

= Damon Hill =

Damon Graham Devereux Hill , OBE (born 17 September 1960) is a British former racing driver . He is the son of Graham Hill , and is the only son of a Formula One world champion to win the title . He started racing on motorbikes in 1981 , and after minor success moved on to single @-@ seater racing cars . But although he progressed steadily up the ranks to the International Formula 3000 championship by 1989 , and was often competitive , he never won a race at that level .

Hill became a test driver for the Formula One title @-@ winning Williams team in 1992 . He was promoted to the Williams race team the following year after Riccardo Patrese 's departure and took the first of his 22 victories at the 1993 Hungarian Grand Prix . During the mid @-@ 1990s , Hill was Michael Schumacher 's main rival for the Formula One Drivers ' Championship , which saw the two clash several times on and off the track . Their collision at the 1994 Australian Grand Prix gave Schumacher his first title by a single point . Hill became champion in 1996 with eight wins , but was dropped by Williams for the following season . He went on to drive for the less competitive Arrows and Jordan teams , and in 1998 gave Jordan their first win .

Hill retired from racing after the 1999 season . He has since launched several businesses and has made appearances playing the guitar with celebrity bands . In 2006 , he became president of the British Racing Drivers ' Club , succeeding Jackie Stewart . Hill stepped down from the position in 2011 and was succeeded by Derek Warwick . He presided over the securing of a 17 @-@ year contract for Silverstone to hold Formula One races , which enabled the circuit to see extensive renovation work . Hill currently works as part of the Sky Sports F1 broadcasting team .

= = Personal and early life = =

Hill was born in Hampstead , London , to Graham and Bette Hill . Graham Hill was a racing driver in the international Formula One series . He won the world drivers ' championship in 1962 and 1968 and became a well @-@ known personality in the United Kingdom . Graham Hill 's career provided a comfortable living . By 1975 the family lived in a " 25 @-@ room country mansion " in Hertfordshire and Damon attended the independent The Haberdashers ' Aske 's Boys ' School . The death of his father in an aeroplane crash in 1975 left the 15 @-@ year @-@ old Hill , his mother , and sisters Samantha and Brigitte in drastically reduced circumstances . Hill worked as a labourer and a motorcycle courier to support his further education .

Hill is married to Susan George (' Georgie ' ? born 29 April 1961) and they have four children : Oliver (born 4 March 1989) , Joshua (born 9 January 1991) , Tabitha (born 19 July 1995) and Rosie (born 1 February 1998) . Oliver was born with Down 's syndrome and Hill and Georgie are both patrons of the Down 's Syndrome Association . In 2008 , Hill also became the first patron of St. Joseph 's Specialist School and College , a school for children with severe learning disabilities and autism in Cranleigh , Surrey . Joshua started racing in 2008 , competing in the British Formula Renault Championship in 2011 . On 9 July 2013 Joshua announced his retirement from motor racing .

= = Career = =

= = = Pre @-@ Formula One = = =

Hill started his motorsport career in motorcycle racing in 1981 . He used the same simple , easily identifiable helmet design as his father : eight white oar blades arranged vertically around the upper surface of a dark blue helmet . The device and colours represent the London Rowing Club for which Graham Hill rowed in the early 1950s . Although he won a 350 cc clubman 's championship at the Brands Hatch circuit , his racing budget came from working as a building labourer and he " didn 't really look destined for great things " according to Motorcycle News reporter Rob McDonnell . His mother , who was concerned about the dangers of racing motorcycles , persuaded him to take a

racing car course at the Winfield Racing School in France in 1983 . Although he showed " above @-@ average aptitude " , Hill had only sporadic single @-@ seater races until the end of 1984 . He graduated through British Formula Ford , winning six races driving a Van Diemen for Manadient Racing in 1985 , his first full season in cars , and finishing third and fifth in the two UK national championships . He also took third place in the final of the 1985 Formula Ford Festival , helping the UK to win the team prize .

