

# **The 83<sup>rd</sup> LE MANS 24 HOURS 2015**

## **Club Arnage - Essential Information**

### **Changes this year**

#### **Regulations**

Various F1 type regulations restricting the amount of testing, engines, tyres , gearboxes, etc used in the WEC will be introduced this year.

The average weight of a crew must be 80 kgs (weight including race wear, etc.) and if the average is less then ballast must be carried.

For Le Mans LMP1 and P2 will be permitted to use a maximum of 7 sets of tyres in Free Practice, Qualifying and the warm-up (almost 12 hours of track time). For GTE Pro and Am they will be permitted 8 sets. Four "Joker" tyres will be additionally authorised for practice in each class. For the race LMP1 cars will be limited to 12 sets + 2 sets for any new prototypes. In LMP2, GTE Pro and Am 16 sets of tyres will be allowed for the race.

#### **Circuit changes**

Work to stabilise the sides of the track between Mulsanne Corner and the entrance to the Porsche Curves by putting tarmac over some of the grass verges was completed before Christmas at a cost of € 425,000.

At the Porsche Curves work has started which will be ongoing for about 3 years. At the first right hand corner the existing gravel trap will be replaced by an abrasive bitumen coating and new tyre barriers. The width of the second left hand part will be expanded by about 3 metres and again grass will be replaced by bitumen. SAFER (Steel and Foam Energy Reduction) barriers will be installed over a distance of about 220 metres. Phase one of this work started in Feb 2015 and was completed by mid May.

The new public road branching left before Indianapolis corner will not be started until winter 2015/16. This will mean the stretch from Indy to Arnage will be closed to the public during the rest of the year.

#### **Other**

After 14 years as Race Director and Clerk of the Course, Daniel Poissenot is retiring. He will be replaced as Clerk of the Course by his FIA WEC colleague Eduardo Freitas and as Race Director by Frederic Lenart.

## **Cars and Drivers on the Grid**

**M = Michelin Tyres    D = Dunlop**

**LMP1 (14 CARS) - (Red number panels and have white headlamps. HY on engine cover depict a hybrid energy system being used. No Bronze rated drivers allowed. All cars are on Michelin tyres.)**

**#1 Toyota Racing Toyota TS040 Hybrid driven by Sébastien Buemi/ Anthony Davidson/ Kazuki Nakajima (M) ([www.toyotahybridracing.com](http://www.toyotahybridracing.com))**

The reigning FIA WEC Champions Buemi and Davidson are joined by Nakajima (who was on pole last year) from last year's other Toyota. Nakajima should be available for the whole season having no clashing commitments in Super Formula in Japan this year. The Toyota will continue to use a 3.7 litre V8 petrol engine and will continue running in the 6mj energy recovery category with it's unique super capacitor system (which is likely to be replaced for 2016).

At Silverstone WEC the team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

At Spa, Nakajima was injured in free practice in an incident with Jarvis in the #8 Audi and damaged vertebra in his back (he may be replaced at Le Mans bt Kamui Kobayashi the team's reserve driver). Buemi and Davidson finished 8<sup>th</sup> overall, needing to stops to fix electrical troubles.

**#2 Toyota Racing Toyota TS040 Hybrid driven by Alexander Wurz/Stéphane Sarrazin/ Mike Conway (M)**

Conway replaces Nicolas Lapierre, who is still under contract with the team as a test driver but unlikely to race drive this season having made occasional appearances in 2014 and will drive the #47 KCMG Oreca at Le Mans.

At Silverstone WEC the team finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall after a stop to remove debris and fit a new nose cone.

At Spa the team finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall.

**#4 Team ByKolles CLM P1/01 - AER driven by Simon Trummer/Pierre Kaffer/Tiago Monteiro(M)([www.bykolles.at](http://www.bykolles.at))**

All references to "Lotus" now appear to be gone from this team. The team will continue to run the AER P60 V6 Bi-Turbo engine. This year's car has new suspension for this year and revised aero which will run from Spa onwards. It is also running a Xtrac gearbox instead of last year's Hewland . Trummer is confirmed for the whole season.

Kaffer finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at Sebring in GTLM in a Ferrari 458 with Fisichella and Bertolini but retired from Daytona with the same team plus Davide Rigon. Kaffer and Fisichella finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in GTLM at Long Beach and 4<sup>th</sup> at Laguna Seca.

At Silverstone WEC, where Trummer was joined by Liuzzi and Christian Klein in the 2014 car, the team retired 40 minutes from the end of the race (with an engine water leak) and was not classified.

At Spa the same line up retired after 46 laps with "rear end problems".

