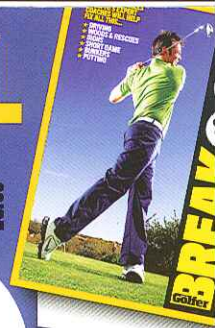


FREE 32-PAGE TUITION SPECIAL

Today's

# Golfer



WWW.TODAYSGOLFER.CO.UK

TOP TUITION

## SAVE YOUR GAME

HOW TO UNLOCK BETTER SCORES...

- ★ AIM STRAIGHT ★ TEE-SHOT TIPS ★
- ★ STOP DUFFS ★ JUDGE DISTANCE ★
- ★ HIT A TARGET ★ PLAN AHEAD ★
- ★ SEND THREE-PUTTS PACKING ★

SPECIAL TEST

### EXPERIENCE VERSUS POWER...

Can the 'older chap' show the 'young smashers' a thing or two?

**SCOOP!**  
**R9 IRONS**  
SEE TAYLORMADE'S  
SEXY NEW CLUBS

**YOUR NEW-  
LOOK MAG!**

**STOP THE ROT**

**YOUR TOTAL  
GAME PLAN**

Improve in all areas NOW!

**GET READY**

**FAIRWAY  
WOODS TEST**

The right kit to save shots

**GO AND PLAY**

**TOP TRACKS  
AT LOW COST**

Bumper courses guide

LEARN FROM BEST

**JUST HOW  
GOOD ARE  
TOP PROS?**

European Tour star plays a 'normal' course and rips it to shreds!

**GREEN FEE DEALS: AWESOME COURSES FROM £7.50!**





RUBENS BARRICHELLO

# LIFE IN THE VERY FAST LANE

Formula One star Rubens Barrichello is enjoying an Indian summer in 2009. But could the super-slick Brazilian top the TG20 podium?

BY KEVIN BROWN  
PHOTOGRAPHY HOWARD BOYLAN

**T**he trim golfer's tanned forearms and small hands send ball after ball to within a couple of feet of the flag as he assiduously practises his chipping in the calm of a late summer's day on the sparkling Portuguese coast.

It is an impressive demonstration of hand-eye co-ordination and efficiency... but such skill and nerve should hardly come as a surprise. This man is, after all, used to screeching round the Formula One tracks of the world at speeds touching 220mph.

His is an existence where the slightest miscalculation or the merest twitch can cost lives, starting with his own.

So when you're used to roaring round the infamous Eau Rouge corner at Spa in Belgium – a piece of road which we'd all be advised to take at a steady 40mph – at something approaching 190mph, getting the chipping yips prior to your match against TG simply isn't on the agenda for men like F1 legend Rubens Barrichello.

Indeed, just three days earlier those same

small hands were fixed to the wheel of a Brawn-Mercedes as he guided his supersonic dream machine to victory at the European Grand Prix in Valencia – his first F1 win for five years.

But if TG thought the 10 handicapper's long-awaited triumph in Spain might have sated the Brazilian's appetite for victory for a while and lessen his urge for success on the golf course, we were soon put right.

