



Chinese Grand Prix.

17th – 19th October 2008
17th of 18 World Championship races

Preview.

Munich/Hinwil, 12th October 2008. The Asian leg of the Formula One season continues with the penultimate round of the 18-race World Championship in Shanghai this coming Sunday, 19th October.

Nick Heidfeld:

“On the whole, I quite like this circuit. The first three corners are among the best on the calendar. You come in with a lot of speed, and the first corner remains pretty fast initially. But then it tightens up more and more and you have to change down into second gear. Getting out the other end in good shape will be just a bit more difficult this year with the absence of traction control. Every time you come here you’re impressed by the huge scale of the paddock and grandstands; there’s nothing else like it. Last year I got unlucky with the timing of a tyre change onto a fresh set of wets. Second place was possible, but that turned into seventh when I had to come in for an extra stop.

Shanghai will be the fifth Asian city in a row I’ve visited – after Singapore, Seoul, Gwang-ju and Tokyo – and each one is different. Shanghai is certainly the fastest-growing and without doubt the one with the worst traffic conditions. Each time we come to Shanghai there are new skyscrapers, but every year a few of the old districts also disappear from the city centre.”

Robert Kubica:

“Shanghai is an interesting circuit with a very long straight, and here there’s a good chance to overtake. The track offers a mixture of very different corners; there are some slow areas but also several fast sections. The first corner is particularly challenging. You stay on the brakes for a long time, and then it quickly switches into a left-hander. I haven’t had much luck at this circuit so far. I hope that changes this time and I can pick up some important points for the World Championship.”

Mario Theissen, BMW Motorsport Director:

“Just a week after the race in Japan we travel to China for the second part of this Asian double-header. This means we will have had five races on this continent this year. If you add the Turkish Grand Prix, that means there are six GPs in Asia – a third of the season. Plus, next year will also see the first visit of Formula One to Abu Dhabi. All of which shows that the top category of motor racing has established a major foothold in Asia.

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Shanghai has developed dramatically as a business centre and China is a future market with significant growth potential. From the point of view of BMW and our partners, the race in Shanghai is therefore of particular importance. BMW has operated its own production facility in China since 2004, where the BMW 3 Series and BMW 5 Series models are made.

This will be the fifth time that Formula One comes to China. The scale of the facility in Shanghai is beyond any other venue on the calendar and the track layout is a tough challenge. We are very much looking forward to the penultimate race of the season.”

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Willy Rampf, Technical Director:

“The track in Shanghai stands out with its very special layout. A particularly interesting section is the double right-hander, double left-hander combination at the end of the start-finish straight. The drivers approach it with a lot of speed and then stay on the brakes for a long time on the entry. This is a very unusual section, which places heavy demands on the tyres.

The long straight offers a good overtaking opportunity, as it feeds into a hairpin and the track is very wide at this point, allowing the drivers to take two different lines. The combination of widely contrasting corners demands a high level of aerodynamic efficiency. With the tyres put under such heavy loads we use the hardest Bridgestone compounds here.”

Facts and figures:

Circuit/Date	Shanghai International Circuit/19 th October 2008
Start time (local/UTC)	15.00 hrs/07.00 hrs (09.00 in Central Europe)
Lap/Race distance	5.451 km/305.066 km (56 laps)
Corners	9 right-hand and 7 left-hand corners
Winner 2007	Kimi Räikkönen, Scuderia Ferrari Marlboro, 1 hr 37:58.395
Pole position 2007	Lewis Hamilton, Vodafone McLaren Mercedes, 1:35.908 minutes
Fastest lap 2007	Felipe Massa, Scuderia Ferrari Marlboro, 1:37.454 minutes
Data 2007 (race):	Full-throttle percentage: 55% Top speed: 310 km/h Longest section at full throttle: 19 sec / 1,370 m Gear changes per lap: 52 Tyre wear: medium Brake wear: medium to low Downforce level: medium to high



