

SECOND ROUND – 1000 KM OF SPA

12–13–14 May 2006

Table of Contents

- 1 - Cutting to the chase...in the heart of Ardennes
- 2 - Opening hours
- 3 - Timetable
- 4 - Entry List
- 5 - Pit Allocation
- 6 - Circuit plan - prohibited areas to photographers

PRESS ROOM SCHEDULE

Friday - 08:00 **Π** 20:00

Sunday - 08:00 **Π** 20:00

Monday - 08:00 **Π** 20:00

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Cutting to the chase... in the heart of Ardennes

One month after the opening round in Istanbul, Le Mans Series fires up its European tour with the epic Spa@ 1000km, boasting a grid worthy of the legendary event. The Ardennes circuit is without doubt the favourite of most racing drivers, and is a key event in the ACO sanctioned Le Mans Series which sets out to maintain the long history of endurance racing. With the cancellation of the Belgian Grand Prix, the Le Mans Series 1,000 Kilometre event is a principal attraction in 2006.

As the years progress, there is little to prove any recurrence of events. Where two Audi R8s and the Creation Autosportif DBA occupied the podium in 2004; Zytek Engineering took their place in 2005 with their first victory taken in Dantean conditions ahead of Pescarolo Sport and Rollcentre Racing. For its third season, Le Mans Series is coming back to this venue in Spa with all the necessary criteria for another historic race. With a grid increasingly bold and diverse each year, Le Mans Series confirms its status as Endurance leader, with Audi and Peugeot, in 2007, participating in the top-dog dispute. This year, the Spa@ 1000km declares to be of record magnitude, with an expected 50 cars on one of the world's most beautiful tracks but also is the opportunity to measure up the current forces, just one month before the actual Le Mans 24 Hours.

21 prototypes at the lights...

With the exception of the AUDI R10s, the entire competitor list for the Le Mans 24 Hours "LM"P1 class will be racing in the Ardennes' core. With 10 cars and 8 different models, there is just as much reason to look forward to some poetic sparring. After not been ready in time for Istanbul, Zytek Engineering is rejoining the series late and is lining up its new chassis to be driven by a fully Danish team. This time round it will be Philip Andersen who will be supporting John Nielsen and Casper Elgaard: the 2005 winners with Hayanari Shimoda. Holding strong after their win in Turkey, Pescarolo Sport is anxious to find out the potential of the Zytek that was twice victorious last year. One more arrival that will, without a shadow of a doubt, spice up the competition. Creation Autosportif and Nicolas "pole hunter" Minassian are using an extremely quick and powerful car, although still as ever fragile against resistance. The hoard of Courage LC70s (2 with Courage Competition with the Mugen/Yokohama duo and the Judd engined Swiss Spirit model with their Swiss team members) have an important margin of progression at their disposal. The Lola for Chamberlain Synergy Motorsport and the Lister from Lister Storm Racing, which took some serious points in the first round from under its, often better classed, adversaries noses, remain on the lookout for an opportunity. Finally, Protran Competition (GB) is

making its grand debut into battlefield with Kevin Mc Garrity and Paul Cope.

For the first time in the history of the series a "little" prototype earned itself an invitation onto the overall classification podium, the "LM"P2 class proving that it is in peak evolution. The number (11 cars) and variety of models (7 different) leaves it open to fierce competition. We will be seeing Rollcentre Racing and owner Martin Short, inconsolable after their disappointment in Istanbul. There, the all new Radical SR9 gave up just 6 minutes before the end, even though it was looking to head its class and penetrate the overall podium in the first race! The Barazi-Epsilon team, winner in Turkey ahead of Pierre Bruneau's Pilbeam and team G-Force's Courage, driven by the talented 17 year old Ed Morris, will be very eager to confirm their performance. However, unblinking eyes will be fixated on the Chamberlain Synergy Motorsport Lola, 2005 champion (though absent in Istanbul) and brought back by a Portuguese crew; RML, another contender within the "LM"P2 but also Paul Belmondo Racing who will be expecting great things from their change of engine. Not least worth mentioning is Binnie Motorsport (the only American team entered) and Kruse Motorsport who are rejoining the leading ranks. A great show that puts one category into a new perspective as from now on, they have proved capable of competing against the challengers in the overall classification.