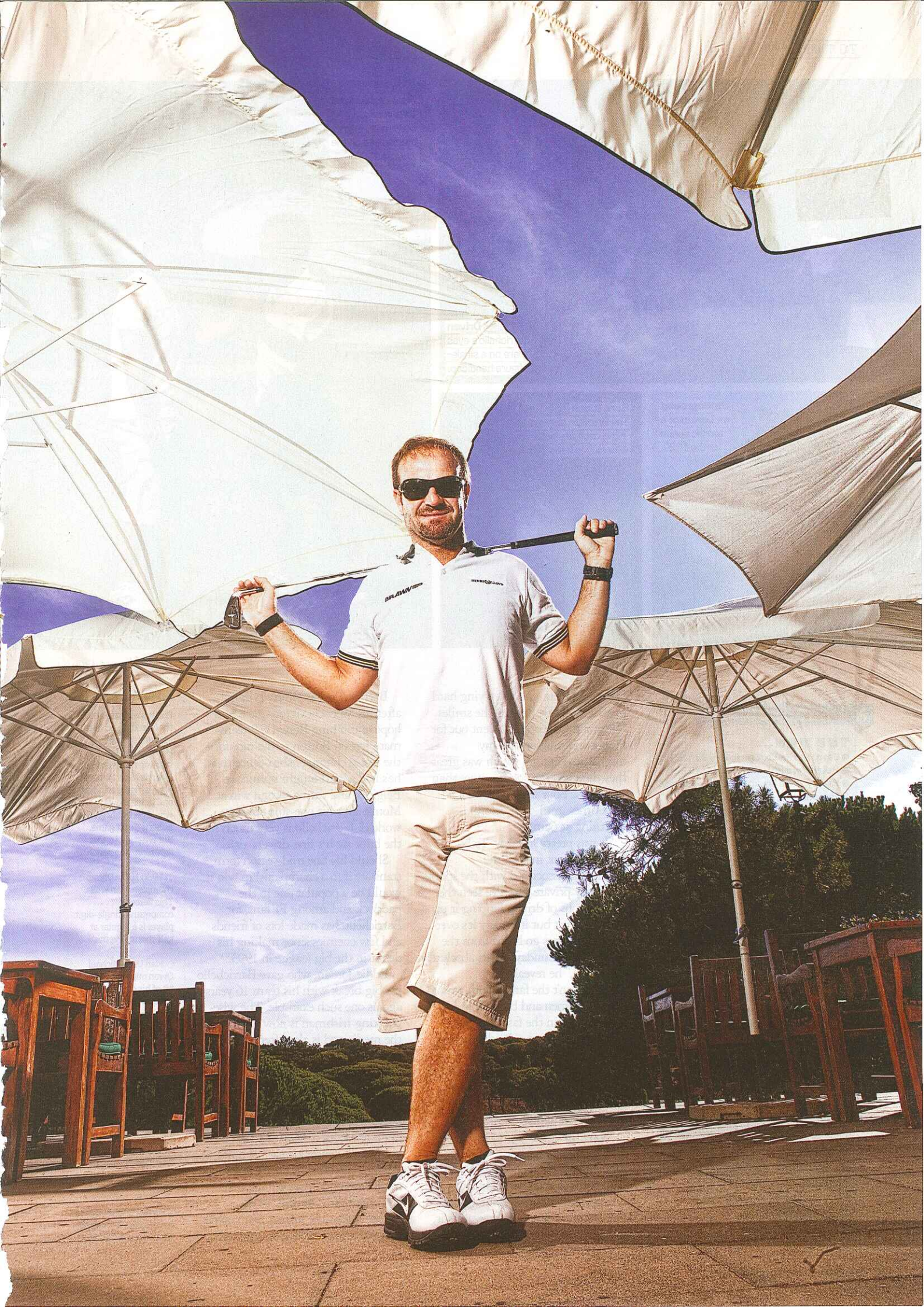
"I just don't like to lose... even if it's the toss of a coin!" he quickly emphasises.

That message was ringing in TG's ears as we prepared to tackle the stunning San Lorenzo course in the Algarve... having lost the toss to see who hits first!

The 37-year-old showed no signs of having overdone the champagne celebrations after ending his victory drought. He seemed cool, calm and fighting fit.

"It was a great weekend, my first win since my time with Ferrari and my 10th overall. It was so good to reach double- ➤









**Driven**  
Barrichello's eyes  
are on a single-  
figure handicap.



**Battleground**  
San Lorenzo: a  
terrific venue  
for the TG20.



**Sure touch**  
The Brazilian displays  
his customary poise  
with club in hand.



**Friends reunited**  
Jordan and  
Barrichello enjoy  
themselves on the  
course.

## ALL ABOUT RUBENS

### THE MAN...

- **Born:** Sao Paulo, Brazil, May 23, 1972
- **Height/weight:** 5ft 6.5in/11st 0.3lb
- **Family:** Wife Silvana and sons Eduardo & Fernando
- **Hobbies:** Golf, karting, tenpin bowling & videogames

### THE DRIVER...

**Current team:** Brawn-Mercedes  
**Previous teams:** Jordan, Stewart, Ferrari and Honda  
**Car number:** 23  
**Races:** 279 starts  
**Grand Prix debut:** South African GP at Kyalami 1993  
**Best World Championship position:** 2nd in 2002 & 2004  
**First win:** Germany 2000  
**Last win:** European GP at Valencia 2009  
**Podiums:** 67 Pole positions: 13  
**GP wins:** 10 Points: 584  
**Other career highlights:** 3rd in F1 World Championship in 2001, 4th in 2000; 3rd in Formula 3000 Championship in 1992; 5 times Brazilian Kart champion



figures – but in golf I'm trying hard to achieve single figures," he smiles. "How did I celebrate? I went out for dinner and saw some of my mechanics later on, which was great – they deserved the success more than me. Those boys worked flat out, sometimes until 4am before returning at 6am!