BMW Sauber F1 Team



Driver	Nick Heidfeld	Robert Kubica
Date of birth	10.05.1977	07.12.1984
Place of birth	Mönchengladbach/Germany	Kraków/Poland
Nationality	German	Polish
Residence	Stäfa, Switzerland	Monaco
Marital status	Partner Patricia Papen, daughter Juni, son Joda	Single
Height	1.67 m	1.84 m
Weight	61 kg	69 kg
F1 debut	2000, Melbourne	2006, Budapest
GP starts	150	38
Pole positions	1	1
Wins	-	1
Podium places	11	8
Fastest laps	2	-
Best placing	5 th (2007)	6 th (2007)
Total points	196	117
Points 2008	56 (5 th place)	72 (3 rd place)

BMW Sauber F1 Team	
Founded	01.01.2006
Locations	Munich (DE) and Hinwil (CH)
F1 debut	2006, Melbourne
GP starts	51
Pole positions	1
Wins	1
Podium places	15 (6 x 3 rd / 8 x 2 nd / 1 x 1 st)
Fastest laps	2
Championship placings	5 th (2006), 36 points 2 nd (2007), 101 points 3 rd (2008), 128 points after 16 GPs

Season 2008:

	Nick Heidfeld			Robert Kubica		
	Qualifying	Race	Points	Qualifying	Race	Points
Australian GP	5 th	2 nd	8	2 nd	DNF	-
Malaysian GP	7 th (grid 5)	6 th	3	6 th (grid 4)	2 nd	8
Bahrain GP	6 th	4 th	5	1 st	3 rd	6
Spanish GP	9 th	9 th	-	4 th	4 th	5
Turkish GP	9 th	5 th	4	5 th	4 th	5
Monaco GP	13 th (grid 12)	14 th	-	5 th	2 nd	8
Canadian GP	8 th	2 nd	8	2 nd	1 st	10
French GP	12 th (grid 11)	13 th	-	7 th (grid 5)	5 th	4
British GP	5 th	2 nd	8	10 th	DNF	-
German GP	12 th	4 th	5	7 th	7 th	2
Hungarian GP	16 th (grid 15)	10 th	-	4 th	8 th	1
European GP	8 th	9 th	-	3 rd	3 rd	6
Belgian GP	5 th	2 nd	8	8 th	6 th	3
Italian GP	10 th	5 th	4	11 th	3 rd	6
Singapore GP	6 th (grid 9)	6 th	3	4 th	11 th	-
Japanese GP	16.	9 th	-	6 th	2 nd	8

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History and background:

Formula One has been coming to China since 2004. The Shanghai circuit, built on reclaimed marshland, is located outside the booming metropolis. The driving time through the chaotic traffic from the city centre to the track is difficult to calculate.

The circuit designers were keen to bring a local flavour to both the track layout and the design of the overall circuit. The layout is based on the Chinese character “Shang”, which translates as “high” or “above”, and the massive pit buildings and grandstands emulate traditional Chinese design features.

Shanghai lies on the vast Yangtze Delta where the river drains into the East China Sea. Land reclamation is allowing the municipal area to grow steadily. As with most of these huge cities, population estimates fluctuate widely. Ten million people in the municipal area and another five million in the suburbs offers a reasonable indication.

Schedule for group interviews at the weekend:

Thursday:

13.30-13.40 – Robert Kubica - TV
13.40-14.00 – Robert Kubica – print media
13.30-13.50 – Nick Heidfeld – print media
13.50-14.00 – Nick Heidfeld – TV
14.00-14.10 – Christian Klien – TV
14.10-14.30 – Christian Klien – print media
15.30-15.35 – Mario Theissen – TV
15.35-16.00 – Mario Theissen – print media
18.00-18.30 – Willy Rampf – by prior arrangement only

Friday:

16.45-16.55 – Nick Heidfeld – TV
16.45-16.55 – Robert Kubica – TV

Saturday:

16.45-16.55 – Nick Heidfeld – TV
16.55-17.15 – Nick Heidfeld – print media
16.45-17.05 – Robert Kubica – print media
17.05-17.15 – Robert Kubica – TV
17.30-17.35 – Mario Theissen – TV
17.35-18.00 – Mario Theissen – print media

Sunday:

Approx. 30 minutes after the end of the race Heidfeld, Kubica, Theissen and Rampf will be on hand in the team’s Hospitality area.

Involvement in the FIA press conference means the group interviews will be cancelled on the relevant day.

For further information please visit the media website www.press.bmw-motorsport.com (press releases, press kits, images, TV footage) and the official team website www.bmw-sauber-f1.com (car, season, Race Club, team updates).

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