For 1986 , Hill planned to move up to the British Formula Three Championship with title @-@ winning team West Surrey Racing . The loss of sponsorship from Ricoh , and then the death of his proposed team @-@ mate Bertrand Fabi in a testing accident , ended Hill 's proposed drive . Hill says " When Bert was killed , I took the conscious decision that I wasn 't going to stop doing that sort of thing . It 's not just competing , it 's doing something more exciting . I 'm at my fullest skiing , racing or whatever . And I 'm more frightened of letting it all slip and reaching 60 and finding I 've done nothing . " Hill borrowed £ 100 @,@ 000 to finance his racing and had a steady first season for Murray Taylor Racing in 1986 before taking a brace of wins in each of the following years for Intersport . He finished third in the 1988 championship .

In Europe in the 1990s , a successful driver would usually progress from Formula Three either directly to Formula One , the pinnacle of the sport , or to the International Formula 3000 championship . However , Hill did not have enough sponsorship available to fund a drive in F3000 . He says " I ended up having to reappraise my career a bit . The first thing was to realise how lucky I was to be driving anything . I made the decision that whatever I drove I would do it to the best of my ability and see where it led . " He took a one @-@ off drive in the lower level British F3000 championship and shared a Porsche 962 at Le Mans for Richard Lloyd Racing , where the engine failed after 228 laps . He also competed in one race in the British Touring Car Championship at Donington Park , driving a Ford Sierra RS500 . Midway through the season , an opportunity arose at the uncompetitive Mooncraft F3000 team . The team tested Hill and Perry McCarthy . Their performances were comparable but according to the team manager , John Wickham , the team sponsors preferred the Hill name . Although his best result was a 15th place , Hill 's race performances for Mooncraft led to an offer to drive a Lola chassis for Middlebridge Racing in 1990 . He took three pole positions and led five races in 1990 , but did not win a race during his Formula 3000 career .

= = = Formula One = = =

= = = = Brabham (1992) = = = =

Hill started his Grand Prix career during the 1991 season as a test driver with the championship @-@ winning Williams team while still competing in the F3000 series . However , midway through 1992 Hill broke into Grand Prix racing as a driver with the dying Brabham team . The formerly competitive team was in serious financial difficulties . Hill started the season only after three races , replacing Giovanna Amati after her sponsorship had failed to materialise . Amati had been unable to get the car through qualifying but Hill matched his team @-@ mate , Eric van de Poele , by qualifying for two races , the mid @-@ season British and Hungarian Grands Prix . Hill continued to test for the Williams team that year and the British Grand Prix saw Nigel Mansell win the race for Williams , while he finished last in the Brabham . The Brabham team collapsed after the Hungarian Grand Prix and did not complete the season .

= = = Williams (1993 ? 96) = = = =

When Mansell 's team @-@ mate Riccardo Patrese left Williams to drive for Benetton in 1993 , Hill was unexpectedly promoted to the race team alongside triple world champion Alain Prost ahead of more experienced candidates such as Martin Brundle and Mika Häkkinen . Traditionally , the reigning driver 's world champion carries the number " 1 " on his car and his team @-@ mate takes

the number " 2 " . Because Mansell , the 1992 champion , was not racing in Formula One in 1993 , his Williams team were given numbers " 0 " and " 2 " . As the junior partner to Prost , Hill took " 0 " , the second man in Formula One history to do so , after Jody Scheckter in 1973 .

1993

The season did not start well when Hill spun out of second place shortly after the start of the South African Grand Prix and failed to finish the race after colliding with Alex Zanardi on lap 16 . At the Brazilian Grand Prix , Hill qualified and spent the early stages of the race running second behind Prost , and then took the lead when Prost crashed out , but was relegated back to second by another triple world champion , Ayrton Senna . Nevertheless , the race still gave Hill his first podium finish .