Fast and Furious GTs...

If the interest surrounding a grid is measured by the number of its competitors; it is also by its variety. This is not the least of the "LM"GT1 category's qualities, where we can list no less than 6 different models. It is impossible not to be cheered up by the prospect of seeing the competition being ripped open, on the 'Eau Rouge' hillside, by the hoard of Aston Martins, Corvettes, Ferraris, Lamborghini and Saleen, who will be competing this weekend. Aston Martin Racing Larbre confirmed both its intentions and potential, in swiping the pot in Istanbul ahead of Convers Menx Team and their still extremely efficient Ferrari 550. Luc Alphand Aventures, with their entirely French team (Policand, Goueslard and Beltoise) secured third place on the podium for the first outing of the Corvette C5R. Moreover, the titleholder of the Dakar should be racing in upcoming events. The leader of the series and their solid team (Pedro Lamy, 2004 titleholder; Gabriele Gardel, FIA GT 2005 champion with Larbre and Vincent Vosse, the local of the round) arrive in Spa with victory as their primary objective. However, the arrival of Team Oreca's Saleen S7-R, assisted by the talent of Stéphane Ortelli could easily liven up the rankings. Of course, it will be a case of reckoning with the Ferrari of Kox, Pergl and Vasiliev; Cirtek Motorsport's Aston Martins and the PSI Experience Corvette C6-R and C5-R (this one also being assigned to its Franco Belgian team brought by Philippe Alliot) who will not be lacking in optimism on their national circuit. Luc Alphand Aventures will be looking to capitalise from a result in the first race to confirm its challenging position in an already high level of competition. The B-Racing Lamborghini will equally have many an eye on it. After the engine breakage in Istanbul, preventing it from hitting to the start line, the team is now ready to demonstrate the development potential of this car for making it play a role more in line with its ambitions.

Several were led to believe that the highly subscribed "LM"GT2 class, nevertheless suffered frequently from a lack of diversity. Au contraire, season 2006 is proving the vigour and level of its competition. In fact, never before have there been as many cars (an expected 18) and makes (5) represented. The Istanbul result is moreover revealing of a possible redistribution of cards. Winning in Turkey for the first ever session with their new Ferrari 430, GPC Sport has immediately put themselves within firing range of the title, which, up until now, has never escaped the grasp of Porsche. Easier said than done! The fight will endure until the bitter end as don't let's forget that the Ferrari only won by a 7 second margin. On the other side of this result, it is the entirety of the present forces that merit attention. Amongst the front eight we thus include two Ferraris (1st and 8th), two Spykers (5th and 6th), one Panoz (3rd) and three Porsches (2nd, 4th and 6th). Some fine sparring is anticipated at the setting in Spa where we will find Christophe Bouchut (2004 "LM"GT1 winner) heading team Imsa Performance Matmut, Joao Barboza by Thierry Perrier and Xavier Pompidou (2004 & 2005 Le Mans Series "LM"GT2 winner) in the James Watt Automotive team. Winner and runner-up last year with the TVR Tuscan, team LNT wants to prove that from now on they must reckon with the Panoz Esperante. The Belgian Ice Pol Racing Team will most certainly have some of their own ambitions to show their audience and Race Sport Peninsula, after missing the Istanbul meeting, are introducing themselves as the only representatives of the TVR amongst a, more than stocked, pack.

After such an inventory, one can only be delighted about the spectacle proposed by the Spa@1000km that will be bear witness to a rekindled strength in its discipline, future potential, without forgetting that this edition will also be the 40th anniversary celebration of the event.

History is moving more than ever...!



