publisher's Acknowledgement***

Tracy Barr, Editorial Consultant

### ***Acquisitions, Editorial, and Media Development***

**Executive Editor:** Jason Dunne

**Project Editor:** Daniel Mersey

**Editorial Assistant:** Samantha Clapp

**Cover photo:** © Renault F1 Team Limited

**Cartoons:** Rich Tennant,  
[www.the5thwave.com](http://www.the5thwave.com)

**Colour section photo credits:** Reproduced with permission of : (p1) sutton-images.com;  
(p2 top) Jordan Grand Prix Limited; (p2 bottom) sutton-images.com;  
(p3 top and bottom) sutton-images.com; (p4 top) sutton-images.com;  
(p4 bottom) Panasonic Toyota Racing; (p5) Panasonic Toyota Racing;  
(p6 top and bottom) sutton-images.com; (p7) sutton-images.com;  
(p8 top and bottom) Jordan Grand Prix Limited.

### ***Production***

**Project Coordinator:** Regina Snyder

**Layout and Graphics:** Seth Conley,  
Joyce Haughey, Barry Offringa,  
Julie Trippetti

**Proofreaders:** Susan Moritz,  
Carl William Pierce, Brian H. Walls

**Indexer:** TECHBOOKS Production Services

---

## **Publishing and Editorial for Consumer Dummies**

**Diane Graves Steele**, Vice President and Publisher, Consumer Dummies

**Joyce Pepple**, Acquisitions Director, Consumer Dummies

**Kristin A. Cocks**, Product Development Director, Consumer Dummies

**Michael Spring**, Vice President and Publisher, Travel

**Brice Gosnell**, Associate Publisher, Travel

**Kelly Regan**, Editorial Director, Travel

## **Publishing for Technology Dummies**

**Andy Cummings**, Vice President and Publisher, Dummies Technology/General User

## **Composition Services**

**Gerry Fahey**, Vice President of Production Services

**Debbie Stailey**, Director of Composition Services

# Contents at a Glance

<b><i>Introduction</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b><i>Part I: Speeding through the Basics</i></b> .....	<b>7</b>
Chapter 1: Just the Formula One Facts .....	9
Chapter 2: The Most Popular Sport in the World .....	19
Chapter 3: The Big Business of Formula One .....	31
Chapter 4: Following the Rule Book .....	45
<b><i>Part II: Teams, Drivers, and Their Cars</i></b> .....	<b>55</b>
Chapter 5: Understanding a Formula One Car .....	57
Chapter 6: The Race Team .....	77
Chapter 7: Who's in the Driving Seat? .....	93
<b><i>Part III: What Happens On (And Off) the Track</i></b> .....	<b>109</b>
Chapter 8: Getting in the Race .....	111
Chapter 9: Race Day Strategies .....	123
Chapter 10: Life in the Pits .....	139
Chapter 11: Winning It All .....	149
Chapter 12: Safety in Formula One .....	161
<b><i>Part IV: Understanding Formula One Tracks</i></b> .....	<b>173</b>
Chapter 13: Track Basics and Racing Circuits .....	175
Chapter 14: Track and Driver .....	183
Chapter 15: A Look at Each Circuit .....	191
<b><i>Part V: You and Formula One: A Day at the Races</i></b> .....	<b>221</b>
Chapter 16: Going to a Race .....	223
Chapter 17: Following Formula One Events .....	243
<b><i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i></b> .....	<b>253</b>
Chapter 18: The Ten Greatest Formula One Drivers .....	255
Chapter 19: The Ten Best Formula One Races .....	263
Chapter 20: Ten Things to Do During the Season .....	271

Chapter 21: Ten Famous Names from the Past .....	277
Chapter 22: Ten Future Stars of Formula One .....	283
<b><i>Part VII: Appendixes</i></b> .....	<b>289</b>
Appendix A: Formula One Jargon .....	291
Appendix B: Formula One World Championship Statistics .....	305
<b><i>Index</i></b> .....	<b>313</b>