**#7 Audi Sport Team Joest Audi R18 e-tron Quattro Hybrid driven by Andre Lotterer/Benoit Treluyer/Marcel Fassler (M) ([www.joest-racing.de](http://www.joest-racing.de)) ([www.audi-motorsport.com](http://www.audi-motorsport.com))**

Audi competes for the 17<sup>th</sup> year in succession and last year's winners return having been given an automatic invitation. The team which has moved in to their new base at Neuberg over the winter will be moving from a 2MJ to a 4MJ energy recovery system, but will continue to run a 4.0 litre V6 diesel engine.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 1<sup>st</sup> overall winning by just over 4 seconds despite a late stop and go penalty for an overtaking infringement. The team, in taking their joint 9<sup>th</sup> WEC win, took the RAC Tourist Trophy setting a new record for laps completed and Lotterer setting a new lap record.

At Spa the team won overall by just over 13 seconds where they ran the Le Mans low drag package, despite a spin for Fassler which cost about 15 seconds.

**#8 Audi Sport Team Joest Audi R18 e-tron Quattro Hybrid driven by Oliver Jarvis/Lucas di Grassi/Loic Duval (M)**

Oliver Jarvis replaces the retired 9 times winner "Mr Le Mans" Tom Kristensen.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall, 4 laps down on the winners having lost time having repairs done to front and rear bodywork.

At Spa the team finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall (running the Le Mans downforce package) after a late off for Jarvis and 2 stops to investigate electrical issues and replace the ECU.

**#9 Audi Sport Team Joest Audi R18 e-tron Quattro Hybrid driven by Marco Bonanomi/Filipe Albuquerque/René Rast (M)**

Rast joins the Audi team for 2 planned appearances at Le Mans and at Spa. He finished 5<sup>th</sup> in GTD at the Daytona 24 hours in a Paul Miller Racing Audi R8 LMS. Albuquerque retired from this year's Daytona 24 hours driving a Starworks Oreca FLM09 PC.

at Spa the team finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall where they ran the non Le Mans package, despite a stop to replace a door after the window blew out.

Mike Rockenfeller will act as reserve driver for the team.

**#12 Rebellion Racing Rebellion R-One - AER driven by Nicolas Prost/Nick Heidfeld/Mathias Beche (M)([www.rebellion-racing.com](http://www.rebellion-racing.com))**

Rebellion has replaced last year's Toyota engines with AER engines which ran in last year's Lotus/CLM. The team missed the Prologue and the 1<sup>st</sup> round at Silverstone whilst they complete the car which requires a redesign of the rear axle by car manufacturer Oreca.

**#13 Rebellion Racing Rebellion R-One-AER driven by Dominik Kraihamer/Alexandre Imperatori/Daniel Abt (M)**

Kraihamer is joined this year by Imperatori, winner of the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia in 2012. Abt also joins and has previously raced in GP2, GP3 and Formula E.

**#17 Porsche Team Porsche 919 Hybrid driven by Timo Bernhard/Mark Webber/Brendon Hartley (Red ) (M)**

([www.porsche.com/france/sportsandevents/motorsport/](http://www.porsche.com/france/sportsandevents/motorsport/))

The Porsches are moving to an 8MJ energy recovery system this year and will continue to use their 2.0 litre V4 turbo petrol engine. The car was known to be about 30kg overweight last year but is now on the weight limit.

The team conducted successful tests at Abu Dhabi and Bahrain early in the year. Hartley retired from the Daytona 24 hours and the Sebring 12 hours in a Starworks Riley-BMW DP. They were also fastest in the pre season Prologue at Paul Ricard (by more than 4 seconds compared to 2014).

Fred Makowiecki will be the team's reserve driver (in GTE Pro Porsche #92 at Le Mans) and is likely to drive at the test day.

At Silverstone WEC, the team retired after 44 laps due to a gearbox problem after Hartley being fastest in Qualifying (the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive WEC pole for the Porsche factory team).

At Spa the team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall after being on pole position, despite a drive through penalty for Hartley and then having to have a rear damper replaced.

### **#18 Porsche Team Porsche 919 Hybrid driven by Romain Dumas/Marc Lieb/Neel Jani (Black)(M)**

Lieb finished 5<sup>th</sup> in GTLM at the Daytona 24 hours.

At Silverstone WEC the team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

At Spa the team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

### **#19 Porsche Team Porsche 919 Hybrid driven by Nico Hulkenberg/Earl Bamber/Nick Tandy (White)(M)**

The Porsche team will run this 3<sup>rd</sup> car at Spa and at Le Mans. Current Force India F1 driver Hulkenberg is joined by GTE drivers Bamber and Tandy.

Tandy finished 5<sup>th</sup> in GTLM at the Daytona 24 hours and again at Sebring with Bamber.

At Spa the team finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall, after Tandy suffered damage in an incident with Estre in the GTE Porsche #92.