In the next round in Europe , Hill again finished second behind Senna and ahead of a lapped Prost . In his first full season , Hill benefited from the experience of his veteran French team @-@ mate . He continued to impress as the season went on , and in San Marino Hill took the lead at the start , though he was passed by Prost and Senna and ultimately retired with brake failure . More bad luck struck him in Spain where he kept pace with Prost for most of the race only for his engine to fail .

After strong podiums in Monaco and Canada , Hill took his first career pole in France , finishing second to Prost after team orders prevented him from seriously challenging for the win . He looked set to win his home race in Britain before another engine failure put him out and led the German Grand Prix comfortably only to suffer a puncture with two laps left , handing the win to Prost .

At the Hungarian race , Hill did take his first career win after leading from start to finish . In doing so he became the first son of a Formula One Grand Prix winner to take victory himself , and he followed it with two more wins , first at Spa where he took the lead after pitstop problem for Prost , and then at the Italian Grand Prix where Prost 's engine failed towards the end . This third consecutive win clinched the constructors ' championship for Williams and moved him temporarily to second in the drivers ' standings .

At the Portuguese Grand Prix Hill charged from the back of the grid to third , having stalled on the warm up lap from pole . He finished off the season finishing fourth in Japan and third in Australia , but it was not enough to hold 2nd place in the championship as Ayrton Senna passed him by winning the last two races . Prost finished the season as champion . Hill ended the season in Australia by setting the lap record for the Adelaide Street Circuit . As of 2015 (the full Grand Prix track has not been used since 2000) , Hill 's lap record of 1 : 15 @.@ 381 for the 3 @.@ 780 km (2 @.@ 349 mi) long track still stands .

1994

In 1994 , Ayrton Senna joined Hill at Williams . As the reigning champion , this time Prost , was again no longer racing , Hill retained his number ' 0 ' . The pre @-@ season betting was that Senna would coast to the title , but with the banning of electronic driver aids , the Benetton team and Michael Schumacher initially proved more competitive and won the first three races . At the San Marino Grand Prix on 1 May , Senna died after his car went off the road . With the team undergoing investigation from the Italian authorities on manslaughter charges , Hill found himself team leader with only one season 's experience in the top flight . It was widely reported at the time that the Williams car 's steering column had failed , though Hill told BBC Sport in 2004 that he believed Senna simply took the corner too fast for the conditions , referring to the fact that the car had just restarted the race with cold tyres after being slowed down by a safety car .

Hill represented Williams alone at the next race , the Monaco Grand Prix . His race ended early in a collision involving several cars on the opening lap of the race . For the following race , the Spanish Grand Prix , Williams ' test driver David Coulthard was promoted to the race team alongside Hill , who won the race just four weeks after Senna 's death . Twenty @-@ six years earlier Graham Hill had won in Spain under similar circumstances for Lotus after the death of his team @-@ mate Jim Clark . Championship leader Schumacher finished second with a gearbox fault restricting him to fifth gear , having led the early laps .

Schumacher led by 66 points to 29 by the midpoint of the season . At the French Grand Prix , Frank Williams brought back Nigel Mansell , for the French , European , Japanese and Australian Grands Prix with Coulthard doing the majority of the 1994 season . Mansell earned approximately £ 900

@, @ 000 for each of his four races , while Hill was paid £ 300 @, @ 000 for the entire season , though Hill 's position as lead driver remained unquestioned . Hill came back into contention for the title after winning the British Grand Prix , a race his father had never won . Schumacher was disqualified from that race and banned for two further races for overtaking Hill during the formation lap and ignoring the subsequent black flag . Four more victories for Hill , three of which were in races where Schumacher was excluded or disqualified , took the title battle to the final event at Adelaide . At Schumacher 's first race since his ban , the European Grand Prix , he suggested that Hill (who was eight years his senior) was not a world @-@ class driver . However , during the penultimate race at the Japanese Grand Prix , Hill took victory ahead of Schumacher in a rain @-@ soaked event . This put Hill just one point behind the German before the last race of the season .

