

Le Mans Series – 1000 km de Silverstone - Preview

Normandy aiming to conquer Britain

The season finale of the 2010 Le Mans Series is fast approaching. The last round of the European series, which will also count towards the inaugural Intercontinental Le Mans Cup, takes place this weekend at Silverstone. The quality of the GT2 entry list, which includes the likes of Porsche, Aston Martin, Ferrari, Spyker and BMW mean the Northamptonshire circuit will witness a fitting end to this season's title battle.

"We are ready for this final challenge of the season," said Team Manager Franck Rava. *"The team is in the middle of a purple patch of form following double VdeV victories last weekend."* Silverstone's final sector has undergone a radical redesign since the Series raced there last season. A fan of the circuit, Raymond Narac generally has fond memories of the British Grand Prix venue, the exception being 2008's 1000km event when a Peugeot 908 was the catalyst for a spectacular accident which included the innocent Richard Lietz.



"It is a track that I appreciate and which generally suits me well," admits Narac. *"I cannot wait to discover the new section. For us, this last round will be an important event as we are in contention for the Michelin Green X Challenge, as well as third position in the GT2 championship. It would be great to achieve that by finishing on the podium again, just as we did in Hungary. We are leading the Green X Challenge going into the final race and if we maintain our position until Sunday night, our prize will be a guaranteed invitation to next season's Le Mans 24 Hours. For the team, Matmut and all our partners, this classic event is very important and it will be very rewarding to know as soon as this autumn that we can enter at least one car. But, in order to achieve that, we will have to score a good result at Silverstone, which won't be easy judging by the entry list!"*

That Silverstone will count towards the ILMC is just one reason for the impressive turnout. Peugeot, Audi, Aston Martin and BMW have all chosen to make their Series returns in Britain which will help ensure plenty of on-track action. Preparation and development for the future, revenge following Le Mans and a potential winning start to the inaugural ILMC are just some of the incentives for teams to raise their games. *"I'm expecting a very tense race but if we achieve the same performance as in Budapest, it is not impossible to do very well,"* said Patrick Pilet. *"It is a track which should suit the Porsche and we are quite confident of scoring a good result there. This could also help Porsche clinch the Manufacturers' title, which, along with the Green X Challenge, would be a great result for the 911."*

For the IMSA Performance Matmut team and its rivals, the serious business of free practice starts on Friday with two sessions in the afternoon. A third session, as well as qualifying, takes place on Saturday ahead of Sunday's six-hour/1000km race due to begin at 11h55.

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PORSCHE

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