# Table of Contents

## ***Introduction..... 1***

About This Book .....	1
Conventions Used in This Book .....	2
What You're Not to Read .....	2
Foolish Assumptions .....	3
How This Book Is Organised .....	3
Part I: Speeding through the Basics .....	3
Part II: Teams, Drivers, and Their Cars .....	4
Part III: What Happens On (And Off) the Track .....	4
Part IV: Understanding Formula One Tracks .....	4
Part V: You and Formula One: A Day at the Races .....	4
Part VI: The Part of Tens .....	5
Part VII: Appendixes .....	5
Icons Used in This Book .....	5
Where to Go from Here .....	6

## ***Part 1: Speeding through the Basics ..... 7***

### **Chapter 1: Just the Formula One Facts ..... 9**

Formula One: A Grand and Global Sport .....	9
Drivers and Other Important People .....	10
Drivers .....	10
Team bosses .....	11
The Top Cats: Ecclestone and Mosley .....	12
Rockets on Wheels: The Cars They Drive .....	13
Key elements in the design .....	13
Prepping the car for maximum performance .....	15
Up and Down and All Around: The Tracks .....	15
The Right Stuff for Business .....	16
Getting the Most Out of Formula One .....	17
Getting the lowdown .....	17

### **Chapter 2: The Most Popular Sport in the World ..... 19**

What Makes Formula One? .....	20
The premiere racing sport in the world .....	20
Comparing Formula One and other types of racing .....	20
Understanding Formula One's Popularity .....	22
Wheel-to-wheel racing .....	22
Star drivers .....	23

Danger .....	24
Glamour .....	25
Media coverage .....	25
National pride .....	26
Historic Overview .....	26
Famous eras in Formula One history .....	27
Creating the cars, then and now .....	28
Power players in the sport .....	28
<b>Chapter 3: The Big Business of Formula One .....</b>	<b>31</b>
Funding the Sport: The Role of the Sponsor .....	31
The Benefits of Sponsorship .....	33
The headliners: Big benefits for big sponsors .....	33
Buying a smaller slice of the action: Other sponsors .....	36
Fast cars making faster money .....	37
Making Stuff That Fans Love .....	38
Clothes make the man (or woman) .....	38
Toys .....	39
Flags .....	39
Home furnishings .....	40
Road cars .....	40
Other stuff .....	41
Watching on the Box: Why Sponsors Love Television .....	41
<b>Chapter 4: Following the Rule Book .....</b>	<b>45</b>
The Rule Makers: The FIA .....	45
The Concorde Agreement .....	46
Key terms .....	47
Key players: Mosley and Ecclestone .....	47
Understanding the Rule Book .....	48
The sporting regs: Racing rules .....	48
The technical regs: Defining a Formula One car .....	49
Rules and where you can find them .....	49
Getting It Right: Necessary Inspections .....	50
Performing crash tests .....	50
Scrutineering .....	52
Keeping an open eye .....	52
Running checks after the race .....	53
Getting around the Rules .....	53
<b>Part 11: Teams, Drivers, and Their Cars .....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Chapter 5: Understanding a Formula One Car .....</b>	<b>57</b>
The Parts of a Formula One Car .....	57
Rub-a-dub-dub, a man in a tub: The chassis .....	58
The little engine that could .....	59

Getting into gear: The transmission .....	62
Wings and underbody .....	62
Master of suspension .....	64
Braking news .....	68
Tyres .....	69
Inside the cockpit .....	70
Built-in safety features .....	72
Other Stuff to Know about the Car .....	72
Electronics: The car's brains .....	73
Reliability versus speed: And the winner is. . . ..	73
Ballast: Putting on a few pounds .....	73
Two cars in one: The car that races and the car that qualifies .....	74
Specialist teams, auto manufacturers and others:	
The folks who make the cars .....	74
<b>Chapter 6: The Race Team .....</b>	<b>77</b>
Who's the Boss? .....	78
Types of bosses .....	78
Famous bosses of the past .....	81
Team Management Structure: A Who's Who of Players .....	83
Commercial director .....	84
Technical director and those who report to him .....	84
Other chiefs .....	86
More People behind the Scenes .....	87
Let's Not Forget the Drivers .....	90
<b>Chapter 7: Who's in the Driving Seat? .....</b>	<b>93</b>
Profiles of Drivers .....	93
A Week in the Life of a Formula One Driver .....	95
Keeping Busy during Practice .....	97
A typical practice session .....	98
Getting the car just right .....	99
Lending a helping hand: Working with team mates .....	99
Race Day Rituals .....	99
Psyching up for the race: It's a mind game .....	101
'Round and 'round we go: Racing without rest .....	102
No rest for the weary: After the race .....	103
Fit to Drive: Getting in Shape .....	103
Working it out .....	104
Coming back from injury .....	105
Keeping Cool .....	106
(Almost) Too hot to handle .....	106
Getting a little relief from the heat .....	107
Home Is Where the Car Park Is .....	108