Neither Hill nor Schumacher finished the season @-@ closing Australian Grand Prix , after a controversial collision which gave the title to Schumacher . Schumacher ran off the track hitting the wall with the right @-@ hand side of his Benetton while leading . Coming into the sixth corner Hill moved to pass the Benetton and the two collided , breaking the Williams ' front left suspension wishbone , and forcing both drivers ' retirement from the race . BBC Formula One commentator Murray Walker , a great fan and friend of Hill , has often maintained that Schumacher did not cause the crash intentionally , but WilliamsF1 co @-@ owner Patrick Head feels differently . In 2006 he said that at the time of the incident " Williams were already 100 % certain that Michael was guilty of foul play " but did not protest Schumacher 's title because the team was still dealing with the death of Ayrton Senna . In 2007 , Hill explicitly accused Schumacher of causing the collision deliberately . Hill 's season earned him the 1994 BBC Sports Personality of the Year .

1995

Coming into the 1995 season , Hill was one of the title favourites . The Williams team were reigning constructors ' champions , having beaten Benetton in 1994 , and with young David Coulthard , who was embarking on his first full season in Formula One , as team @-@ mate , Hill was the clear number one driver . The year started badly when he spun off in Brazil due to a mechanical problem , but wins in the next two races put him in the championship lead . However , Schumacher won seven of the next twelve races , and took his second title with two races to spare , while Benetton took the constructors ' championship . Schumacher and Hill had several on @-@ track incidents during the season , two of which led to suspended one @-@ race bans . Schumacher 's penalty was for blocking and forcing Hill off the road at the Belgian Grand Prix ; Hill 's was for colliding with Schumacher under braking at the Italian Grand Prix . Hill 's season finished positively when he won the Australian Grand Prix by finishing two laps ahead of the runner @-@ up , Olivier Panis in a Ligier .

1995 was a disappointing season for Hill : some of the Williams team had been frustrated with his performances and Frank Williams began to consider bringing in Heinz @-@ Harald Frentzen to replace him . With Hill already under contract for 1996 , his place at the team was secure for one more season , but it proved to be his last at Williams .

1996

In 1996 the Williams car was clearly the quickest in Formula One and Hill went on to win the title ahead of his rookie teammate Jacques Villeneuve , becoming the only son of a Formula One champion to win the championship himself . Taking eight wins and never qualifying off the front row , Hill enjoyed by far his most successful season . At Monaco , where his father had won five times in the 1960s , he led until his engine failed , curtailing his race and allowing Olivier Panis to take his only Formula One win . Near the end of the season , Villeneuve began to mount a title challenge and took pole in the Japanese Grand Prix , the final race of the year . However , Hill took the lead at the start and won both the race and the championship after the Canadian retired .

Hill equalled the record for starting all 16 races of the season from the front row , matching Ayrton Senna in 1989 and Alain Prost in 1993 . Sebastian Vettel holds the record for the highest number of front row starts in a season , with 18 in 2011 .

Despite winning the title , Hill learned before the season 's close that he was to be dropped by Williams in favour of Frentzen for the following season . Hill left Williams as the team 's second most successful driver in terms of race victories , with 21 , second only to Mansell . Hill 's 1996 world

championship earned him his second BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award , making him one of only three people to receive the award twice ? the others being boxer Henry Cooper and Mansell . Hill was also awarded the Segrave Trophy by the Royal Automobile Club . The trophy is awarded to the British national who accomplishes the most outstanding demonstration of the possibilities of transport by land , sea , air , or water .