"It was pretty low-key. To be honest, I'm not into all the razamatazz associated with the sport. I'm a very private guy. I've seen the photographs of drivers lapping it up off the circuit but in reality it's overhyped – drivers go home from the race track on Sunday nights absolutely exhausted," he reveals.

So it wasn't the fame, glory, untold wealth, women and booze that lured him to a life in the fast lane then?

"The best, most enjoyable part of my job is the speed. It's better even than sex," he insists. "There's nothing to beat it, especially when you're cornering or doing over 200mph down the straights.

"Sometimes crazy people do those speeds on the road but I recommend they stick to the race track," he quips. "But the fact you can clock about 190mph into a corner is incredible and even now after all these years it still gives me a huge buzz."

Barrichello was clearly buzzing after his Valencia victory gave him hope of catching Brawn GP teammate Jenson Button in the race for the world championship. Since then, he's had a hard-fought seventh in Belgium and then a second win at Monza after his one-stop strategy worked. Barrichello is very much in the hunt for his first drivers' title.

Should his fine mid-season form translate into a championship win it would be a popular one in the paddock and among F1 fans, for Barrichello has made lots of friends and few enemies since making his debut in the big league in 1993.

Eddie Jordan, who gave Barrichello his big break with his team 16 years ago, is one such example. The wise-cracking Irishman is now working in the media and is also after a slice of Barrichello to use as a race preview.

Indeed, such is their enduring friendship that Jordan had stayed overnight at his former employee's nearby holiday home (Barrichello's main residence is Monaco). He could not resist a gentle joke at his host's expense however: "Rubens, you've got more Ferraris in your garage than you've got pints of milk in the fridge!" quips the former team owner.

Interview with Jordan completed, ➤

## Speedy golfers

Rubens reckons he's the best of the current F1 golfers (Lewis Hamilton is just starting the game) but legends Nigel Mansell (single-figure handicap) and Jackie Stewart would certainly give Rubens a stiff game. But what about this lightning-fast bunch...?

● 1980 100m Olympic champion Alan Wells. This fiercely-competitive single-digit player is a regular at golf charity events.

● Man Utd's Michael Owen might have lost a bit of his old searing pace but he's a seriously good golfer. He had his first lesson aged seven and plays off five.