***Part III: What Happens On (And Off) the Track ..... 109*****Chapter 8: Getting in the Race .....111**

Travelling to the Track in Style .....	111
Getting to Know the Circuit .....	112
Sussing out the details .....	113
What the rookie needs to know .....	114
Practice, Practice, and More Practice .....	114
What the drivers get out of practice .....	115
What you may notice during practice .....	117
Getting Off to a Flying Start: Qualifying .....	118
Qualifying twice .....	118
Getting pole is king .....	120
Cutting corners during qualifications .....	120
No stopping for the weather .....	121
Surrendering grid position .....	122
Ready to Race: Final Grid Positions .....	122

**Chapter 9: Race Day Strategies .....123**

Deciding Your Strategy .....	124
Choosing your tyres .....	125
Choosing the number of stops .....	126
The Start .....	128
Starting the race .....	129
Getting the best start .....	131
Blocking the other guy .....	133
Overtaking and Why It's Rare .....	133
Don't Get Caught Out .....	136
Race stoppage .....	136
Safety Car .....	137

**Chapter 10: Life in the Pits .....139**

Pit Stop Basics .....	139
What are the pits? .....	140
The pit crew .....	140
Safety and danger in the pits .....	141
Why Drivers Make Pit Stops .....	142
Refuelling stops .....	142
Non-refuelling stops .....	143
The Anatomy of a Pit Stop .....	144
Winning and Losing Races in the Pits .....	147
Timing of stops .....	147
Crew performance .....	148
Equipment malfunction .....	148



**Chapter 11: Winning It All .....149**

Winning the Race and What Happens After .....	149
First, make it to the finish .....	150
Getting the chequered flag .....	150
Taking the slowing down lap .....	151
Parc ferme: Doing post-race checks .....	152
Weighing in – literally .....	152
Joy on the podium .....	153
Press conferences .....	153
Getting back to the team .....	155
Winning the Championship .....	156
Understanding the points system .....	156
Glory for teams: The Constructors' World Championship .....	157
Getting the trophy .....	158
The Bernie Awards: Formula One's Oscars .....	158
Winning Means Money in the Pocket? You Bet .....	158

**Chapter 12: Safety in Formula One .....161**

Style Isn't Everything: Formula One Clothing .....	162
Helmets: Hard hats of the racing world .....	162
Race wear: Functional, fabulous, and pretty good-looking .....	163
Safety Features of Formula One Cars .....	165
Safe in the cockpit .....	166
Strapped in and ready to go: Seat belts .....	167
The HANS Device .....	168
The chassis: What it's made of and how it's built .....	169
Track Personnel and Procedures .....	169
Marshals: Keeping everyone on the straight and narrow .....	170
Following the leader: The Safety Car .....	170
On-site medical facilities .....	171

***Part IV: Understanding Formula One Tracks .....173*****Chapter 13: Track Basics and Racing Circuits .....175**

Sorting Out the Types of Tracks .....	176
Street tracks .....	176
High-speed tracks .....	178
High-downforce tracks .....	178
Medium-speed tracks .....	179

Choosing a Track .....	180
Providing a quality track .....	180
Convincing Bernie .....	181
Other stuff .....	181

## **Chapter 14: Track and Driver .....183**

Going Around the Bend . . . Fast! .....	183
Testing, Testing . . . Getting to Know the Tracks .....	185
Advantages of testing .....	186
Learning the way around the track .....	186
Playing with the set up .....	187
Best testing time .....	187
The Ever Changing Nature of Tracks .....	188
Increasing safety .....	188
Making overtaking easier .....	190

