



All set for Shanghai this Sunday

SEBASTIAN Vettel, who won here last year and is presently the fastest man on four wheels, must start as favourite for this weekend's Chinese grand prix at Shanghai.

However, reliability will be a key factor and the weather could also play a role.

Vettel managed a win in wet conditions last year but there are a number of other wet weather experts who could snatch victory.

The news off the net this week is that Ross Brawn believes Mercedes can close the performance gap and the factory team is working very hard back at Brackley to do just that.

CEO Nick Fry says Mercedes must not be written off yet as it has a powerful team with good resources and two excellent drivers.

He is very pleased with Nico Rosberg's performance so far and is expecting Michael Schumacher's results to get progressively better.

Meanwhile, at McLaren both Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button are very pleased with the new MP4-25 car which is being improved race by race.

Hamilton says it is the best car he has ever driven and Button is also pleasantly surprised at how close the championship race is, despite the

wide based points scoring system.

He added that he is very motivated this year, with a good team and competitive car.

The FIA has declared that any ride height altering devices are illegal and Red Bull has said its cars are in the clear in this regard.

The big news from the FIA however is that they are considering a move from 13 inch to

18 inch wheels next year to entice Michelin back into Formula One. Michelin already makes a large number of 18 inch racing tyres for the sports car series.

Technically, this is a step in the right direction as the present 13 inch Formula One tyre is a compromise tyre compared to the more modern, ultra low profile speciality.

This will result in an improvement in tyre performance but more springing will have to be provided as the old high profile 13 inch tyre formed part of the suspension. It will be an interesting new development.

TV times: practice 1 on Friday at 4am, practice 2 at 8am and practice 3 on Saturday at 8am. Qualifying is at 11am on Saturday and the race is on Sunday at 10am. Catch all the weekend action on SS2.



The Chinese GP should provide an interesting challenge this weekend.