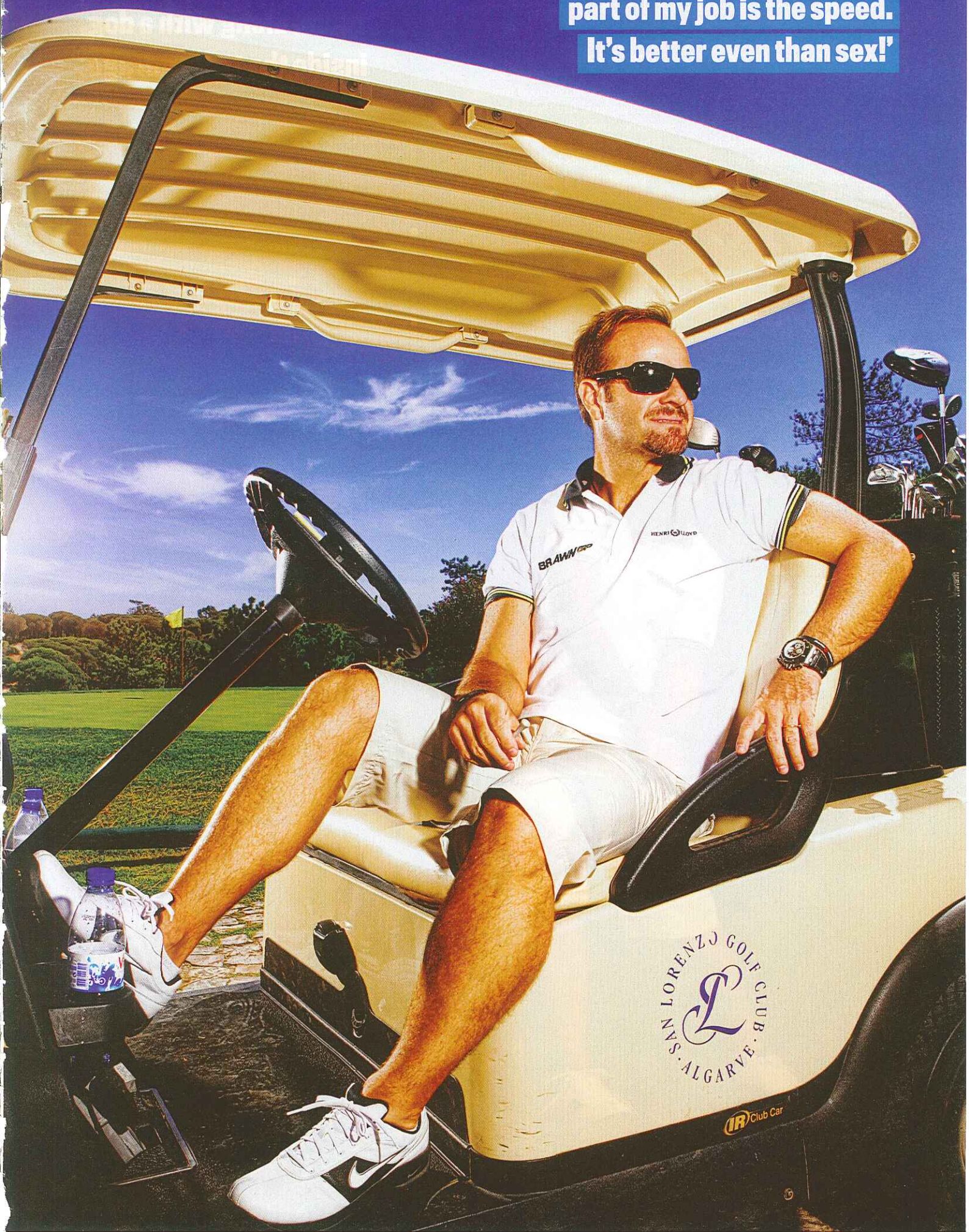
● England fast bowler Steve Harmison plays off 10 at Longhirst Hall, Northumberland.

● 2000 Olympic heptathlon champion Denise Lewis is a recent recruit to the game – she even has a mini-course in her garden!

● Former speedway ace Dave Jessup is tough to beat off a five handicap.



**'The best, most enjoyable  
part of my job is the speed.  
It's better even than sex!'**





we jumped into our buggy – and there are no prizes for guessing who got behind the wheel. Never has travelling at a top speed of 10mph ever seemed so exciting. For Barrichello, probably less so, although he did later reveal: “I once spun a buggy 180°.”

He escaped unscathed – unlike the horrific qualifying crash which nearly claimed his life at San Marino in 1994.

When he woke in hospital with head and spinal injuries as well as a fractured right arm his hero and mentor, fellow countryman Ayrton Senna, was at his bedside.

Tragically Senna himself suffered a fatal crash in the GP itself two days later. Rubens admits: “That was the greatest loss of my life. Ayrton was my guide, my joy in racing and I probably haven’t recovered from that tragedy though actually getting back into the car and stepping on the gas again wasn’t too much of a problem.”

Indeed: the gutsy Barrichello was back on the track that season.

Competing in a sport where fatalities are almost

expected probably helps to keep a perspective on golfing frustrations.

Barrichello certainly found it easy to bounce back after ‘blobbing’ the opening hole (the 10th as we started on the back nine) dropping just one stroke over the next two holes.

TG20 was in no mood to wave the chequered flag though and after another ‘blob’ from the F1 ace at the par-3 14th, TG forges into a two Stableford points lead.

Barrichello isn’t fazed by adversity though. Take his early racing days for instance. “I had to sleep in a makeshift room, along with a dog, inside the team garage,” he recalls. “I also had to compete using my father’s driver’s licence because I was under-age (17) and unable to get my own licence.”