1000 KM OF SPA 2006 OPENING HOURS

	WEDNESDAY 10/05/06	THURSDAY 11/05/06	FRIDAY 12/05/06	SATURDAY 13/05/06	SUNDAY 14/05/06
WELCOME TEAM, INDUSTRY & VIP		09.00 - 18.00	07.30 - 16.30	07.30 - 18.00	07.00 - 12.00
WELCOME MEDIA			07.30 - 16.30	07.30 - 18.00	07.00 - 12.00
PADDOCK	08.00/19.00	08.00/19.00	07.30/18.30	07.30/18.30	07.30/20.30
LE MANS SERIES ORGANISATION OFFICE	09.00/18.00	09.00/19.00	07.30/18.30	08.30/18.00	07.30/19.00
MEDIA CENTRE			08.00 - 20.00(*)	08.00 - 20.00(*)	08.00 - 20.00(*)

(*) Until the last journalist's left

1000 KM OF SPA ENTRY LIST

N°	"LM" P1	NAT	TYRES	CARS	DRIVER 1	DRIVER 2	DRIVER 3	9
2	ZYTEK ENGINEERING*	GB	M	Zytek 06S	John Nielsen (DK)	Casper Elgaard (DK)	Philip Andersen (DK)	
5	SWISS SPIRIT	CH	M	Courage LC70 - Judd	Harold Primat (CH)	Marcel Fassler (CH)	-	
6	LISTER STORM RACING	GB	D	Lister Storm Hybrid	Nicolas Kiesa (DK)	Jens Moller (DK)	-	
9	CREATION AUTOSPORTIF	GB	M	Creation - Judd	Nicolas Minassian (F)	Felipe Ortiz (CH)	Beppe Gabbiani (I)	
12	COURAGE COMPETITION	F	Y	Courage LC70 - Mugen	Jean-Marc Gounon (F)	Alexander Frei (CH)	TBA	
13	COURAGE COMPETITION	F	Y	Courage LC70 - Mugen	Shinji Nakano (J)	Haruki Kurosawa (J)	TBA	
15	PRO TRAN COMPETITION*	GB	D	Protran RS 06/ H	Kevin Mc Garrity (GB)	Paul Cope (GB)	-	
17	PESCAROLO SPORT	F	M	Pescarolo C60 - Judd	Emmanuel Collard (F)	Jean-Christophe Boullion (F)	-	
19	CHAMBERLAIN SYNERGY MOTORPORT	GB	D	Lola B06/10 - AER	Bob Berridge (GB)	Gareth Evans (GB)	Peter Owen (GB)	
N°	"LM" P2	NAT	TYRES	CARS	DRIVER 1	DRIVER 2	DRIVER 3	11
20	PIERRE BRUNEAU	F	M	Pilbeam - Judd	Marc Rostan (F)	Pierre Bruneau (F)	-	
22	ROLLCENTRE RACING	GB	D	Radical SR9 - Judd	Martin Short (GB)	Tim Greaves (GB)	Gregor Fiske (GB)	
24	BINNIE MOTORSPORTS	USA	M	Lola 05/42- Zytek	Bill Binnie (USA)	Allen Timpany (GB)	Sam Hancock (GB)	
25	RML	GB	M	MG Lola EX 264	Mike Newton (GB)	Tommy Erdos (BR)	-	
28	RANDACCIO RANIERI	I	D	Lucchini "LM" P2	Ranieri Randaccio (I)	Fabio Mancini (I)	Gianni Collini (I)	
32	BARAZI - EPSILON	F	M	Courage C65 - AER	Michael Vergers (NL)	Juan Barazi (DK)	Davide Valsecchi (I)	
35	G-FORCE	B	D	Courage C65 - Judd	Ed Morris (GB)	Jean-François Lerocq (F)	Stéphane Lémeret (B)	
36	PAUL BELMONDO RACING	F	P	Courage C65 - Ford	Claude-Yves Gosselin (F)	Karim Ojeh (SA)	Pierre Ragues (F)	
37	PAUL BELMONDO RACING	F	P	Courage C65 - Ford	Paul Belmondo (F)	Didier André (F)	Yann Clairay (F)	
39	CHAMBERLAIN SYNERGY MOTORPORT	GB	D	Lola B05/40 - AER	Miguel Amaral (P)	Miguel Angel de Castro (P)	Angel Burgueño (P)	
44	KRUSE MOTORSPORT	D	K	Courage C65 - Judd	Jens Petersen (D)	Jan Dirk Lueders (D)	Christopher Brück (D)	
N°	"LM" GT1	NAT	TYRES	CARS	DRIVER 1	DRIVER 2	DRIVER 3	9