= = = = Arrows (1997) = = = =

Hill became the fourth driver in nine years to win the World Drivers ' Championship for Williams and not drive for the team the following season , as occurred with Nelson Piquet (1987 champion ? 1988 driver for Lotus) , Nigel Mansell (1992 champion ? 1993 driver in the US @-@ based Indy Car World Series instead of F1) and Alain Prost (1993 champion ? retired in 1994) . As world champion , Hill was in high demand and had offers for a race seat from McLaren , Benetton and Ferrari but not adequately financially valued despite his status . As a consequence , he opted to sign for Arrows , a team which had never won a race in its 20 @-@ year history and had scored only a single point the previous year . Hill 's title defence in 1997 proved unsuccessful , getting off to a poor start when he only narrowly qualified for the Australian Grand Prix and then retired on the parade lap . The Arrows car , which used tyres from series debutant Bridgestone and previously unproven Yamaha engines , was generally uncompetitive , and Hill did not score his first point for the team until the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in July . His best result for the year then came at the Hungarian Grand Prix . On a day when the Bridgestone tyres had a competitive edge over their Goodyear rivals , Hill qualified third in a car that had not previously placed higher than 9th on the grid . During the race , he passed his rival and new championship contender , Michael Schumacher , on the track and was leading late in the race , 35 seconds ahead of the eventual 1997 World Champion , Villeneuve , until a hydraulic problem drastically slowed the Arrows . Villeneuve thus passed Hill , who finished second and achieved the team 's first podium since the 1995 Australian Grand Prix . This new podium ultimately turned out to be Arrows ' last ever podium finish .

= = = = Jordan (1998 ? 99) = = = =

Only after one year with Arrows , Hill came close to signing a deal with Alain Prost 's team , before deciding to instead sign up with the Jordan team for the 1998 season . His new teammate was Ralf Schumacher , younger brother of Michael . In the first half of the season , the Jordan 198 car was off the pace and unreliable until improvements in performance from the Canadian Grand Prix . During that race , Hill moved up to second place as others retired or pitted for fuel . On lap 38 , Michael Schumacher , who was delayed by a stop @-@ and @-@ go penalty after forcing Frentzen 's Williams off the track , caught Hill on the home straight ; Hill moved across the track three times to block Schumacher , who took the place after missing his braking point and running over kerbs at the last chicane . Hill then ran fourth after his only pit stop before retiring due to an electrical failure . After the race , Schumacher accused Hill of dangerous driving . Hill responded by stating that Schumacher " cannot claim anyone drives badly when you look at the things he 's been up to in his career . He took Frentzen out completely . " At the German Grand Prix , Hill scored his first point of the year and at the Belgian Grand Prix , in very wet conditions , he took the Jordan team 's first ever win . At that race , Hill was leading late in the race , with teammate Schumacher closing rapidly , when he suggested that team principal Eddie Jordan order Ralf Schumacher to hold position instead of risking losing a 1 ? 2 finish . Jordan followed the suggestion , ordering Schumacher not to overtake . In all , only eight drivers finished the race . The victory was his first since being dropped by the Williams team , which won no races that season . Hill finished the year with a last lap move on Frentzen at the Japanese Grand Prix , which earned him fourth place in the race and Jordan fourth position in that year 's constructors ' championship .

Hopes were high for 1999 , but Hill did not enjoy a good season . Struggling with the newly introduced four @-@ grooved tyres , he was outpaced by his new teammate , Heinz @-@ Harald Frentzen , who was Hill 's replacement at Williams two years prior . After a crash at the Canadian

Grand Prix , Hill announced plans to retire from the sport at the end of the year , but after failing to finish the French Grand Prix that Frentzen won , he considered quitting the sport immediately .

Jordan persuaded Hill to at least stay for the British Grand Prix . Going into that race weekend , Hill announced he would retire after the Grand Prix , leading Jordan to test Jos Verstappen in case Hill had to be quickly replaced . Following a strong fifth place at his home event , however , Hill changed his mind and decided to see out the year . His best result for the remainder of the season was sixth place , which he achieved in both Hungary and Belgium . With three races of 1999 to go , there were rumours that the Prost Grand Prix team would release Jarno Trulli early after he signed for Jordan 's 2000 campaign as Hill 's replacement . At the same time , his teammate , Frentzen , became a title contender going into the final few races of the season and , eventually , finished third in the championship . In so doing , both Hill and Frentzen helped Jordan to achieve its best @-@ ever finish with a third position in the constructor 's championship . Hill 's last race was the Japanese Grand Prix where he spun off the track and pulled into the pits to retire a healthy car .

