

UP TO SPEED: MEDIA COVERAGE

THURSDAY 03 JULY

04-06 JULY
#BRITISHGP

 Silverstone



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**BRITISH
GRAND PRIX**
2025

Russell: I could have had 20 wins but my time will come

Formula 1

Molly Hudson Motor Racing Reporter

George Russell believes he will get the opportunity to fight for the world championship at some point in his career but says he would have done so already if he was driving for Mercedes in a different era.

Sitting in the Mercedes motorhome in Austria, twiddling his sunglasses, he confidently predicted that "my time will come" about 72 hours before securing victory at the Red Bull Ring. That win — only the second of his F1 career — was largely courtesy of the collision between Max Verstappen and Lando Norris, leaving Russell to swing past them both as they limped to the pits.

Regardless, there are signs that Russell, 26, is more than capable of regularly winning races. Against his teammate, Lewis Hamilton, the seven-times world champion, he is leading 9-2 in head-to-head qualifying this season, and 7-3 in race results.

In the two other seasons they have both been Mercedes drivers, honours have been shared.

Unfortunately for Mercedes they had mostly been battling for podiums, rather than victories, struggling with the present set of regulations, before finally making what appears to be a sustained breakthrough in recent weeks.

"If these last three years was a different era, I potentially can have 20 wins, poles to my name and [I could have been] fighting for championships in all of these years," Russell said.

"My time will come. When I look at Fernando [Alonso] or Lewis, I think I've got a good 17 to 20 years left in me. We're all going to get our opportunity at some point. This is Max [Verstappen's] time. Max's era. There's no guarantee that he's going to be fighting every single year in the future. Who knows what's going to come next? I've just got to make sure I'm ready."

Red Bull may be Mercedes' rivals on track but Russell's first memories at Silverstone, where he will be among the contenders for victory this weekend, feature the team in a more favourable

light. He attended his first F1 race at the circuit in 2009, as a fan, having to walk away from the track because his ears were hurting from the roar of the engines. "I was standing at the edge of Copse, which was turn 1. I always remember seeing the Red Bulls leading. I think it was Sebastian [Vettel]. The noise, the roar, getting goosebumps."

"Believe it or not I had a Red Bull jumper on, which I've still got at home somewhere. Mercedes wasn't in the sport at the time. It was a silver Puma Red Bull jumper. I used to have the Ferrari Puma shoes too, which were iconic, the Speedcats. I was too young to know who I was rooting for. I was just there enjoying F1."

Russell impressed in a Williams car that was in effect a backmarker in 2019, before joining Mercedes in 2022. That move led to significantly more attention and, at times, criticism, as he partnered Hamilton.

Last month an angry email was sent to members of the paddock claiming that Mercedes were unfairly favouring Russell over Hamilton, while describing the younger driver in derogatory language. It purported to be from a team employee, although it is understood that Mercedes believe it could have originated from a Hamilton fan.

Russell insists his relationship with Hamilton is stronger than ever. "If anything, we've grown closer together," he says, despite the latter's impending move to Ferrari at the end of the season. In a fiercely competitive and secretive sport, that will mean, as the season progresses, that Hamilton will not be involved in all Mercedes meetings. That is just part and parcel of the business, Russell believes.

"I think you can also argue that if Picasso showed an artist his work, that artist still has to re-create it," he says. "You can give the secrets away, or give the chef the ingredients, but they've still got to cook the meal."

It is put to Russell that if Hamilton is the GOAT (greatest of all time), and he is bettering his results this season, then what exactly does that make him? Maybe "a goatee", he jokes.

British Grand Prix

Silverstone

Qualifying: Saturday, 3pm

Race: Sunday, 3pm

TV Sky Sports F1

THURSDAY 03 JULY – IN PRINT

DAILY EXPRESS



FORMULA ONE: UP FOR THE FIGHT

I'll take it to the Max again

FACE OFF: Norris, right, is ready to push rival Verstappen to the limit

By Daniel Moxon

LANDO NORRIS has warned Max Verstappen he is ready to take their battle to the limit when they race at Silverstone this weekend.

