Lewis Hamilton beats Max Verstappen to head field for debut F1 Sprint

Watch how Lewis Hamilton secured first place for the first Sprint of the season at Silverstone.

Lewis Hamilton wrestled back some much-needed momentum from Max Verstappen by beating his rival in qualifying for the British GP, which will see the home favourite head the field for Saturday's maiden F1 Sprint.

In an epic and unique Friday evening qualifying session that sets the grid for the short Saturday race - rather than Sunday's showpiece Grand Prix - Hamilton delighted the packed grandstands with a scintillating Silverstone display, outqualifying Verstappen by 0.075seconds despite a last-lap error.

"That was an important statement," bellowed Martin Brundle, with Hamilton having slipped 32 points behind Verstappen in the championship.

"This is down to the fans," said Hamilton, who moved Hamilton in front of 90,000 spectators.

"That first [Q3] lap was great. The second one was looking even better but just lost the back end in that last corner, so my heart was in my mouth as I crossed the line.

"But I could see the crowd and it was really reminiscent of my first pole here in 2007."

While Hamilton is not credited with an eighth Silverstone pole - with that honour awarded for the winner of Saturday's Sprint - he stopped Verstappen's three-race streak of qualifying victories, and has put himself in the perfect position to land more blows to Red Bull, winners of the last five races, over a bumper weekend.

The debut 17-lap F1 Sprint - live on Sky Sports F1 from 4.30pm on Saturday - will set the grid for Sunday's British GP.

Valtteri Bottas qualified third and just a tenth off Verstappen in the other Mercedes, who have hit back at Red Bull with their upgraded package.

Perhaps critically, Sergio Perez could only manage fifth for Red Bull after having his last lap deleted for track limits, with an in-form Charles Leclerc instead taking a second-row start for the F1 Sprint.

Hamilton, meanwhile, was by no means not the only British driver to shine at Silverstone.

George Russell and Lando Norris look back at qualifying and preview what to expect from tomorrow's Sprint as both British drivers were delighted to hear the roar of the British crowd.

McLaren's Lando Norris, after a incredibly difficult week, qualified sixth while George Russell was arguably the star of the show as he nailed his best-ever qualifying result, an astonishing eighth in the Williams.

Russell, a Mercedes junior, had the adoring home fans on their feet as he got through to Q3 for the second straight race, and did so again when outpacing Carlos Sainz and Sebastian Vettel in the final shootout.

Returning to an iconic Silverstone circuit filled with fans for the first time in two years, Hamilton more than played up to his home crowd.

Coming into qualifying not just on the back of Verstappen domination in Austria, but also in Friday's only practice session as the Red Bull driver held a 0.7s advantage, Hamilton built himself up through the shootout and unleashed pace.

Just behind Verstappen in Q1 but then edging ahead in Q2, Hamilton saved his best for Q3.

Lewis Hamilton edged past Max Verstappen in British GP qualifying to start in first place for the debut F1 Sprint.

He held a 0.172s advantage over his title rival after the first laps and then was on an even faster effort before running slightly wide through the closing corners. That, as Hamilton explained, led to a nervy final seconds as Verstappen, behind him on track, finished his last lap.

But Verstappen, flustered for the first time in a long while as he struggled with car setup, could not match him - and Hamilton and Mercedes now look a fierce force for the rest of the British GP weekend. Red Bull, meanwhile, have work to do - but at least have Verstappen on the front row in the F1 Sprint, which leaves teams and drivers with intriguing decisions.

The 17-lap race could be the ultimate case of risk versus reward, with the potential for mistakes that could leave drivers at the back of the grid for the main race on Sunday, against the potential for movements up the field.

The 149th Open: Louis Oosthuizen sets new scoring record of 129 after second-round 65

Louis Oosthuizen's record-breaking performance over the first 36 holes has earned him a two-shot lead at the halfway stage of The 149th Open.

Louis Oosthuizen met the challenge of debutant Collin Morikawa with a record-breaking performance earning the South African a two-shot lead at the halfway stage of The 149th Open.

Morikawa would have harboured high hopes of heading into the weekend at Royal St George's on top of the leaderboard after defying his lack of Open experience to fire a seven-birdie 64 to set the early clubhouse target at nine under par.

Last year's PGA champion was three shots clear of the field when he signed his card, but Oosthuizen prospered in the afternoon session under clear blue skies and with precious little wind to contend with, adding a 65 to his opening 64 to become the first player in Open history to shoot 129 over the first two rounds.

Jordan Spieth's 67 left him three adrift of the leader after 36 holes, while world No 1 Dustin Johnson added to the glut of sub-70 scores among the later starters, a birdie at the last capping a 65 that got him to seven under.

