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HUNGARORING 1000 KM-ROUND 4 – LE MANS SERIES

## **Andrea Barlesi and Gary Chalandon under threat from Hope PoleVision Racing and Applewood Seven in Budapest!**

The Formula Le Mans cars will do battle again in the fourth round of the 2010 Le Mans Series, the Hungaroring 1000 kms on the tight Hungarian circuit just outside Budapest. The race will finish at night and the Oreca-Matmut Peugeot 908 HDi FAP is the hot favourite for victory of the 39 cars entered. In the FLM category, a win is of crucial importance for the 2010 FLM Cup led by DAMS drivers, Andrea Barlesi and Gary Chalandon.



The young drivers in the DAMS team, the 2009 FLM Cup Champion, have had to cope with the glorious uncertainty of endurance racing since the Le Castellet 8 Hours. At the half-season mark, the result is positive. Despite a few misadventures, two of them are leading the FLM overall classification after three rounds.

This position is down to their ability to cope with changing race conditions, and their steady performances that have resulted in two podium finishes. 19-year-old Andrea Barlesi and 23-year-old Gary Chalandon are alone in the lead as their young team-mate, Italian Alessandro Cicognani, was hit by a virus in Portimao last month, and can no longer be part of his two partners' destiny. He will still be at the wheel of the no. 43 FLM.

In endurance, nothing is set in stone and the 1000-km Hungarian event, on the calendar for the first time, will be the turning point of the season for the attribution of the 2010 FLM Cup before the final round at Silverstone in September.

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Hope PoleVision Racing (cars nos 47 and 48) is only two points behind DAMS in the team's classification. Benoît Morand's and Jean-Marie Brulhart's squad are determined to bag the victory, which seemed within their grasp in the Algarve 1000 kms. The team's been beefed up by the arrival of Olivier

Lombard and Belgian Nico Verdonck, and the Swiss HPVR outfit has only one aim: namely, to open up a decisive advantage over its rivals with its two very quick cars as Morand underlines: "We're gunning for the Le Mans Series title. Both our cars have to finish on the podium in Hungary to remain in the hunt before the final round in England."



In the Applewood Seven team, Mathias Beche replaced David Zollinger in Portimao, and the Swiss driver is now racing under the French flag! He will try and repeat his Portuguese performance in qualifying to boost both his chances and those of his teammate, Damien Toulemonde. The man from Normandy is currently lying third in the drivers' ratings, only four

points behind the leaders. Ross Zampani will not race again this season for health reasons.

## DAMS, HPVR, Applewood Seven: 5 cars for the title

Three FLMS, nos 43, 47 and 49 are covered by a handkerchief at the head of the 2010 classification, so the fourth round of the Le Mans Series this weekend in Hungary will be more hotly contested than ever, all the more so

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as nos 44 (DAMS) and 48 (Hope PoleVision Racing) have scored a victory in Portimao and pole at Spa. Mathematically speaking, their drivers are both in the running for the 2010 FLM Cup title and they will give no quarter to their team-mates out on the track. In the DAMS no. 44 Jody Firth will be backed up by Darren Manning replacing Warren Hughes.

**Boutsen Energy Racing** continues its apprenticeship. Olivier Lainé is expecting his drivers to up their performance another notch to consolidate the team's third place in Portimao. But like many of the drivers, Dominik Kraihamer, Bernard Delhez and Nicolas de Crem will be having their maiden outing on the tricky Hungarian track. They will have to avoid its many pitfalls and bring their no. 45 Oreca-flm09 home to the chequered flag to score points.

**The JMB Racing drivers** have accomplished this task without problems since the start of the season. Maurice Basso, John Hartshorne and Peter Kutemann have seen the flag in all the rounds except the Le Castellet 8 Hours in which the loss of a wheel deprived no.46 of a finish. The JMB FLM drivers enjoy the challenge of driving the Oreca-flm09 prototype, and their patient approach paid off with a podium finish on the daunting Spa-Francorchamps circuit.

## **Schedule of the fourth round of the 2010 Le Mans Series in Budapest**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July: Free practice 12h30-13h30, 16h30-17h30, 20h30-22h00

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July: Qualifying, 10h15-10h35

**Start: 16h00 for 229 laps**

**Finish of the race live on Eurosport from 21h30 to 22h00**

## **The FLMs on the overall podium in the ALMS!**

While the American Le Mans Series field has fewer prototypes than the Le Mans Series, it is a stunning performance. In the last two rounds of the American Le Mans Series at Lime Rock and Mid Ohio the Level 5 team put one of its Formula Le Mans cars on the podium. The Level 5 team owned by Scott Tucker has entered two FLMs in the LMPC category in all the rounds of the American Le Mans Series, and benefits from the experience of two former Le Mans 24-Hours winners, Christophe Bouchut (1993) and Andy Wallace (1988). The Frenchman has been with the team since the opening round, the Sebring

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12 Hours, while the English driver joined up with Level 5 in May at the Laguna Seca event.

### **FLMs en route for China**

The Formula Le Mans cars have been confirmed for the Le Mans Series races in 2011. Their future presence in China is about to be clarified. Several teams are in contact with drivers to race in the Asian Le Mans Series round on the Zhuhai circuit. The Zhuhai 1000-km event on 6-7 November 2010 will be the final round of the first Intercontinental Endurance Cup organized by the ACO (ILMC – Intercontinental Le Mans Cup).

Peugeot, Audi, Ferrari, BMW and Porsche among others will race there after doing battle in the Silverstone 1000 kms and in the Petit Le Mans.

### **A new FLM has emerged from the Oreca workshops**

Given the overall success of the FLMs in endurance this year, Oreca has built a new Oreca-flm09 that's ready to race.

[www.formulemans.com](http://www.formulemans.com)

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