= = After racing = =

In retirement Hill has continued to be involved with cars and motorsport . He founded the Prestige and Super Car Private Members Club P1 International with Michael Breen in 2000 ; Breen bought Hill out in October 2006 . Hill also became involved in a BMW dealership , just outside Royal Leamington Spa , that bore his name and an Audi dealership in Exeter . In April 2006 , Hill succeeded Jackie Stewart as President of the British Racing Drivers ' Club (BRDC) .

In 2009 he received an Honorary Fellowship from the University of Northampton recognising his successful career and his connection with Northampton through Silverstone and the BRDC .

Hill also made a UK television advert with F1 commentator Murray Walker for Pizza Hut , in which Walker commented on Hill 's meal as if it were a race . Hill has also appeared on many British television programmes , including Top Gear , This is Your Life , TFI Friday , Shooting Stars and Bang Bang , It 's Reeves and Mortimer .

Hill has raced both cars and motorcycles at the Goodwood Festival of Speed and in 2005 he tested the new GP2 Series car . Hill was back behind the wheel of a single @-@ seater race car in the summer of 2006 , when he took a 600 bhp (450 kW) Grand Prix Masters machine for a test run around the Silverstone circuit . Hill said that he enjoyed the experience and " I wouldn 't rule [a return to racing] out , but I can 't honestly say that right now I need to race . That is the bit that is missing . I love driving , I love pushing the limit and all the rest of it but racing for me ... I don 't have an ambition to do it and I think that 's an important part of the equation . "

Hill served as the driver representative on the stewards panel at the 2010 Monaco Grand Prix where he and the rest of the panel decided to relegate former rival Michael Schumacher for overtaking under yellow flag conditions . The decision led to Hill receiving hate mail .

Between 18 and 19 May 2012 , Hill along with Mark Blundell , Perry McCarthy , Martin Donnelly and Julian Bailey participated in the first round of the VW Scirocco R @-@ Cup at Brands Hatch to raise funds for the Halow Charity . Hill only managed to complete seven laps of the circuit .

On 7 October 2012 , Hill drove his father Graham Hill 's BRM in celebration of winning the 1962 F1 World Championship , where Graham became the first British driver to win the Drivers ' World Championship with a British team .

= = = Broadcaster = = =

Hill has also regularly appeared in the British media . He has contributed many articles to F1 Racing magazine and has twice appeared in ITV F1 's commentary box , covering for Martin Brundle at the 2007 and 2008 Hungarian Grands Prix . In January 2012 , British Sky Broadcasting announced that they had signed Hill to join their F1 presentation team on Sky Sports F1 as a pundit for the 2012 Formula One season .

= = = Music career = = =

Hill was interested in music from an early age and formed the punk band " Sex Hitler and the Hormones " with some friends while at school . After achieving success in Formula One , he was able to play guitar with several famous musicians , including his friend George Harrison , and appeared on " Demolition Man " , the opening track of Def Leppard 's album Euphoria . Hill also made a regular appearance at the British Grand Prix alongside other Formula One musicians such as Eddie Jordan . After his retirement at the end of the 1999 season , Hill devoted more time to music and played with celebrity bands including Spike Edney 's SAS band , and Pat Cash 's Wild Colonial Boys . Hill also formed his own band , The Conrods , which was active between 1999 and 2003 and played cover versions of well @-@ known songs from The Rolling Stones , The Beatles and The Kinks . Since becoming president of the BRDC in 2006 , Hill says he has abandoned the guitar , being " too busy doing school runs and looking after pets . "

= = Racing record = =

= = = Complete International Formula 3000 results = = =

(key) (Races in bold indicate pole position) (Races in italics indicate fastest lap)

= = = Complete 24 Hours of Le Mans results = = =

= = = Complete Formula One results = = =

(key) (Races in bold indicate pole position) (Races in italics indicate fastest lap)