Pre-tournament favourite Jon Rahm powered into contention with a 64 and four-time major winner Brooks Koepka is also within touching distance of the leader, but Rory McIlroy and Bryson DeChambeau are 11 and 12 shots behind respectively as both had to scramble hard just to make the cut.

England's stars of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar: Seven players who could get Three Lions over the line

The hangovers have subsided. Regarding matters on the pitch, the dust has settled. The heartache of England's defeat in the final of Euro 2020 lingers on, but with Qatar 2022 appearing on the horizon there is cause for optimism.

A mere 493 days stand between Gareth Southgate's squad and the opportunity of redemption at next year's World Cup, where the hope is that, with another year of development under their belts, the Three Lions can win a major international tournament for the first time since 1966.

With seven of the 11 players who featured in England's semi-final defeat to Croatia at the 2018 World Cup starting Sunday's Euro 2020 final against Italy, Southgate has shown faith in a core group of players but also a willingness to introduce new faces into his England set-up.

Injuries permitting, the likes Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling and Harry Maguire could pack their bags for Qatar right now, but to think the England squad is a closed shop would be wrong.

Included in Southgate's provisional squad for Euro 2020 after an impressive domestic campaign with Manchester United, Greenwood was cruelly robbed of a place at this summer's tournament by injury just nine days before it got underway.

How England would have fared with the 19-year-old's ice cold, razor-sharp, precision finishing at their disposal, particularly in the tense final stages of the final against Italy, will never be known.

One thing that is certain, however, is that Greenwood will be on the plane to Qatar if he can continue on the upward trajectory his career has taken in recent years, for a fit and firing Greenwood not only frightens defence but helps shoulder the burden of Kane and Sterling.

A day after being named in England's final 26-man squad, Alexander-Arnold's Euro 2020 dreams were snatched away by a serious muscle tear on the eve of the tournament. Southgate labelled the incident "heart-breaking" and he wasn't overdoing it.

The Liverpool defender had come through a challenging club campaign and fought back into contention for his country following his omission from the England squad earlier in 2021, only to be denied the chance to prove himself on the biggest stage.

Alexander-Arnold can take heart from the fact that he knows he features in Southgate's plans for the future. England's deployment of a 3-4-3 wing-back formation is ideally suited to the right-back's attributes, and a starring role in a redemptive season with Liverpool will surely seal his ticket to Qatar.

Another Liverpool defender struck down by injury was centre-back Gomez, whose knee injury while on England duty in November ended his club season, and any chance of being available for Euro 2020.

The Premier League and Champions League winner's return to fitness would undoubtedly strengthen Southgate's defensive options and would help facilitate the deployment of a four- or three-man defence, while providing healthy competition with Harry Maguire and John Stones.

If Gomez can rediscover the form which help get Liverpool win the Premier League the season before last, and perhaps help wrestle the title back to Anfield this coming season, a place in England's travelling party to Qatar will surely follow.

It was a bittersweet introduction in international tournament football for the Borussia Dortmund midfielder at Euro 2020.

The disappointment of England's crushing final defeat on penalties and Southgate's reluctance to hand him game time past the quarter-final stage was countered by the fact the 18-year-old, who just 17 when the tournament got underway, came away with three caps and 55 minutes under his belt.

In just under an hour of football, however, Bellingham demonstrated just how talented he is, and how promising his future with England could be.

With regular first-team football in the Bundesliga and Champions League at his disposal for the coming season, Bellingham has the platform to challenge Declan Rice and Kalvin Phillips and prove he is worthy of anchoring England's midfield for the years to come, and it could all begin in Qatar.

At the turn of the year there were few players who could boast better numbers or were in better form that Leicester's forward Harvey Barnes.

The 23-year-old's first and only England cap had come in the friendly victory over Wales in October and, by February, he had 13 goals in all competitions to fire the Foxes into Champions League contention.

If anyone was on course to be taken to Euro 2020, it was Barnes, but like so many others, his promising campaign came to a shuddering halt by a season-ending knee injury.

Barnes is now faced with the challenge on rekindling that promising form and staying fit ahead of Qatar 2022, where his qualities in linking midfield and attack, and selfless defensive work, could be valuable assets in England's bid to go one step further.

A surprise, late inclusion to England's 26-man squad for Euro 2020 following Alexander-Arnold's injury, White failed to get on the pitch during the tournament but his experiences training with, and first exposure to the Southgate's squad, will have set him in good stead.

White's ball-playing abilities were cited for his inclusion on the eve of the tournament and it is those attributes which Southgate could call upon in future, with the centre-back's versatility providing both defensive and midfield options.

With a summer move to Arsenal reportedly on the cards, White's stock could rise even higher with another impressive Premier League campaign, so watch this space.

The Everton centre-back was included in Southgate's provisional Euro 2020 squad, during which he earned his first two England caps in the warm-up friendlies against Austria and Romania.