Three decades later, over half of that in F1, and he is the most experienced driver in the sport (he overtook

Riccardo Patrese’s record of 256 last year and is now bearing down on the 300-race mark). He had to wait until the German GP in 2000 to register his first F1 win but has now

## I had to sleep in a makeshift room, along with a dog, inside the team garage.

### Seven things you didn’t know about Rubens...

- He’s obviously good at computer racing games – and at the Guitar Hero game!
- He’s Brazilian so inevitably he’s a big football fan – and of one of the top teams in his homeland, Corinthians, in particular.
- Both his father and his paternal grandfather are called Rubens – and in fact he shares his father’s birthday of May 23.
- He has a tattoo with the initials FE on his right bicep to remind him of sons Fernando and Eduardo.
- He has almost 175,000 followers on Twitter. You can follow him at <http://twitter.com/rubarrichello>
- He owns an Embraer Legacy 600 plane and his pilot is his brother-in-law Christian.
- His lucky number is 11 – the number on his kart when he won his first-ever race.

racked up the fourth-highest points total in the sport’s history.

His days at Ferrari alongside Michael Schumacher helped them to five constructors’ titles. But for many, his Ferrari career is best remembered for him being instructed to let Schumacher pass him on the final lap in Austria. It was galling for Barrichello because it happened early in the season when he still had every chance of winning the title (eventually won, of course, by the German).

Seven years on, the pain is still there. “That’s in the past, there’s no need to push too much into that,” he insists.

“It was bad for the sport, bad for him (Schumacher). It changed the sport forever. New rules were brought in, so that kind of thing can’t happen any more – otherwise you can get a ban – and that includes my battle with team-mate Jenson for this year’s title.

“Of course Jenson and I are rivals. We usually say we love each other off the circuit but hate one another on it. It’s a nice and healthy rivalry.”

As exciting as his return to the winner’s circle has been this season, Barrichello has also had some bad times. In Hungary rival driver – but close friend – Felipe Massa was hit on the helmet by a loose spring from Barrichello’s car, sustaining a fractured skull and eye damage.

“Fortunately he’s alright and is the same guy,” he says. “I prayed a lot – with head injuries you never know – though I never felt it was my fault, just one of those things that happen in racing.”

It’s another example of Barrichello’s admirable mental strength, one of the few things which is important in both of his two sporting passions.







**Who's who?**  
One cool F1 driver,  
one TG writer.



**Homeward bound**  
Barrichello lines up a  
putt on the back  
nine.

## Tale of the scorecard

TG was quick off the grid but couldn't pip the F1 ace

### Hole 2 (11th of match)

TG's solid short iron hits the rake in front of a bunker and rebounds back towards the team. Two points each.

### Hole 3 (12th of match)

Great drive from Barrichello but a poor approach sees him settle for a bogey. A scrappy point for TG.

### Hole 6 (15th of match)

Another superb Barrichello drive is ruined by another wayward approach which ends up in greenside bushes.

### Hole 8 (17th of match)

Water trouble for Barrichello off the tee. However, TG fails to capitalise by finding the wet stuff by the green.

SCORECARD											
MENS						LADIES					
WHITE	YELLOW	PAR	SCORE	STROKE	DIFF	WHITE	YELLOW	PAR	SCORE	STROKE	DIFF
1	494	473	5	7		1	440	5	7		
2	162	133	3	15		2	111	3	15		
3	334	296	4	13		3	257	4	13		
4	330	318	4	9		4	289	4	9		
5	129	108	3	17		5	96	3	17		
6	386	365	4	1		6	298	4	1		
7	345	328	4	11		7	299	4	11		
8	525	495	5	3		8	465	5	3		
9	366	352	4	5		9	312	4	5		
TOTAL	3080	2868	36			TOTAL	2567	36			
TIME ALLOWED TO PLAY 18 HOLES: 4hrs 15min. OR LESS 7 hrs. 10 min. OR LESS						DISTANCE IN METRES					
10	519	492	5	12		10	385	5	12		
11	350	336	4	16		11	280	4	16		
12	395	368	4	2		12	349	4	2		
13	359	337	4	8		13	308	4	8		
14	157	143	3	18		14	133	3	18		
15	482	472	5	6		15	405	5	6		
16	190	172	3	14		16	121	3	16		
17	344	317	4	10		17	296	4	10		
18	371	349	4	4		18	327	4	4		
IN	3167	2986	36			IN	2604	36			
TOTAL	3080	2868	36			TOTAL	2567	36			
TOTAL	6247	5854	72			TOTAL	5171	72			
MENS S.S.S.						LADIES S.S.S.					
WHITE	73					RED	73				
YELLOW	72					YELLOW	74				
HANDICAP						HANDICAP					
10:17						28:26					

### Hole 10 (1st of match)

We start at the 10th in a full-handicap Stableford. A two-point bogey for TG, a blob for Barrichello.