## **Chapter 15: A Look at Each Circuit .....191**

Racing Around Europe .....	191
A1-Ring, Austrian Grand Prix .....	191
Barcelona, Spanish Grand Prix .....	193
Hockenheim, German Grand Prix .....	194
Hungaroring, Hungarian Grand Prix .....	196
Imola, San Marino Grand Prix .....	197
Magny-Cours, French Grand Prix .....	199
Monte Carlo, Monaco Grand Prix .....	200
Monza, Italian Grand Prix .....	202
Nurburgring, European Grand Prix .....	203
Silverstone, British Grand Prix .....	205
Spa-Francorchamps, Belgian Grand Prix .....	207
Races in the Americas .....	208
Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, Canadian Grand Prix .....	208
Indianapolis, United States Grand Prix .....	210
Interlagos, Brazilian Grand Prix .....	211
Events in Australia and Asia .....	213
Melbourne, Australian Grand Prix .....	213
Sepang, Malaysian Grand Prix .....	215
Suzuka, Japanese Grand Prix .....	217
Forthcoming Attractions .....	218
Shanghai, Chinese Grand Prix .....	219
Bahrain, Bahrain Grand Prix .....	219
Where else? .....	220

## ***Part V: You and Formula One: A Day at the Races .....221***

### **Chapter 16: Going to a Race .....223**

Buying Tickets .....	224
When to buy them and who to get them from .....	224
Where: Grandstand or standing? .....	225
Finding Hotel Accommodation .....	227
Tricks for Race Day .....	229
Getting there early .....	229
Watching it on the big screen .....	230
Getting close to the action .....	230
So you've got a paddock pass! .....	231
Getting an autograph .....	232
Taking home the T-shirt . . . and other memorabilia .....	233
Formula One Globetrotters – Travel Tips .....	234
Races in Europe .....	234
Races in the Americas .....	237
Races in Australia and Asia .....	238
A final list of do's and don'ts .....	239

### **Chapter 17: Following Formula One Events .....243**

Turning on the Box .....	243
Camera angles galore .....	244
Listening to the experts .....	245
Finding coverage in your area .....	246
Tuning In to the Radio .....	247
In Print: Mags, Rags, and Local Papers .....	247
Info on the Internet .....	248
Keeping in Touch with Your Driver or Team .....	249
Getting autographs long distance .....	250
Joining a fan club .....	250

## ***Part VI: The Part of Tens .....253***

### **Chapter 18: The Ten Greatest Formula One Drivers .....255**

Alberto Ascari .....	255
Jim Clark .....	256
Juan-Manuel Fangio .....	257
Nigel Mansell .....	257
Stirling Moss .....	258
Alain Prost .....	259

Michael Schumacher .....	260
Ayrton Senna .....	260
Jackie Stewart .....	261
Gilles Villeneuve .....	262

## **Chapter 19: The Ten Best Formula One Races .....263**

1957 German Grand Prix .....	263
1967 Italian Grand Prix .....	264
1970 Monaco Grand Prix .....	264
1979 French Grand Prix .....	265
1981 Spanish Grand Prix .....	266
1981 German Grand Prix .....	266
1984 Monaco Grand Prix .....	267
1987 British Grand Prix .....	267
1993 European Grand Prix .....	268
2000 Belgian Grand Prix .....	269

## **Chapter 20: Ten Things to Do During the Season .....271**

Watching a Formula One Start – Anywhere! .....	271
Listening to a Formula One Car at Full Revs .....	272
Mixing It with the Stars in Monaco .....	272
Joining In with the Fans .....	273
Watching a Formula One Car at High Speed .....	273
Seeing a Formula One Car on a Street Circuit .....	274
Joining the Parties in Melbourne and Montreal .....	274
Getting an Autograph from Your Favourite Star .....	275
Soaking Up the Sport's History at Monza and Indianapolis .....	275
Paying Homage to the Greats from the Past .....	276

## **Chapter 21: Ten Famous Names from the Past .....277**

Jean-Marie Balestre .....	277
John Cooper .....	278
Giuseppe Farina .....	278
Emerson Fittipaldi .....	279
Graham Hill .....	279
Phil Hill .....	280
Bruce McLaren .....	280
Tazio Nuvolari .....	281
Jochen Rindt .....	282
Tony Vandervell .....	282