### **#21 Nissan Motorsports Nissan GT-R LM Nismo Hybrid driven by Tsugio Matsuda/Lucas Ordóñez/Mark Shulzhitskiy (M)([www.nissan-motorsports.com](http://www.nissan-motorsports.com)) ([www.nismo.co.jp](http://www.nismo.co.jp))**

Nissan re-enter at the top level of Sports Car Racing after 16 years, with a radical front engine (V6 3 litre twin turbo petrol) and front wheel drive car, which was exclusively previewed in an advertisement during the half time break at this year's Superbowl in February. They will run in the 2MJ energy recovery category.

The team is based in Indianapolis at the former Forsythe Racing premises and assembled at All-American Racers in Santa Ana California.

The team missed the Prologue, Silverstone and Spa to sort out development after failing their original crash test. It will run a 2MJ energy recovery system which it will retrieve from the front axle, and has been tested thoroughly at Austin in the USA.

The #21 will only run at Le Mans. Matsuda is the reigning Super GT champion in Japan.

Shulzhitskiy replaced Marc Gené at the beginning of May. Gené will still act as a consultant for the team and may drive at the test day.

At Imola Shulzhitskiy drove the Lanan Racing LMP3 with Alex Craven and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in class.

#### **#22 Nissan Motorsports Nissan GT-R LM Nismo Hybrid driven by Harry Tincknell/Alex Buncombe/Michael Krumm (M)**

Michael Krumm (who is only confirmed for Le Mans) has been undertaking much of the early testing for the team. Pla retired from this year's Daytona 24 hours in Tracy Krohn's Ligier P2 but finished 6<sup>th</sup> at Sebring.

Tincknell joins from the winning LMP2 Jota team of last year.

#### **#23 Nissan Motorsports Nissan GT-R LM Nismo Hybrid driven by Jann Mardenborough/Olivier Pla/Max Chilton (M)**

Chilton joins after having driven in F1 for Marussia and drives with Playstation Academy winner Mardenborough. Pla joins from LMP2 team G-Drive Racing.

Pla retired from this year's Daytona 24 hours in Tracy Krohn's Ligier P2 but finished 6<sup>th</sup> at Sebring.

#### **LMP2 (19 CARS) - (Blue number panels and Yellow headlamps. Teams must include at least one bronze or silver rated driver).**

#### **#26 G-Drive Racing Ligier JS P2-Nissan Coupe driven by Roman Rusinov/Julien Canal/Sam Bird (D)([www.oak-racing.com](http://www.oak-racing.com)) ([www.onroak.com](http://www.onroak.com))**

The Ligier is constructed by Onroak Automotive, as are the Morgans.

At Silverstone WEC the team won LM P2 by a lap from their team mates.

At Spa the team retired with engine trouble but were classified 10<sup>th</sup> in class after being fastest in qualifying.

#### **#27 SMP Racing BR Engineering BR01-Nissan Coupe driven by Maurizio Mediani/David Markasov/Nicolas Minassian (M)([www.smpracing.ru](http://www.smpracing.ru))**

The SMP cars were formerly run under the AF Corse banner, but this year from Le Mans will be run in house.

At Silverstone ELMS, the team used Oreca 03s run by AF Corse (running as No 32) and finished 7<sup>th</sup> in LM P2 after spinning into the gravel with 20 minutes remaining.

At Imola running the BR01 for the first time, the team retired with a fuel leak.

#### **#28 G-Drive Racing Ligier JS P2-Nissan Coupe driven by Gustavo Yacaman/Ricardo Gonzalez/Luis Felipe (Pipo) Derani (D)**

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in LM P2 (hampered by a late steering issue) after being fastest in Qualifying.

At Spa the team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in class.

**#29 Pegasus Racing Team Total Morgan LMP2-Nissan driven by Leo Roussel/David Cheng/Ho-Pin Tung (M)([www.pegasus-racing.com](http://www.pegasus-racing.com))**

The team are racing the older “non EVO” Morgan. Cheng finished 7<sup>th</sup> in PC at Sebring.

At Silverstone ELMS, where Roussel and Cheng were joined by Jonathan Coleman, they retired after 64 laps.

At Imola Roussel and Cheng were joined by Julien Schell and finished 9<sup>th</sup> in class after they suffered brake problems towards the end of the race.

**#30 Extreme Speed Motorsports Ligier JS P2- Honda Coupe driven by Scott Sharp/Ryan Dalziel/David Heinemeier Hansson (D)([www.esmracing.com](http://www.esmracing.com))**

The US team enter this year’s WEC after one appearance in China last year. The driving team retired from this year’s Daytona 24 hours and again at Sebring. The team has decided to delay the homologation of the HPD ARX 04-b and used the older HPD ARX-03b chassis at Sebring and Silverstone. The Ligier will be used at Spa and Le Mans but will still use the Honda HR28TT V6 engine.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in LM P2 but were subsequently disqualified at post event scrutineering for having a badly worn underfloor skid plank.

At Spa the team treated the race as a test session and finished 9<sup>th</sup> in class.

