

# LETTERS

## Texan hospitality

How great to see a new Formula One venue packed out with fans. So often new circuits get built in countries that don't know or care about the sport, and it was refreshing to see so many people turn out in Austin. It makes it look much better on TV, and somehow that makes the race seem to matter more.

It was also nice to see the drivers such as Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel make an effort with special helmets to show their respect to the crowd.

I keep a list of F1 races I'd like to visit. I've now added the Circuit of the Americas to it.

**Jack Atkinson**  
Bristol

## Not tired

There seemed a lot of doom and gloom before the United States Grand Prix about Pirelli bringing tyres that were too conservative. Well, it turned out to be a fantastic move.

Tyres that took ages to get up to speed meant there were more changes of position around the pit stops, and the hard tyres allowed drivers to push flat-out throughout the race. There was none of this nursing performance to make the tyres last that we've seen in the past few races this year.

Is it any wonder that Lewis Hamilton, a man who loves to push flat-out, won the race?

**Gary Bonds**  
Via email



MN, Nov 14: Breen's title win

## Brilliant Breen

What a performance by Craig Breen to claim this year's Super 2000 World Rally Championship (MN, November 14). After what he's been through this season simply returning to rallying was a great achievement: winning a title is spectacular.

I sincerely hope that Breen does find the backing to step up to the next level. He is clearly a special talent, and Ireland should be very proud of him. The whole country should get behind him to make sure he can go all the way to the main World Rally Championship in the next few years.

**Thomas Evans**  
Via email

## So long Solberg

I fear we may have seen the end of Petter Solberg in the World Rally Championship. Certainly with VW and Citroën now full his prospects seem bleak if he really won't pay for a drive (MN, November 14).

Solberg is one of those drivers who has never really realised his full potential, in my mind. He must be so frustrated that Subaru fell off the pace so quickly in 2005, when Solberg was at his prime as a driver and should have been trading rally wins and titles with Sébastien Loeb.

I remember watching Solberg take his first win on Rally GB in 2002, and then winning the title a year later. It felt at the time like watching the emergence of a bright, new prospect who would redefine the sport. Looking back, it now seems a bit of a false dawn while I should have been paying attention to Loeb.

**Henry Thompson**  
Via email

## Cash for crash

I find it quite disgraceful that NASCAR champion Jeff Gordon deliberately drove into Clint Bowyer at Phoenix (MN, November 14), causing a multiple car pile-up.

That he only received a \$100,000 [£62,000] fine and a 25-point deduction is even worse. We also saw Pastor Maldonado drive into Sergio Pérez in practice at the Monaco Grand Prix this year. He only got a ten-place grid penalty.

Motorsport is dangerous enough without drivers deliberately driving into their fellow competitors. If the penalties are small, the drivers will continue doing it and the consequences could be tragic.

The governing bodies need to be much tougher on this sort of driving. Only race bans will do.

**Chris Boor**  
Ealing

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