Given England's abundance of right-sided defenders it was virtually impossible for the inexperienced 23-year-old to dislodge some of the most reliable members of Southgate's squad for the tournament finals, but his initial selection should act as proof that his talents are viewed highly by the England manager.

Godfrey's versatility saw him play across Everton's backline last season and will have caught Southgate's attention, but specialising over the coming campaign, nailing down a position and contributing to a successful Everton defence could be all it takes for him to get the nod.

Liam Livingstone hits fastest England ton but Pakistan win thrilling run-fest to start T20 series

Highlights of the first T20 international between England and Pakistan at Trent Bridge.

Liam Livingstone smashed England's fastest-ever T20 century but it came in vain as Pakistan won a thrilling series opener by 31 runs at Trent Bridge.

After Pakistan posted their highest T20 international score of 232-6, England were three down inside five overs only for Livingstone - 103 from 43 balls - to keep them in the game with a stunning 42-ball century that included six fours and a staggering nine sixes.

On a favourable batting pitch and short square boundaries, Babar Azam thumped 85 from 49 balls and Mohammad Rizwan made 63 from 41 in an opening stand of 150 to set the tourists on their way to victory and Shaheen Afridi took 3-30 to put Pakistan 1-0 up in the three-match series.

Although there was early swing for David Willey, Pakistan were soon making the most of near-perfect batting conditions in Nottingham with Babar taking three boundaries off the left-armer's second over and the boundaries flowed from there.

After his brilliant 158 in the third ODI on Tuesday, the tourists' skipper continued in the same vein and more than made up for Rizwan's slow start to take Pakistan to 49-0 at the end of the powerplay.

The runs kept coming and Babar breezed to his 19th T20I fifty from 35 balls and, having suddenly rediscovered his timing, Rizwan was not far behind, sweeping Matt Parkinson for six to bring up the 100 partnership and reaching his own half-century, from 34 balls, in the next over.

Babar and Rizwan had really accelerated after the halfway stage and no bowler was spared so when Lewis Gregory finally dismissed Rizwan with a slower ball into the pitch, they could at least enjoy a moment's respite.

That was all they had though. Sohaib Maqsood (19 from 7) was dropped by Jonny Bairstow first ball and soon made England pay, smashing Tom Curran for successive sixes before holing out later in the same over.

Willey ended Babar's fine knock in the 17th over, a review needed to remove the world's No 2 T20I batsman caught behind, but some brutal hitting from Fakhar Zaman (26 from 8) and Mohammad Hafeez (24 from 10) saw Pakistan sail well past 200 despite a late clatter of wickets.

England lost Dawid Malan (1) to a superb return catch from Shaheen Afridi in the second over of the chase but Jason Roy took down Imad Wasim with three huge sixes in the third to give the chase some early momentum.

Bairstow (11 from 7) added to it by thumping Shaheen over wide long on for another maximum to start the fourth but fell two balls later after top-edging a pull shot and when Moeen Ali (1) departed to a brilliant catch from Haris Rauf as he collided with a team-mate in the deep off Mohammad Hashain, the hosts were three down inside five overs.

Chasing such a big total, there was no time to waste for England and 22 minutes after arriving at the crease, Livingstone had reached his half-century, needing just 17 balls, another England record, and thumping five sixes in the process.

Shadab Khan was on the receiving end of two of those maximums but did manage to account for Roy (32 from 13) in his first over.

The closest the game got to a lull came after Livingstone reached his fifty with Morgan unable to get going at the other end before picking out deep square off Imad in the 12th over and while Livingstone was able to get himself going again after a couple of overs, the support he needed never came.

His record-breaking moment in an innings that epitomised clean hitting came the ball after Gregory (10) had departed, Livingstone nailing Shadab over long on for yet another maximum.

The Lancashire man had no option but to try and go again though and for once in this innings, he did not make the connection he was after, picking out Shaheen at long on to give Shadab (3-52) his third wicket.

Rachael Blackmore: Jockey taken to hospital with upper leg injury after heavy fall at Killarney

Jockey Rachel Blackmore was taken to hospital after suffering an upper leg injury in a heavy fall at Killarney on Friday.

Having steered Baltinglass Hill to a nose victory in the preceding race, the Grand National-winning rider was partnering 11-10 favourite Merry Poppins in the Download The BoyleSports App Handicap Hurdle when parting company at the fifth obstacle.

The 32-year-old was attended to on track by medics before being moved into an ambulance.

The Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board posted an update from Dr Richard Downey on Twitter which read: "Rachael Blackmore is being taken to Tralee Hospital for further assessment on an upper leg injury following a fall in Race 4 at Killarney. She is fully conscious."

In March, Blackmore became the first woman to ride the winner of the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham, aboard the brilliant mare Honeysuckle, and her six winners at the Festival saw her crowned leading jockey.