**#31 Extreme Speed Motorsports Ligier JS P2-Honda Coupe driven by Ed Brown/Johannes van Overbeek/Jonathon Fogarty (D)**

The team retired from this year’s Daytona 24 hours and finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the Prototype class at Sebring.

At Silverstone WEC, Van Overbeek missed the race due to a cracked rib and was replaced by former Le Mans winner David Brabham and finished 6<sup>th</sup> in LM P2 after their team mates were disqualified, despite suffering gearbox problems and an oil leak.

At Spa the team finished 8<sup>th</sup> in class.

**#34 OAK Racing Ligier JS P2-Honda Coupe driven by Kevin Estre/Laurens Vanthoor/Chris Cumming (D)([www.oakracing.com](http://www.oakracing.com))**

The team received an automatic invitation after winning the LM P2 class in last year’s Asian Le Mans Series. Cumming retired at Daytona but finished 6<sup>th</sup> in PC at Sebring and won PC at Laguna Seca. Estre finished 16<sup>th</sup> in GTD in a 911 Porsche America at Dytona.

Estre drove the #91 GTE Pro Porsche at Spa.

**#35 OAK Racing Ligier JS P2-Nissan Coupe driven by Jacques Nicolet/Jean-Marc Merlin/Erik Maris (D)**

The all gentleman driver crew are led by Jacques Nicolet, the boss of Onroak Automotive and Oak Racing.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in LM P2 after having a throttle problem.

At Spa the team finished 7<sup>th</sup> in class.

**#36 Signatech Alpine Alpine A450b-Nissan driven by Nelson Panciatici/Paul-Loup Chatin/Vincent Capillaire (D)([www.signature-team.com](http://www.signature-team.com))**

The team received an automatic invitation after winning the LMP2 class in last year's European Le Mans Series (and indeed in 2013). The car is an Oreca 03R but homologated as an Alpine.

At Silverstone WEC, the team retired after Chatin crashed out after 20 laps.

At Spa the team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in class.

**#37 SMP Racing BR Engineering BR01-Nissan Coupe driven by Mikhail Aleshin/Kirill Ladygin/Anton Ladygin (M)**

At Silverstone ELMS, the team used an Oreca 03 run by AF Corse (Running as No 34) and finished 8<sup>th</sup> in LM P2.

At Imola running the BR01 for the first time they finished 8<sup>th</sup> in class after a late off into a gravel trap.

**#38 Jota Sport Gibson 015S-Nissan driven by Simon Dolan/Mitch Evans/Oliver Turvey (D)([www.jotagroup.com](http://www.jotagroup.com))**

The team received an automatic invitation after winning LMP2 in last year's race. The Gibson is an updated version of last year's Zytek.

At Silverstone ELMS, where Dolan was joined by Felipe Albuquerque and Harry Tincknell the team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in LM P2, despite a late spin by Tincknell.

At Spa the team won LM P2 by a lap, despite a drive through penalty for Tincknell who had been adjudged to have jumped the start.

At Imola the same team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in class after being on pole position after an off by Dolan necessitated an extra pit stop to repair front bodywork.

**#40 Krohn Racing Ligier JS P2-Judd (BMW) Coupe driven by Tracy Krohn/Niclas Jönsson/Joao Barbosa (M)([www.krohn racing.net](http://www.krohn racing.net))**

Krohn and Jönsson (with Alex Brundle and Olivier Pla) retired from this year's Daytona 24 hours and finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall at Sebring (with Olivier Pla). Barbosa finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at Daytona, won at Sebring, was 5<sup>th</sup> at Long Beach and finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall at Laguna Seca in a Corvette DP.

At Silverstone ELMS, Krohn and Jonsson with Ozz Negri the team finished 4<sup>th</sup> in LM P2.

At Imola the same team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in class.

**#41 Greaves Motorsport Gibson 015S-Nissan driven by Gaetan Paletou/ Jon Lancaster/Gary Hirsch (D)([www.greavesmotorsport.com](http://www.greavesmotorsport.com))**

At Silverstone ELMS, the team finished 1<sup>st</sup> overall in LM P2 after being on pole position.

At Imola the team finished 4<sup>th</sup> in class after a lurid spin by Hirsch.

Paletou won the Nissan GT Academy Europe (last August) and has been driving in the Blancpain Endurance series and ELMS in P3. He replaced Wirdheim after test day.



**#42 Strakka Racing Strakka Dome S103-Nissan Coupe driven by Nick Leventis/Danny Watts/Jonny Kane (M)([www.strakkaracing.com](http://www.strakkaracing.com))**

The car missed 2014 due to the need for a major redesign.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in LM P2 (despite an early spin into the gravel) after the disqualification of No 30 ESM.

At Spa the team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in class.