The pair clashed at last weekend's Austrian Grand Prix when Norris in his McLaren was fighting his Red Bull rival for the lead.

The collision saw both drivers pick up punctures, with Norris forced to retire and Verstappen coming home in fifth place after picking up a 10-second penalty for causing the incident.

But having brushed the Dutchman at the Red Bull Ring, Norris heads into his home race on Sunday full of belief he can beat the reigning world champion – this time with the support of the Silverstone crowd behind him.

"I'm very excited for the British Grand Prix," said Norris, before insisting he would not change the tactics he employed in Austria.

"I reviewed everything, we've gone over stuff, and let's say I won't really change what I did. I was fighting, and that's what we want – we want to fight. We don't want to complain, we don't want things to end like they did, both from Max's side and from my side."

"So, that's life sometimes. We're fighting, we both want to win and we're going to push it to the limits – some slightly more than others."

"But yeah, at the same time, I'm excited. We're going to have more fights together, and I look forward to those times."

Despite Verstappen incurring the wrath of the stewards for the Austria incident, opinion among fans was divided over who was to blame.

But Norris insisted it is easier to pick a side when you are not behind the wheel. "It's never as easy as saying,

LANDO VOWS TO CONTINUE RIVALRY AT SILVERSTONE

"Why did you do that? Why didn't you do this?" he told the Chris Moyles Show on Radio X.

"It's so hard to be as accurate as it looks like on TV. So, when it is those two centimetres that it should be or stuff like that, it's almost impossible to judge."

"But that's what it is, that's the competition we're against, and we love it. We want to go out and race hard and we want it to be easy, because we just want to win."

"But at the same time, it puts a smile on our face when we have that competition in a race and it's good for everyone watching."

Norris will be one of three Britons heading into the race believing they can deliver the result the home crowd craves.

This fight with Verstappen in Austria paved the way for Mercedes' George Russell, above, to claim only his second win in Formula One.

Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff is adamant that Russell's team-mate, Lewis Hamilton, can win again before he leaves for Ferrari at the end of the year.

Wolff said of his team's chances: "On track, the battle at the front is tight."

"We will have to be at our best to challenge for the podium once again. That is our aim, though, and we are excited for the challenge."



LONDON IDEA LACKS BACKING

THE head of UK motorsport insists he will not support a Formula One race on the streets of London.

Las Vegas was added to the calendar last season, while another street circuit, in Madrid, is due in 2026.

Red ahead of Sunday's British Grand Prix at Silverstone,

which is a 150,000 sold out. Motorsport UK chairman David Richards said: "I can tell a great fan of the London idea."

"It is a one-off thing and nobody would get any benefit from it."

F1's American owners Liberty Media have flirted with the idea of a race in London. But

Silverstone's future was safeguarded this year by a 10-year contract renewed with F1, estimated to be worth around £300million.

Richards said: "There is nowhere else in this country to host a Formula One race other than Silverstone and we should be investing in it to make it even better."

MISS OFFER

VALID ON ANY SPORT

DAY'S

MISS

F1 **BRITISH GP - SUNDAY, 3pm**

IT'S SAINT GEORGE'S DAY

Homes where his heart is

SILVER STARS
BRITISH WINNERS AT SILVERSTONE

- 8 Lewis Hamilton
- 3 Jim Clark, Nigel Mansell
- 2 Jackie Stewart, David Coulthard
- 1 Peter Collins, James Hunt, John Watson, Damon Hill, Johnny Herbert

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT
Russell is carried aloft after his win at Austria's Red Bull Ring

By ISABELLE BARKER

GEORGE RUSSELL went to Silverstone in a Red Bull jumper as a kid – now he is daring to dream with Mercedes. The legendary home of the British Grand Prix holds a special place in the heart of the 30-year-old born in Norfolk.

After all, it was where he drove in his first race, won his first win and took part in his maiden F1 test.