50	ASTON MARTIN RACING LARBRE	F	M	Aston Martin DBR 9	Pedro Lamy (P)	Gabriele Gardel (I)	Vincent Vosse (B)	
51	B-RACING RS LINE TEAM	D	D	Lamborghini Murcielago	Benjamin Leuenberger (CH)	Norbert Walchofer (A)	Marino Franchitti (GB)	
55	TEAM ORECA	F	M	Saleen S7 - R	Stéphane Ortelli (MC)	Soheil Ayari (F)	-	
61	CIRTEK MOTORSPORT	GB	M	Aston Martin DBR 9	Antonio Garcia (E)	Richard Lyons (GB)	-	
62	CIRTEK MOTORSPORT	GB	M	Aston Martin DBR 9	Peter Hardman (GB)	Christan Vann (GB)	-	
67	CONVERS MENX TEAM	RUS	M	Ferrari 550 Maranello	Peter Kox (NL)	Robert Pergl (CZ)	Alexei Vasiliev (RUS)	
70	PSI EXPERIENCE	B	D	Corvette C6-R	Pertti Kuismanen (FIN)	Jos Menten (NL)	Markus Palttala (FIN)	
71	PSI EXPERIENCE	B	D	Corvette C5-R	Philippe Alliot (F)	Fred Bouvy (B)	Romain Bera (F)	
72	LUC ALPHAND AVENTURES	F	M	Corvette C5-R	Jérôme Policand (F)	Patrice Goueslard (F)	Anthony Beltoise (F)	
N°	"LM" GT2	NAT	TYRES	CARS	DRIVER 1	DRIVER 2	DRIVER 3	18
73	ICE POL RACING TEAM	B	D	Porsche 996 GT3 RSR	Yves Lambert (B)	Christian Lefort (B)	Romain Iannetta (F)	
75	THIERRY PERRIER	F	D	Porsche 996 GT3 RSR	Nigel Smith (GB)	Joao Barbosa (P)	Philippe Hesnault (F)	
76	AUTORLANDO SPORT	I	P	Porsche 996 GT3 RSR	Marc Lieb (D)	Joel Camathias (CH)	-	
77	SEIKEL MOTORSPORT	D	Y	Porsche 996 GT3 RSR	Tony Burgess (CDN)	Philip Collin (USA)	-	
78	AUTORLANDO SPORT	I	P	Porsche 996 GT3 RSR	Gunnar Kristensen (DK)	Allan Simonsen (DK)	Jens Edman (S)	
80	FARNBACHER RACING	D	D	Porsche 996 GT3 RSR	Lars Erik Nielsen (DK)	Marco Seefried (D)	-	
81	TEAM LNT	GB	P	Panoz Esperante GTLM	Warren Hughes (GB)	Robert Bell (GB)	-	
82	TEAM LNT	GB	P	Panoz Esperante GTLM	Lawrence Tomlinson (GB)	Richard Dean (GB)	Tom Kimber-Smith (GB)	
84	TEAM ICER BRAKES	E	D	Ferrari F430 GT	Jesus Diez Villarroel (E)	TBA	TBA	
85	SPYKER SQUADRON	NL	D	Spyker C8 Spyder GT2R	Jeroen Bleekemolen (NL)	Mike Hezemans (NL)	-	
86	SPYKER SQUADRON	NL	D	Spyker C8 Spyder GT2R	Jonny Kane (GB)	Donny Crevels (NL)	-	
90	FARNBACHER RACING	D	D	Porsche 996 GT3 RSR	Pierre Ehret (D)	Dominik Farnbacher (D)	-	
91	T2M MOTORSPORT	J	D	Porsche 996 GT3 RS	Miro Konopka (SK)	Yutaka Yamagishi (J)	Tor Graves (T)	
92	IMSA PERFORMANCE MATMUT	F	D	Porsche 996 RSR	Christophe Bouchut (F)	Raymond Narac (F)	-	
95	RACESPORT PENINSULA TVR	GB	D	TVR Tuscan T 400 R	Richard Stanton (GB)	John Hartshorne (GB)	Nigel Greensall (GB)	
96	JAMES WATT AUTOMOTIVE	GB	D	Porsche 996 GT3 RSR	Paul Daniels (GB)	Jack Elsegood (AUS)	Xavier Pompidou (F)	
97	GPC SPORT	I	P	Ferrari F430 GT	Luca Drudi (I)	Gabrio Rosa (I)	Jaime Melo (BR)	
99	VIRGO MOTORSPORT	GB	D	Ferrari F430 GT	Dan Eagling (GB)	Tim Sugden (GB)	Ian Khan (MC)	