**#43 Team SARD-Morand Morgan LMP2 Evo-SARD (Judd) driven by Oliver Webb/Pierre Ragues/Zoel Amberg (D)**

One driver was to be chosen from 24 drivers on a reality TV programme "Raceto24" ([www.raceto24.com](http://www.raceto24.com)). 24 drivers from 17 countries had been selected to take part over a period of 12 weeks, to produce a winner, but the team pulled out of the deal in April.

The team missed Silverstone after a late withdrawal due to contractual problems after an agreement for a deal with Kairos Technologies fell through.

At Spa the team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in class. The team now has sponsorship from Franck Muller watches.

**#45 Ibanez Racing Oreca 03R-Nissan driven by Jose Ibanez/Pierre Perret/Ivan Bellarosa (D)**

At Silverstone ELMS, the team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in LM P2.

At Imola Bellarosa and Ibanez finished 6<sup>th</sup> in class. Perret with Yutaka Yamagishi retired on the parade lap at Imola.

**#46 Thiriet by TDS Racing Oreca 05-Nissan Coupe driven by Pierre Thiriet/Ludovic Badey/Tristan Gommendy (D)**

At Silverstone ELMS, the team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in LM P2 after Gommendy spun off late on after a touch by Lancaster.

At Imola the team took the overall victory despite an off in qualifying by Gommendy which meant they started in 9<sup>th</sup> place.

**#47 KCMG Oreca 05-Nissan Coupe driven by Matthew Howson/Richard Bradley/Nicolas Lapierre (D)([www.kcmg.com.hk](http://www.kcmg.com.hk))**

Toyota factory reserve driver Lapierre joins the team for Spa and Le Mans.

At Silverstone WEC, Porsche P1 driver Nick Tandy drove for the team and they finished 4<sup>th</sup> in LM P2 after suffering a radiator failure.

At Spa the team were disqualified from qualifying for having after failing the front skidblock deflection test and started from the pit lane after serving a 30 second penalty. They eventually finished 4<sup>th</sup> in class after losing over a minute to replace the tail section.

**#48 Murphy Prototypes Oreca 03R-Nissan driven by Nathanael Berthon/Mark Patterson/Karun Chandhok (D)**



At Silverstone ELMS, Berthon and Patterson joined by Michael Lyons, retired with mechanical problems after 83 laps.

At Imola the same team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in class.

**LMGTE Pro (9 CARS) - (Green number panels and yellow headlamps. No restrictions on drivers. All cars are on Michelin tyres).**

**#51 AF Corse Ferrari 458 Italia GT2 driven by Gianmaria Bruni/Toni Vilander/Giancarlo Fisichella ([www.afcorse.it](http://www.afcorse.it))**

Almost certainly the last Le Mans for the quasi works 458 before it is replaced by the Ferrari F488 in 2016. The team received an automatic invitation after winning GTE Pro in 2014. Bruni and Vilander retired from this year's Daytona 24 hours. Fisichella finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in GTLM at Sebring and also at Long Beach in a Ferrari 458. At Laguna Seca he finished 4<sup>th</sup> in GTLM.

At Silverstone WEC, Bruni and Vilander were 1<sup>st</sup> in GTE Pro.

At Spa they finished 4<sup>th</sup> after receiving a late one minute stop and go penalty after a pitlane infringement by their crew.

**#63 Corvette Racing-GM Chevrolet Corvette C7.R driven by Jan Magnussen/Antonio Garcia/Ryan Briscoe ([www.corvetteracing.com](http://www.corvetteracing.com))**

The works Corvette team will probably only race at Le Mans in this year's WEC.

The driving team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and won GTLM at the Daytona 24 hours in January and won GTLM at Sebring finishing 10<sup>th</sup> overall. At Long Beach Magnussen and Garcia finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in GTLM and then 7<sup>th</sup> at Laguna Seca.

**#64 Corvette Racing-GM Chevrolet Corvette C7.R driven by Oliver Gavin/Tommy Milner/Jordan Taylor**

Gavin and Milner (with Simon Pagenaud) finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in GTLM at the Daytona 24 hours, 9<sup>th</sup> at Sebring, 7<sup>th</sup> at Long Beach and 6<sup>th</sup> at Laguna Seca. Taylor retired from this year's Daytona 24 hours in a Corvette DP but finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at Sebring and won at Long Beach and was 2<sup>nd</sup> at Laguna Seca.

**#71 AF Corse Ferrari 458 Italia GT2 driven by Davide Rigon/James Calado/Olivier Beretta**

Rigon retired from this year's Daytona 24 Hours in a Risi Competizione Ferrari 458.

At Silverstone WEC, Rigon and Calado finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in GTE Pro.

At Spa they finished 7<sup>th</sup> in class.

**#91 Porsche Team Manthey Porsche 911 RSR (991) driven by Richard Lietz/Michael Christensen/Jörg Bergmeister ([www.porsche.com/motorsport](http://www.porsche.com/motorsport))**

The Porsches have revised front aero this year and also a new refuelling system which may save up to 10 seconds per pit stop.