### Hole 11 (2nd of match)

It's quickly back to level after TG's approach finds sand and requires three shots to get out.

### Hole 12 (3rd of match)

TG hits back in style with a 20ft putt from off the green to make par and gain three unexpected points.

### Hole 15 (6th of match)

After Barrichello bashes his ball OB on the par-3 14th, TG four-putts this par 5 to secure a meagre point.

Because while Barrichello loves fast cars – on and off the race track – he's got just as much passion for golf. Whenever he's got some spare time on his hands, there's a fair chance Barrichello can be found on a course near to whichever track in the world he is near at that time.

Beginning the back nine, he moved through his golfing gears, dropping just one shot on the opening four holes to forge a point clear. Although he tired in the closing stages, TG ran out of gas completely with pointless holes at 16 and 17 proving costly. And with the end in sight, Barrichello hit a terrific drive up the last to set him up for a closing par to secure a creditable if unspectacular 28 points tally and clinch the match by two. Even a man who has won two GPs this season could not suppress a wry smile as he accepted the famous TG £20 note.

### Fast golf feats

- In 1992 John Daly (who else?) and Mark Calcavecchia were fined by the US Tour for playing the final round of the Players' Championship in 123 minutes, Daly scoring 80 and 'Calc' 81.
- The fastest round ever was by James Carvill who clocked 27mins 9secs in 1987 at Warrenpoint, Northern Ireland!
- Fastest round by more than one person (but same ball) was in 1992 in Arizona. It took 11 mins 24secs with 91 golfers positioned around the course ready to hit the ball as soon as it stopped.

Money claimed, Barrichello's thoughts turned back to his day job. Well, he had no choice – TG quizzed him on what it's like being on the grid moments before it's 'green for go'.

"It's difficult to explain because it's a unique feeling but I guess it must be like someone calling out your name on the 1st tee of a Major in golf."

There are so many imponderables in F1 though – it is not just a case of driving well... your car can let you down. So how has the man who's done more laps in F1 than anyone else kept his cool down the years?

"You have 100 components in the car that will or won't work when you're driving and again it's pretty comparable to golf because anything can happen with your swing," he says.

"You've got to set limits and you've got to be patient. Sometimes if the car isn't good you've got to be realistic and

settle for, say, third place a good result in the circumstances.

"I can't understand drivers throwing their helmets around if things haven't worked out. It's very sad.

"You have to keep your composure and learn from the difficulties. I should know: for the past three years I've had bad cars but right now I'm in a good one. But I only have a good one because one day I believed I would be back winning again."

Barrichello kept the faith when others would have given up, and retired to the golf course in his mid 30s. Now he has a chance of achieving his dream – the world championship.

"I have some good races in me, I showed that in Valencia. Speed is in my blood. I don't know what I'll do when I eventually stop racing."

I've a sneaky suspicion a few rounds of golf might be on the agenda....



## Nearest the pin...

Rubens does the double

Barrichello completed a memorable TG20 'double' by winning our long-running celebrities' nearest-the-pin challenge. He came within inches of aching San Lorenzo's 133-yard 2nd, pipping Olympic sailor Ben Ainslie on the line.

Now the signed memorabilia donated by our opponents will be auctioned off with the proceeds to Barrichello's chosen charity – the Brazilian-based Instituto Barrichello Kanaan which helps vulnerable children and families.

The auction will be held at [www.todaysgolfer.co.uk/20auction](http://www.todaysgolfer.co.uk/20auction) from October 15 and the

fantastic prizes up for grabs include:

- ★ Rubens' signed Brawn cap
- ★ Clive Woodward signed book
- ★ David Platt signed Sampdoria shirt.

And there's loads more... get online and bid! ■ TG travelled courtesy of Aer Lingus who operate daily flights from Gatwick to Faro. One-way fares start from £24.99 incl. taxes. Visit [www.aerlingus.com](http://www.aerlingus.com) or call 0870 8765000.