It was also the very track that gave a ten-year-old Russell "proudbumps" as a fan in 2004, watching the likes of Sebastian Vettel racing through Copse.

He said: "There are a lot of firsts for me at Silverstone. It's the first F1 race I ever went to as a kid.

"People carrying them, I really like that, that atmosphere... and we stay on the track which, again, reminds me of when I was ten years old.

"Travelling up and down the country in the motorhome, albeit very slightly bigger now than the little one I had with my parents. It's pretty special.

"I was standing at the edge of Copse, which was turn one. I always remember seeing the 16th Bulls, Sebastian Vettel leading. The noise, the roar, getting goosebumps...

"Believe it or not I had a Red Bull jumper on which I'm still gut."

Ten British drivers have won at Silverstone since the world championship started in 1950.

And Russell has on his sights the top spot on the podium this Sunday – fresh off the back of only his second F1 win last time out in Austria.

He also reckons this race has come at a perfect time for seven-time world champ Lewis Hamilton, who is still searching for a first win since 2021.

Russell said: "If I had the chance Silverstone would always be No.1 of a race win.

"When you go to your home race, you feel this extra energy from the crowd. You're just sort of riding this wave.

"If somebody could say, 'You're gonna win five races this year, which five do you want to win?', Silverstone would be my first pick."

Lewis has often gone well at Silverstone. These are tracks that we've grown up racing around from a young age."

Formula One

The 'goatee' Russell can ride Silverstone wave

British driver believes he has proved he is 'as good as anyone' as he goes into his home grand prix on a high

Giles Richards

George Russell is understandably in buoyant mood heading into his home race at the British Grand Prix. The 26-year-old rolls into Silverstone this weekend on the back of a win and with no shortage of confidence.

When asked to appraise his standing among Formula One's top drivers he is unhesitant. "I believe I'm as good as anyone," he says. "I think I've proven that."

He has had to do so against the toughest of measures in the form of his Mercedes teammate, Lewis Hamilton, which raises the question: if Hamilton is the GOAT, where is Russell?

Having been relentlessly questioned about his relationship with the seven-times world champion since the driver from King's Lynn joined Mercedes in 2022, he replies simply with a broad grin. "That's the big question, isn't it? The goatee?" Russell's victory at the last round in Austria, only the second of his career and Mercedes' first since he took the flag at Brazil in 2022, was as welcome as it was unexpected. The series of upgrades since Monaco in May have put his car in position to challenge McLaren and Ferrari, for podium places behind Red Bull and potentially more.

After Austria the team principal, Toto Wolff, said he felt Mercedes were on track, noting they had "big momentum now in the team to go to a point where we are able, on real performance, to fight for the win".

At the Red Bull Ring, however, pace was not decisive. Russell was in third behind Red Bull's Max Verstappen and McLaren's Lando Norris when the pair collided, allowing Russell in to win. It was a reminder of sticking to the task, a lesson not lost on him.

"My time will come," he says. "I've got a good 17 to 20 years left in me. This is Max's time. Max's era. There's no guarantee that he's going to be fighting every single year in the future. When Sebastian [Vettel] was winning, nobody would have predicted that. When Lewis was winning, nobody would have predicted that. Who knows what's going to come next? I've just got to make sure I'm ready."

Russell began his F1 career at Williams in 2019, impressing over three seasons at the struggling team until he joined Mercedes. Optimism then that he would be immediately battling for wins with the team which had won eight consecutive

constructors' championships fell away as their interpretation of the new regulations proved off the mark.

They have been playing catchup until these most recent races. For Russell this was a tougher task than he surely had anticipated as he looks towards Mercedes coming good again and is set to become their senior driver when Hamilton joins Ferrari at the end of the season.

"I definitely take confidence in my performances and the results I've managed to achieve in these three years," he says. "I knew it was always going to be a hard task going against Lewis but I always believed in myself. I know I've got it in me, that when the car's there, I'll be able to deliver those performances."

He is, he admits, still learning, still improving and explains he was only 11 when he believed he could make it as a driver but several years later experience and reality made themselves felt.