Christensen with Pilet (with Nick Tandy and Marc Lieb) finished 5<sup>th</sup> in GTLM at the Daytona 24 hours. Lietz finished 5<sup>th</sup> in GTLM at Sebring with Nick Tandy, Patrick Pilet and Earl

Bamber. Lietz and Bergmeister finished 8<sup>th</sup> in GTLM at Long Beach. Pilet and Christensen finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in GTLM at Laguna Seca and Bergmeister 5<sup>th</sup>.

At Silverstone WEC, Lietz and Christensen finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in GTE Pro.

At Spa, Porsche junior driver Sven Muller drove this car with Kevin Estre and they finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in class, despite two drive through penalties, one for Estre's collision with Tandy in Porsche #19.

### **#92 Porsche Team Manthey Porsche 911 RSR (991) driven by Patrick Pilet/Frédéric Makowiecki/Wolf Henzler**

Pilet with Christensen finished 5<sup>th</sup> in GTLM at the Daytona 24 hours and also 5<sup>th</sup> at Sebring. Makowiecki with Jorg Bergmeister and Earl Bamber finished 7<sup>th</sup> in GTLM at the Daytona 24 hours earlier this year. Henzler retired from the Daytona 24 hours in a Team Falken Porsche 991 but finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in GTLM at Sebring. Bergmeister with Makowiecki and Bamber finished 7<sup>th</sup> in GTLM at Sebring. At Long Beach Pilet and Makowiecki finished 4<sup>th</sup> in GTLM & Henzler 6<sup>th</sup>, and at Laguna Seca Pilet finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in GTLM and Henzler 8<sup>th</sup>.

At Silverstone WEC, Pilet and Makowiecki finished 7<sup>th</sup> in GTE Pro after front suspension trouble.

At Spa, Makowiecki and Lietz finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in class despite a drive through penalty for Lietz.

### **#95 Aston Martin Racing Aston Martin Vantage GTE driven by Nicki Thiim/Christoffer Nygaard/Marco Sørensen ([www.astonmartinracing.com](http://www.astonmartinracing.com))**

This year may see the swansong of the current Vantage before it is replaced by its successor next year. The diameter of the Aston's air intake restrictors has increased by 0.8mm this year.

The "Dane Train" moves up to GTE Pro this year. Nygaard finished 13<sup>th</sup> in GTD at the Daytona 24 Hours earlier this year. Sorensen joins the team this year having been a winner in GP2 and Renault 3.5.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 4<sup>th</sup> in GTE Pro after being in pole position.

At Spa they finished 6<sup>th</sup> in class, Jonny Adam drove the car in practice as Nygaard was suffering from a back problem but he did not drive in the race.

### **#97 Aston Martin Racing Aston Martin Vantage GTE driven by Darren Turner/Stefan Mücke/Rob Bell**

At Silverstone WEC, Turner and Mucke finished 5<sup>th</sup> in GTE Pro.

At Spa after an early puncture they finished 5<sup>th</sup> in class.

### **#99 Aston Martin Racing V8 Aston Martin Vantage GTE driven by Fernando Rees/Alex MacDowall/Richie Stanaway**

No longer having a link with Craft-Bamboo the car this year has run with Valero sponsorship at Silverstone and Hanergy sponsorship at Spa.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in GTE Pro.

At Spa they won GTE Pro and were fastest in qualifying.

**LMGTE Am (14 CARS) -(Orange number panels and Yellow headlamps. At least one bronze and one bronze or silver rated driver. All cars are on Michelin tyres except #66 Ferrari running on Dunlops).**

**#50 Larbre Competition Chevrolet Corvette C7.R driven by Gianluca Roda/Paolo Ruberti/Kristian Poulsen ([www.larbre-competition.com](http://www.larbre-competition.com))**

Roda and Ruberti move over from the 8 Star/AF Corse Ferrari team.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 7<sup>th</sup> in GTE Am despite a puncture and a one minute stop and go for a pit stop violation.

At Spa they retired after an accident by Poulsen.

Poulsen retired from the ELMS race driving the #68 Massive Motorsport GTC Aston Martin Vantage with Casper Elgaard and Simon Moller, the same team also retired at Imola.

**#53 Riley Motorsports-TI Automotive Dodge Viper GTS-R driven by Jeroen Bleekemolen/Ben Keating/Marc Miller**

The car was originally the first reserve but made it in to the race after the withdrawal of #39 Team Sard-Morand Morgan.

The team finished 9<sup>th</sup> in GTD at the Daytona 24 hours and Sebring in a Dodge Viper SRT, Keating also shared the winning GTD Viper. Goossens finished 4<sup>th</sup> in GTD at Sebring. Miller finished 8<sup>th</sup> in GTD at Laguna Seca in a Dodge Viper, where Bleekemolen and Keating finished 11<sup>th</sup>.