## **Chapter 22: Ten Future Stars of Formula One .....283**

Justin Wilson .....	283
Felipe Massa .....	284
Gary Paffett .....	284

---

Heikki Kovalainen .....	284
Neel Jani .....	285
Lewis Hamilton .....	285
Nico Rosberg .....	285
Nelson Piquet Jr .....	286
Bjorn Wirdheim .....	286
A.J. Allmendinger .....	286
 <b><i>Part VII: Appendixes</i></b> .....	<b>289</b>
 <b>Appendix A: Formula One Jargon</b> .....	<b>291</b>
 <b>Appendix B: Formula One World Championship Statistics</b> .....	<b>305</b>
 <b><i>Index</i></b> .....	<b>313</b>



# Introduction

---

**S**peak to any of your friends or family about Formula One, and they'll definitely have an opinion. Some will claim that it's far too boring to get interested in because the cars just set off, go around in circles for a few hours, and then the race is finished. Others will say that the sport is far too complicated now – that fuel-strategy, technology, and electronics have removed much of the gladiatorial aspect that once made it so popular.

If you speak to someone who knows a little bit about the sport and has followed its ups and downs, you'll find that there are hundreds of different reasons why people love Formula One racing. Some enjoy following drivers, some worship the cars, others are fascinated by the battle for technology, and still others just like being there at a race, soaking up the atmosphere.

The more people follow the sport, the more they get hooked into the different aspects. You'll find that you usually watch your first race (whether on television or at the race circuit itself) purely out of curiosity, to see what all the fuss is about. But as soon as you have seen it, you'll be hooked and will want even more.

## *About This Book*

Formula One fans can rarely explain just what exactly made them get hooked on the sport in the first place. It is not as if you can play it during school games, and not many parents ever get to drive Formula One cars in their spare time. However, Formula One motor racing is attracting millions and millions of new fans every year – all of them hooked for different reasons. This book helps you work out just what's so interesting about Formula One and find out exactly what you're missing. If you have never watched a Formula One race before, this book shares with you the basics of Formula One racing, answering questions like

- ✓ Why do Formula One cars have wings and why are they covered in logos?
- ✓ How does a race begin without a green light to signal the start?
- ✓ How do Formula One drivers prepare, mentally and physically, for a race?

- ✔ What sort of things should I do as a Formula One fan, and how can I get an autograph of my favourite driver?
- ✔ What strategies do drivers and their teams use during a race?
- ✔ How does Formula One compares with other forms of motor racing?
- ✔ Why is a Formula One car still a car, even though it has got no roof, doors, or bonnet?
- ✔ Why is the business side of the sport so important and what's the role of the sponsor?
- ✔ Besides the driver, who are the other people on the team?
- ✔ What does winning feel like and how do drivers go about doing just that?

The great thing about this book is that *you* decide where to start and what to read. It's a reference you can jump into and out of at will. Just head to the table of contents or the index to find the information or the recipe you want.

## Conventions Used in This Book

To help you navigate through this book, we've set up a few conventions:

- ✔ *Italic* is used for emphasis and to highlight new words or terms that are defined.
- ✔ **Boldfaced** text is used to indicate the action part of numbered steps.
- ✔ Monofont is used for Web addresses.

## What You're Not to Read

If you are a Formula One novice and just want to know the basics, you don't have to read every part of every chapter in this book to understand what's going on when you watch a race. When you see a 'technical stuff' icon, this is a sign that the following information includes more complex details for those with some knowledge of Formula One who want to learn the sport inside and out.

There is also nothing to say that you have to read all the shaded text – what we call sidebars. These are included as useful asides to bring some colour or interest to aspects that are not covered elsewhere, but if you skip them, you'll still understand everything else.