"I was just so naive to the world and confident and maybe arrogant, you can argue," he says. "I was winning everything that I was racing in at the time. So I thought: 'I'm just gonna win and be an F1 driver one day.' I just thought it was as simple as that."

"It was only when I was 16 I recognised life's not quite as simple as it was as a kid, or what you believed as a kid, and you couldn't just rely on your speed and talent, you had to go above and beyond."

As someone who first came to Silverstone as a child, this race means an awful lot to Russell. He made his single-seater debut there and took his first win and first F1 test at the old airfield.

His ambitions remain grand – he wants more victories and to fight for the title – but for now, if fate smiles on him again this weekend, it would mean more than anything.

"If I had the choice, Silverstone would always be No 1 of a race win, of course," he says. "When you go to your home race you feel this extra energy from the crowd, you're just sort of riding this wave."



▲ George Russell's win in Austria was the second of his F1 career

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FORMULA ONE

Russell 'as good as any driver on grid'



George Russell believes he is as good as any driver on the Formula One grid - as the Briton gears up

for his home race at Silverstone on Sunday. On a high from taking advantage of Max Verstappen's late collision with Lando Norris to claim just the second win of his career, Russell (*above*) will seek to land his first British Grand Prix podium this weekend.

"I believe I am as good as anyone," said Russell. "And I think I have proven that in my three years [against Lewis Hamilton at Mercedes]."



FIGHTING TALK: Norris

Lando's pushing to Max

■ by DANIEL MOXON

LANDO NORRIS has warned Max Verstappen he is ready to take their battle to the limit when they meet on the track at Silverstone.

Norris and Verstappen clashed at last weekend's Austrian Grand Prix when the McLaren man was battling his Red Bull rival for the lead.

The coming together saw both drivers pick up punctures, with Norris forced to retire and Verstappen coming home in fifth place after picking up a 10-second penalty for causing the collision.

But Norris heads into his home race on Sunday full of belief he can beat Verstappen.

"I'm very excited for the British Grand Prix," Norris told the Chris Moyles Show on Radio X.

"I reviewed everything, we've gone over stuff, and let's say I won't really change what I did. I was fighting, and that's what we want – we want to fight.

"We're fighting, we both want to win and we're going to push it to the limits – some slightly more than others."

Norris will be one of three Brits heading into the race full of belief that they can deliver the result the home crowd craves.

George Russell took the chequered flag in Austria, while Mercedes chief Toto Wolff is adamant that Lewis Hamilton can win again before he leaves for Ferrari.

Wolff said of his team's chances: "We will have to be at our best to challenge for the podium once again. That is our aim, though."

FORMULA ONE **BRITISH GRAND PRIX** **LANDO HOPE & GLORY**

BY **DANIEL MOXON**

LANDO NORRIS has warned Max Verstappen he is ready to take their battle to the limit on the track at Silverstone.

The pair clashed at Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix when the McLaren man was battling his Red Bull rival for the lead.

The coming together saw both drivers pick up

punctures, with Norris forced to retire and Verstappen coming home in fifth place after picking up a 10 second penalty.

But Norris (left) heads into his home race on Sunday full of belief. "We're fighting, we both want to win and we're going to push it to the limits - some slightly more than others," he said.



