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Lewis puts himself in the frame



IN THE DRIVING SEAT ... Lewis Hamilton's view from the cockpit
Photo: LEWIS HAMILTON

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By CHRIS HOCKLEY Published: 15th August 2012

HERE'S a picture of Lewis Hamilton in the McLaren team garage taken by ... Lewis Hamilton.

It's one of 50 fascinating photos snapped by Formula One drivers and team chiefs for a major charity auction being staged next month.

Hamilton took his driver's eye view shot while waiting to go out for a practice session at Spa last year.

Twin screens are mounted on his McLaren showing him the times of his rivals and their cars on track.

Cool air is blown over him as an engineer adjusts his wing mirror. And his tyres are kept at optimum temperature by wraparound warmers.

While Hamilton chose the intriguing F1 insight as his subject matter, others opted for pictures reflecting their personal lives.

Sebastian Vettel contributed his favourite Alpine scene while Bruno Senna went for a paradise beach shot.

Others who got snap-happy included Fernando Alonso, Heikki Kovalainen, Kimi Raikkonen and Sir Frank Williams.

The auction, dubbed Zoom, will take place on September 14 in the ballroom of the Wyndham Grand London Chelsea Harbour hotel.

It is the brainchild of several motorsport bodies and will benefit Great Ormond Street children's hospital.

F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone called it a "super idea that will hopefully raise a lot of money for the hospital".

But with one eye always on a chance of promoting F1, he added: "...and the teams will get coverage."

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Brawn takes the Michael



THE BOSS GETS SNAPPY ... Ross Brawn's atmospheric shot of pit lane at Singapore's night race
Picture: ROSS BRAWN

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EXCLUSIVE By CHRIS HOCKLEY Published: 11th September 2012

THE unique atmosphere of Singapore's night race is captured by a photographer well-placed to get a great shot — Mercedes team principal Ross Brawn.

Ross the boss got clicking with a camera from the pit wall as Michael Schumacher headed out on to the track during practice for last year's Grand Prix in the steamy state.

His picture is one of 50 taken by leading Formula One figures for a charity auction taking place on Friday to benefit Great Ormond Street children's hospital.

Others whose photos will go under the hammer include Lewis Hamilton, Jenson Button and Sebastian Vettel.

Brawn's Singapore shot is timely as this year's race is next up on F1's hectic end-of-season schedule.

He said: "The photo was taken from my seat on the pit wall as Michael was pulling out of the garage during the second Friday practice session."

"As Formula One's only night race, Singapore is such a unique event and the lights in the pit lane and around the track make it a real spectacle for the fans."

"Hopefully this photo gives some idea of the tremendous atmosphere."

The charity sale, known as the Zoom auction, is also unique as it is the first of photos taken by the stars of any sport.

It is also one of the few independent events to have the support of all Grand Prix drivers and team bosses as well as F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone.

Former team chief and current BBC F1 pundit Eddie Jordan will host the sale in the ballroom of the Wyndham Grand London Chelsea Harbour hotel. It will be conducted by renowned auctioneers Coys and filmed by Sky Sports.

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Schuey shoots a snap



MASTER SHOT ... Michael Schumacher's garage snap

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By CHRIS HOCKLEY Published: 08th November 2012

HERE'S Michael Schumacher in his "office" in a photo taken by ... Michael Schumacher.

The seven-time world champ took the snap using a fish-eye lens as he prepared to leave his garage for a practice session in his Mercedes.

His mechanics look pretty miserable as they wait for the signal to whip off his tyre warmers.

And in truth there has been little for the team to be happy about during the great German's final season in Formula One.

But with this picture, Schuey will help to put a smile on the faces of sick kids.

It was one of 50 photos taken by F1 drivers, team principals and bigwigs sold at a London auction in aid of Great Ormond Street children's hospital.

Schuey's snap attracted the highest bid of the sale, going for £2,500 to a collector in California.

He said: 'I am delighted that my 'the office' photograph fetched so much for this very worthwhile cause.'

'The image encapsulates F1 for me. The cockpit is where I feel completely at home and everything else is second nature.'

'Great Ormond Street Children's Charity has a strong link to our sport and I was glad to be able to support them.'

The pictures did not have to be themed around motor racing. Sebastian Vettel's offering, for example, featured his favourite Alpine scene.

And F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone came up with a snap of two snowmen, bought for £1,100 by Damon Hill.

To raise even more cash for the renowned hospital, auction organisers Zoom have turned the photos into a book, called Through The Eyes of Formula 1, which is selling for £20 at WH Smith and Waterstone's.

There is also a £75 limited edition leather-bound version for F1 addicts, which can only be bought online at <http://shop.instant-shop.com/Octaneshop/category50536.html>

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FORMULA ONE

Di Resta's in the frame



FORCE FOR GOOD ... Paul di Resta signs book to help sick kids

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By CHRIS HOCKLEY Published: 10th May 2013

HERE'S the new improved version of Formula One star Paul di Resta, signing a book that will raise money to help desperately sick children.

The occasionally spiky Force India ace has surprised many with his much more relaxed demeanour in 2013, which has gone hand-in-hand with a dramatic improvement in results on the track.

In this picture he is signing his page in a book packed with photos taken by a who's who of motorsport.

Di Resta's snap is of his car on the grid at Monza before last year's Italian Grand Prix, which he reckons shows the hustle and bustle of the countdown to a big race.

Others who contributed photos to the book — called Zoom: Through the Eyes of Formula 1 — include Lewis Hamilton, Jenson Button, Fernando Alonso, Kimi Raikkonen and world champ Sebastian Vettel.

Like Di Resta, they have been busy inking their names to a special signed copy that will go under the hammer at F1's annual pre-British Grand Prix auction.

The money raised will go to London's world-renowned Great Ormond Street children's hospital.

The 104-page book is also on sale to fans at WH Smith and Waterstones, priced £20. But if you're a real F1 fanatic, you might be interested in the limited edition version, with leather cover and slipcase, costing £75.

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Alonso sees Red

F1 stars auction unique pics

By CHRIS HOCKLEY

12th January 2014, 2:09 pm | Updated: 5th April 2016, 7:43 pm

THIS is the amazing view enjoyed by Fernando Alonso on the Italian Grand Prix podium – captured in a terrific photo taken by the man himself.

It shows a sea of red as Italy's fanatical Ferrari fans, known as Tifosi, gathered on Monza's pit straight to celebrate Alonso's second place behind champ Sebastian Vettel.

The driver was so overwhelmed by the vibrant scene he took a picture to mark the occasion.

At the time Alonso was going through a sticky patch in his spat-peppered relations with Ferrari bosses.

And some Formula One pundits wondered if he was taking the photo for posterity, knowing he could soon be leaving the team.

We may never know if that was true, but in any case it was well worth snapping such a brilliant shot.

Alonso's picture is one of a unique set taken by F1 drivers and team principals that will be auctioned next month to raise money for London's renowned Great Ormond Street children's hospital.

Others are being donated and signed by the likes of Vettel, Lewis Hamilton, Jenson Button and Kimi Raikkonen.

The sale, arranged by the Zoom organisation, will be hosted by BBC Grand Prix presenter Suzi Perry at London's InterContinental Park Lane hotel.

Cameras provided by Nikon and signed by world champions will also be auctioned at the event on February 7.

Zoom's Christian Sylt said: "Thanks to the support of the teams and Bernie Ecclestone, we are able to showcase a varied collection of photographs which encapsulate life inside Formula One.

"Every image provides a unique, insider's view of motor racing and offers a rare opportunity for the public to own a slice of history and help support the incredible work undertaken at Great Ormond Street hospital."