

Ferrari: Hammer us and we'll fight you in court



DRIVERS

Team	Pts
Ferrari	54
Williams	27
Williams	23
Ferrari	12
McLaren	9
Renault	8

way to Michael if Michael is in a better position to go for the championship. That's why Rubens had no complaint."

Ferrari point out that even Williams

are not whiter than white. They were implicated in a plot with McLaren to beat Ferrari in the decisive 1997 European Grand Prix at Jerez.

Another former Grand Prix driver, Mark Blundell, now a pundit on ITV, echoed his rival Watson's sentiments.

Blundell said: "I don't see them banning Ferrari. There's nothing in the regulations to stop them doing what they did. The only factor I would bring

up is that they did it on the last corner, which took a bit of the spirit of the sport away.

"I think Ferrari made it worse for themselves by not making it clear before the event what they were going to do. If they'd come clean it wouldn't have seemed so bad."

Watson suggests the rumpus could, ironically, boost Formula One.

"At a time when Formula One is supposedly becoming boring we've suddenly got people talking about it," he said. "This has got people's emotions boiling and there will be even more interest in Schumacher and Ferrari at Monte Carlo.

"Michael didn't like the reaction in Austria but I think he had no choice in doing what he did. Next week he'll be determined to win on merit and he probably will."

PISTON BLOW FOR MANSELL

A NEW Mansell's drive into the record books has been held up - by a piston.

Scott Mansell, 16, who like 1992 world champion Nigel hails from the Midlands, but is no relation, was set to become the youngest ever driver in the NDS EuroBOSS series for ex-Formula One and other veteran high-powered cars at Brands Hatch today.

But his car, Christian Fittipaldi's 1991 Formula 3000 championship-winning Reynard Mugen, has been withdrawn because father Kevin can't get the necessary part in time. So now Mansell, who sat

his German GCSE and received his international racing licence last week, can concentrate on the rest of his exams and look forward to entering the record books at Ireland's Mondello Park next month.

Mansell, who aims to follow his illustrious namesake into Formula One, said: "It's disappointing to have to pull out of Brands so late but we'll have the car ready for the next race.

"I'm going to need three or four years' experience if I'm to achieve my Formula One ambition and this series is the ideal proving ground. It's very fast and competitive."