THURSDAY 03 JULY: LINKS TO ONLINE COVERAGE

Headline	Media	Links
What you need to know about Ferrari's biggest hope since Leclerc	The Race	https://www.the-race.com/formula-1/what-you-need-to-know-about-ferraris-biggest-hope-since-leclerc/
British teenager Bearman joins Haas for 2025	BBC	https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/formula1/articles/c134014e5djo
Formula 1 partners with Hamilton's Mission 44 charity	Autosport	https://www.autosport.com/f1/news/formula-1-partners-with-hamiltons-charity/10631064/
F1: Silverstone is working to remake itself	The New York Times	https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/04/sports/autoracing/f1-silverstone-track.html
Lewis Hamilton's Mission 44 charity formalise partnership with Formula 1 in continued push for change	Sky Sports	https://www.skysports.com/f1/news/12522/13162953/lewis-hamiltons-mission-44-charity-formalises-partnership-with-formula-1-in-continued-push-for-change
Teenager Ollie Bearman to be fourth British F1 driver after joining Haas	The Guardian	https://www.theguardian.com/sport/article/2024/jul/04/teenager-ollie-bearman-is-fourth-british-f1-driver-after-joining-haas-motor-sport
Andrea Stella questions Christian Horner's 'integrity' after Lando Norris claim	PlanetF1	https://www.planetf1.com/news/andrea-stella-questions-christian-horner-integrity-lando-norris-austria
How Mercedes has escaped its false dawn F1 curse	Autosport	https://www.autosport.com/f1/news/how-mercedes-has-escaped-its-false-dawn-f1-curse/10630992/
British Teen Oliver Bearman signs for Haas F1 team for 2025	Yahoo Sport UK	https://uk.sports.yahoo.com/news/british-teen-oliver-bearman-signs-103849591.html
Is Red Bull losing patience with Perez despite F1 2025 contract?	Motorsport.com	https://www.motorsport.com/f1/news/is-red-bull-losing-patience-with-perez-despite-f1-2025-contract/10630996/
Haas confirms Bearman in 2025 race seat on multi-year deal	RACER	https://racer.com/2024/07/04/haas-confirms-bearman-in-2025-race-seat-on-multi-year-deal/
British teenager Ollie Bearman will race for Haas in 2025	Planet Sport	https://www.planetsport.com/motorsport/news/british-teenager-teenager-ollie-bearman-will-race-for-haas-in-2025
Who will Bearman's Haas team-mate be? (+ why it matters)	The Race	https://www.the-race.com/formula-1/haas-f1-driver-line-up-2025-bearman-ocon-bottas-magnussen/

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Headline	Media	Links
Oliver Bearman interview: I want to step into Lewis Hamilton’s seat at Ferrari	The Telegraph	https://www.telegraph.co.uk/formula-1/2024/07/04/oliver-bearman-interview-i-want-to-step-into-lewis-hamilton/
Austria showed Verstappen shares Schumacher’s best and worst trait	GPFans	https://www.gpfans.com/en/f1-news/1024384/max-verstappen-michael-schumacher-comparison-austrian-gp-crash/
F1 News: Haas Signs Nico Hulkenberg replacement ahead of British GP	Sport Illustrated	https://www.si.com/fannation/racing/f1briefings/news/f1-news-haas-signs-nico-hulkenberg-replacement-ahead-of-british-gp-01j1ymjzy0v5
Formula 1: Major staff overhaul could follow a transformational trend	Beyond the Flag	https://beyondtheflag.com/posts/formula-1-major-staff-overhaul-williams-follow-transformational-trend-mclaren-alpine-01j1v3z3c4gf
F2 racer Hadjar to make FP1 appearance for Red Bull as junior takes over Perez’s car at Silverstone	F1	https://www.formula1.com/en/latest/article/f2-racer-hadjar-to-make-fp1-appearance-for-red-bull-as-junior-takes-over.1iD1jOBGZcKUbnDdC17i9Q
Lack of upgrades holding Williams back – Sargeant	RaceFans	https://www.racefans.net/2024/07/04/racefans-round-up-04-07-7/
Max Verstappen’s position becomes clear on spat between Christian Horner and dad Jos	The Mirror	https://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/formula-1/jos-verstappen-horner-red-bull-33164242
Daniel Ricciardo backs Max Verstappen with “blown out of proportion” verdict	Crash.net	https://www.crash.net/f1/news/1051665/1/daniel-ricciardo-backs-max-verstappen-blown-out-proportion-verdict
Horner provides update on Ricciardo-Lawson situation at RB	RacingNews 365	https://racingnews365.com/horner-refuses-opportunity-to-rule-out-ricciardo-lawson-rb-switch