## *Foolish Assumptions*

As we wrote this book, we made some assumptions about you. The first one is that, because you're reading this book in the first place, you're no dummy. You want to find out about Formula One. Here are some other assumptions we've made:

- ✓ You're either completely new to Formula One racing or you've followed it but want to understand it in greater depth.
- ✓ You know the basics, but you want to know more so that you understand better what you see the next time you watch a race.
- ✓ You want to be able to join in conversations and banter with die-hard fans who have followed the sport for a long time.
- ✓ And who knows, if your passion for Formula One is fired by reading this book then what's to say you won't become a part of the sport itself and play a key part in future Formula One battles.

## *How This Book Is Organised*

*Formula One Racing For Dummies* is not just a mumbo-jumbo of random facts separated by some pretty pictures. Instead, it is structured in a way that allows you to find exactly what you're after, quickly and without hassle. We've arranged the book into five main parts, each with their own chapters, to examine a specific aspect of the sport – whether it is the technical side, driver fitness, safety, or who are the sport's best drivers. You don't have to read this book from cover to cover; instead you can skip to whatever section grabs your fancy.

### *Part 1: Speeding through the Basics*

It is amazing to think that Formula One racing is matched only by the Olympics and the football World Cup when it comes to worldwide fans. This part takes a look at how Formula One has become so popular, from its origins as a rich-man's playground in the 1930s and 40s, even though Grand Prix racing began in 1906, to the big business sport that it is today. This part also takes a look at the business side of Formula One and the role of sponsors, as well as the rules that govern the sport – and how the teams do all they can to get around these rules in the quest for victory.

## ***Part II: Teams, Drivers, and Their Cars***

Formula One would be nothing without the efforts of the teams and drivers involved. But just who are the men who fight it out on the track? Who are the folks who build the cars they race? This part answers those questions, as well as explains the design of a Formula One car, inside and out. It also tells you about the stresses and strains that are put on the drivers and why driving a Formula One car is quite a bit more physical than taking your convertible out for a cruise on a Sunday afternoon.

## ***Part III: What Happens On (And Off) the Track***

Once upon a time, no-one could really be sure which teams would turn up for each Formula One event or at what time the race would actually start. Today, things are very different because of strict rules regarding entry, timetable, and weekend structure. This part examines how drivers approach race weekends, why being quick in the race is more important than being quick in qualifying, the story behind the ultra-fast pit-stops, what safety precautions are put in place to protect the drivers, and just what it feels like to be up there on the top step of the podium after the chequered flag.

## ***Part IV: Understanding Formula One Tracks***

Formula One is about the ultimate drivers in the ultimate cars, but it's also important that the sport takes place on the very best tracks in the world. Every single circuit on the calendar is unique, and this part analyses the different types of tracks, how they are chosen, and just what they feel like to drive on. You can also find plenty of advice if you decide you want to go to a race, including where to get your tickets, find your accommodation, and stake up your pitch on Sunday morning to watch the race itself.

## ***Part V: You and Formula One: A Day at the Races***

Without fans, Formula One just wouldn't be the same. And while many spectators plan their trips to Grand Prix meetings on the hoof, there's no better way of making sure you get the most out of the event than planning your visit to a race months in advance. This part helps you make decisions about going

to the race, how to behave when you're there, and what to take with you. And if you can't make it to the race itself, then there is some advice on how to follow Formula One on the television, Internet and radio, as well as in print. This part also has tips for fans who want to join a Formula One fan club or get a driver's autograph.

## *Part VI: The Part of Tens*

If you are after a quick fix of information or you don't want to get drawn into an entire chapter just yet, then the Part of Tens is perfect for you. It provides some short, sharp information on things that every Formula One fan needs to know – like who are the sport's greatest stars, what were the best races ever, what things should you try to do during the season and who Formula One's future stars are likely to be. All of these come, of course, from personal opinion and therefore aren't completely definitive. Consider them conversation starters with your friends.

## *Part VII: Appendixes*

If you've never heard of Formula One before, then you are likely to be completely baffled by a lot of the jargon that surrounds the sport. Do you, for example, know your *understeer* from your *apex*, or your *toe-in* to your *down-force*? If not, then Appendix A is an absolute must.

Formula One fans will always argue about who they think are the best drivers in the sport, but one way to really know who has been the most successful is to look at the records. Appendix B gives you a statistical look at the sport – from who has won the most races to which driver has been on pole position most often.