**#55 AF Corse Ferrari 458 Italia GT2 driven by Duncan Cameron/Matt Griffin/Alex Mortimer**

The team received an automatic invitation after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in LM GTE in the European Le Mans Series last year. Griffin finished 4<sup>th</sup> in GTD at Daytona in a Ferrari 458.

At Silverstone ELMS, Cameron and Griffin were joined by Aaron Scott and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in LM GTE.

At Spa WEC they retired with damper trouble.

At Imola the same team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in class.

**#61 AF Corse Ferrari 458 Italia GT2 driven by Peter Ashley Mann/Raffaele Giammaria/Matteo Cressoni**

At Silverstone ELMS, the team (driving as car No 51) retired after 35 laps.

At Imola the team finished 7<sup>th</sup> in class (again driving as car #51).

**#62 Scuderia Corse Ferrari 458 Italia GT2 driven by Bill Sweedler/Townsend Bell/Jeff Segal**

The team received an automatic invitation after being nominated by the Tudor United Sports Car Championship (the other nominees Wayne Taylor Racing declined their invitation in LM P2).

Sweedler and Bell and Segal finished 6<sup>th</sup> in GTD at the Daytona 24 hours in a Ferrari 458 and Sweedler and Bell with Anthony Lazzaro 3<sup>rd</sup> at Sebring. At Laguna Seca they finished 4<sup>th</sup> in GTD.

**#66 JMW Motorsport Ferrari 458 Italia GT2 driven by Abulaziz Turki Al-Faisal/Kuba Giermaziak/ Michael Avenatti**

This is the only GTE Am car running on Dunlop tyres at Le Mans.

Al-Faisal won the Dubai 24 hours in January driving a Black Falcon Mercedes. Giermaziak and Avenatti finished 7<sup>th</sup> in GTD at Daytona in a Porsche 911 GT American and retired from Sebring.

At Silverstone ELMS, in this car George Richardson joined by Robert Smith and Sam Tordoff finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in LM GTE.

At Imola the same team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in class.

**#67 Team AAI Porsche 911 GT3 RSR (997) driven by Jun-San Chen/Xavier Maassen/Alex Kapadia**

The team received 2 automatic invitations (see #68 below) after finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in GTC in last year's Asian Le Mans Series. The team has sourced this 3 year old 997 from the Belgian Prospeed team.

**#68 Team AAI Porsche 911 RSR (991) driven by Han-Chen Chen/Gilles Vannelet/Mike Parisy**

Han -Chen Chen is known as "Morris"!

The team has also sourced the newer 991 from the Belgian Prospeed team.

**#72 SMP Racing Ferrari 458 Italia GT2 driven by Viktor Shaytar/Aleksey Basov/Andrea Bertolini ([www.smpracing.ru](http://www.smpracing.ru))**

The team received an automatic invitation after winning LM GTE (and GTC) in the European Le Mans Series last year. Bertolini finished 14<sup>th</sup> in GTLM at the Daytona 24 hours for Scuderia Corsa and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Sebring.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in GTE Am.

At Spa they finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in class.

**#77 Dempsey-Proton Racing Porsche 911 RSR (991) driven by Patrick Dempsey/Patrick Long/Marco Seefried ([www.patrickdempsey.com](http://www.patrickdempsey.com))**

Actor/Racer Dempsey finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in GTD at the Daytona 24 hours in a Wright Motorsports 911GT America. Long retired from the Daytona 24 hours in a Falken Tire Porsche 991 but finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in GTLM at Sebring. Seefried finished 11<sup>th</sup> in GTD at Sebring in a 991.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in GTE Am.

At Spa they finished 5<sup>th</sup> in class.

**#83 AF Corse Ferrari 458 Italia GT2 driven by Francois Perrodo/Emmanuel Collard/Rui Aguas ([www.afcorse.it](http://www.afcorse.it))**

Aguas finished 4<sup>th</sup> in GTD at the Daytona 24 hours in a Ferrari 458 and 10<sup>th</sup> at Sebring. Perrodo and Collard (with Bruni and Vilander) retired from the race.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in GTE Am. Aguas also retired in the ELMS race driving #81 Ferrari 458 with Stephen Wyatt and Michele Rugalo.

At Spa they finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in class.

### **#88 Abu Dhabi - Proton Racing Porsche 911 RSR (991) driven by Christian Ried/Khaled Al Qubaisi /Klaus Bachler**

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in GTE Am and also 5<sup>th</sup> in LMGTE in the ELMS race.

At Spa they finished 4<sup>th</sup> in class.

At Imola Reid joined by Richars Lietz and Marco Mapelli finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in class.