1000KM OF SPA - 12, 13, 14 MAY 2006 PIT GARAGE ALLOCATION				
RACE N°	TEAM	PIT N°		
ENDURANCE PITS				
9	CREATION AUTOSPORTIF	1	PIT LANE	TRACK
		2		
51	B-RACING RS-LINE TEAM	3		
		4		
84	TEAM ICER BRAKES	5		
6	LISTER STORM RACING	6		
		7		
99	VIRGO MOTORSPORT	8		
15	PROTRAN COMPETITION	9		
		10		
95	RACESPORT PENINSULA TVR	11		
61 / 62	CIRTEK MOTORSPORT	12		
		14		
		15		
96	JAMES WATT AUTOMOTIVE	16		
39	CHAMBERLAIN SYNERGY MOTORSPORT	17		
19	CHAMBERLAIN SYNERGY MOTORSPORT	18		
		19		
		20		
55	TEAM ORECA	21		
		22		
PIT WALK WAY		23		
TOUR UNIROYAL		PIT N°		
22	ROLLCENTRE RACING	24		
		25		
77	SEIKEL MOTORSPORT	26		
36 / 37	PAUL BELMONDO RACING	27		
		28		
		29		
74	RENAUER MOTORSPORT	30		
72	LUC ALPHAND AVENTURES	31		
		32		
17	PESCAROLO SPORT	33		
		34		
24	BINNIE MOTORSPORT	35		
		36		
2	ZYTEK MOTORSPORT	37		
		38		
67	CONVERS MENX TEAM	39		
		40		
5	SWISS SPIRIT	41		
		42		
91	T2M MOTORSPORT	43		
12 13	COURAGE COMPETITION	44		
		45		
		46		
F1 PITS				
TEAMS		PIT N°		
CER		1/ F 00		
25	RML	1/ F 01		
		1/ F 02		
		2/ F 03		
92	IMSA PERFORMANCE MATMUT	2/ F 03		
50	LARBRE COMPETITION	2/ F 1		
		2/ F 2		
75	THIERRY PERRIER	3/ F 3		
20	PIERRE BRUNEAU	3/ F 4		
		3/ F 5		
		4/ F 6		
80 / 90	FARNBACHER RACING	4/ F 7		
		4/ F 8		
		5/ F 9		
70 / 71	PSI EXPERIENCE	5/ F 10		
		5/ F 11		
		6/ F 12		
76 / 78	AUTORLANDO SPORT	6/ F 12A		
		6/ F 14		
		7/ F 15		
85 / 86	SPYKER SQUADRON	7/ F 16		
		7/ F 17		
		8/ F 18		
28	RANDACCIO RANIERI	8/ F 19		
		8/ F 20		
99	GPC SPORT	9/ F 21		
32	TEAM BARAZI	9/ F 22		
		9/ F 23		
73	ICE POL RACING TEAM	10/ F 24		
35 / 44	G-FORCE / KRUSE MOTORSPORT	10/ F 25		
		10/ F 26		
		11/ F 27		
81 / 82	TEAM LNT	11/ F 28		
		11/ F 29		
Legend				
	"LM" P1			
	"LM" P2			
	"LM" GT1			
	"LM" GT2			