## *Icons Used in This Book*

To make understanding *Formula One Racing For Dummies* easier, we have used icons – small pictures in the margins – to highlight important information that we want to stand out.



This icon highlights helpful tips and advice that can save you time, money, or exasperation as you watch Formula One events or partake of its festivities.



There aren't many things you have to worry about as a Formula One fan. But where there are things you should take extra heed of, we put this icon beside it. It warns you of something to watch out for.



We use this icon to indicate important information or info that you want to add to your knowledge so you can impress your friends or fellow Formula One fans.



This icon appears beside information that explains the finer points of Formula One technology that you may find interesting but that you don't need to know. Feel free to skip this information at will.



Formula One teams and drivers engage in strategies, both on the track and off. This icon appears beside information that tells how teams plan and plot against each other to gain a competitive edge.



This icon appears beside info relating to actual events in Formula One history. What better way to show off your Formula One knowledge than to repeat these nuggets to the colleagues, friends, and family you want to impress?

## *Where to Go from Here*

This book isn't like many other Formula One books you'll get from the bookstore. After finishing this bit, you don't have to turn the page and continue reading in order. Instead, feel free to turn to whichever chapter takes your fancy. The most important parts of this book are the Table of Contents and the Index at the back because they can guide you to whichever bit of information you are after.

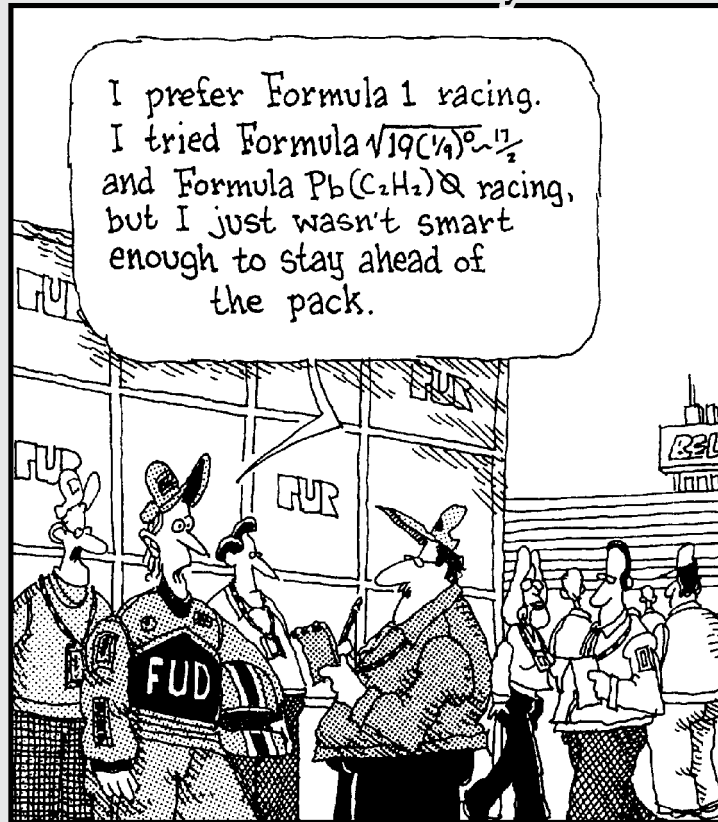
You don't have to read these chapters in order because they are all stand-alone. So choose now where you want to begin your journey in Formula One and above all else – enjoy!

# Part I

# Speeding through the Basics

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Wave

By Rich Tennant



## *In this part . . .*

**I**f you have never heard of Formula One, then you must have been asleep for the last few decades. Formula One racing is now big business and is up there with the soccer World Cup and the Olympics as one of the world's biggest sports. It has millions of viewers around the world, it generates massive media interest, and it makes its top competitors very rich indeed.

In this part, we will explain how the sport has developed from a rich man's playground early last century to the highly visible arena it is nowadays. We'll look at what the attractions of Formula One are – and why companies around the world are falling over themselves to try and get their names on the sides of a race car.

We will also look at how, with the prizes for success being so big, strict rules and regulations are vital. Teams may try and get around these, in the hope that cheating will make them successful, but the penalties for being caught are very severe.