



Will the bulls charge in Europe?

This weekend should see another fevered challenge between the top two rivals around the streets of Valencia.

ROUND nine of the grand prix season takes us to almost halfway through the season and the championship is beautifully poised.

The top five drivers, Lewis Hamilton, Jenson Button, Fernando Alonso, Sebastian Vettel and Mark Webber, all have between 109 and 90 points.

This week rivals McLaren and Red Bull are copying each other's respective advantages.

Red Bull has a blown diffuser which uses its exhaust gases to accelerate air through the diffuser, but doesn't yet have an 'F-duct' like McLaren, which blows turbulent air onto the rear wing, causing it to stall and thereby reducing drag.

This weekend's results will depend on who

makes the greatest technical advance in the short-est space of time.

The pace of development is hot and the competition is relentless to determine the top qualifier and the first driver to the chequered flag.

We should be in for an excellent race between Hamilton, Button, Vettel and Webber, with the vastly improved Ferraris of Alonso and Felipe Massa in much closer contention.

Until Mercedes finds a lot more speed, Michael Schumacher and Nico Rosberg will do no better than mounting a challenge or being beaten by the improving Renaults.

Other interesting news is that it has been confirmed that KERS will make a comeback in 2011, giving drivers the same option of gaining 60KW 6.7 seconds.

With this comes a new minimum weight, with driver but without fuel, of 640kg.

TV times: Friday practice 1 is at 9.50am on SS1; practice

2 at 1.50pm on SS1.

Saturday practice 3 is at 10.50am on SS7, with qualifying at 1.45pm on SS7.

Sunday's race is at 1.30pm on SS1.