### **#96 Aston Martin Racing Aston Martin Vantage GTE driven by Roald Goethe/Stuart Hall/Francesco Castellacci**

The team received an automatic invitation after winning the GTE Am class at last year's Le Mans (although the winning "Dane Train" crew will race this year in GTE Pro). The team raced in ELMS in 2014 but Hall and Jamie Campbell-Walter won FIA GTE Am in 2013.

Goethe finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the Dubai 24 hours in January driving a Gulf Racing Lamborghini Gallardo.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 4<sup>th</sup> in GTE Am. Goethe finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the ELMS race driving the #85 Lamborghini Gallardo LPS60 in GTC with Daniel Brown and Archie Hamilton. Castellacci and Hall retired in the ELMS race driving the #62 GTC AF Corse Ferrari 458 with Thomas Flohr.

At Spa they finished 6<sup>th</sup> in class.

At Imola Castellacci and Hall joined by Rino Mastronardi finished winners of the GTC class in an AF Corse entered Ferrari F458.

### **#98 Aston Martin Racing Aston Martin Vantage GTE driven by Paul Dalla Lana/Pedro Lamy/Mathias Lauda**

The driving team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in GTLM at the Daytona 24 hours (with Darren Turner and Stefan Mucke) and 6<sup>th</sup> again at Sebring with Darren Turner. Niki Lauda's son joins the team this year having previously run in the DTM.

At Silverstone WEC, the team finished 1<sup>st</sup> in GTE AM having started on pole position.

At Spa the team again won GTE Am.

### **Reserve Entries (in the order that they will be invited to replace drop outs)**

#### **1 LMP2      **#49 KCMG Oreca 03R (or 05)-Judd (BMW) driven by Tomonobu Fujii/Satoshi Hoshino/Christian Klein (D)****

Klein took part in the WEC races at Spa and Silverstone in the #4 CLM but retired from both.

Fujii and Hoshino finished 10<sup>th</sup> in GTD at Daytona in an Audi R8 LMS.

Will take part in the Test day.

**2 GTE-Am #60 Formula Racing Ferrari 458 Italia GT2 driven by Johnny Laursen/Mikkel Mac Jensen/Christina Neilsen (M)**

Racing in this year's ELMS Series. Laursen, Mac and Andrea Rizzoli finished 6<sup>th</sup> in GTE at Silverstone, and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Imola. Will take part in the Test day. Neilsen is the only female driver taking part this year, she finished 13<sup>th</sup> in GTD at Daytona in an Aston Martin V12 Vantage and 5<sup>th</sup> at Laguna Seca.

The team is run by the AF Corse organisation.

**3 GTE-Am #86 Gulf Racing UK Porsche 911 RSR (991) driven by Michael Wainwright/Adam Carroll/Philip Keen (M)**

Phil Keen finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall in a Corvette DP at Daytona. Racing in this year's ELMS Series. The team finished 1<sup>st</sup> overall in GTE at Silverstone, but were only 8<sup>th</sup> at Imola. Will take part in the Test day.

**4 GTE-Am #65 Proton Competition Porsche 911 RSR (991) driven by ?/?/? (M)**

Will miss the Test day.

**5 LMP2 #44 Ibanez Racing Oreca 03R-Nissan (Wolf GB08) driven by Yutaka Yamagishi/Stephane Raffin/? (D)**

Racing in this Year's ELMS Series. Michele La Rosa and Yutaka Yamagishi retired at Silverstone after 99 laps. At Imola Pierre Perret with Yamagishi retired on the parade lap. Will take part in the Test day.

***(There is no entry in Garage 56 for Innovative Technologies this year).***

**Cars appearing at the Test Day on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May but not at the 24 Hours**

**GTE Am #81 AF Corse Ferrari 458 Italia GT2 driven by Pierguiseppe Perazzini/Marco Cioci/ (M)**

Cioci finished 10<sup>th</sup> in GTD at Sebring and retired from the ELMS race at Silverstone driving Ferrari 458s. He finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at Imola in a Ferrari F458.

**GTE Am #82 AF Corse Ferrari 458 Italia GT2 driven by Yannick Mallegol/Jean-Marc Bachelier/Howard Blank/Eric Mouez (M)**

**LMP3 #74 Team LNT Ginetta-Nissan driven by Michael Simpson/Gaetan Paletou (M)**

Paletou is a 2014 winner of the Europe Nissan Playstation Academy. They finished 2<sup>nd</sup> to their team mates at the ELMS race at Silverstone in LMP3 but retired at Imola with a gearbox oil line problem.

**LMP3 #75 Team LNT Ginetta -Nissan driven by Sir Chris Hoy/Charlie Robertson (M)**

Sir Chris (6 times Olympic gold medal winning cyclist) and Robertson won LMP3 at the ELMS race at Silverstone by a lap from their team mates. At Imola after 2 penalties and a long pit stop they finished 4<sup>th</sup> in class.

## **LMP3 #73 Scuderia Villorba Corse Ginetta-Nissan driven by Roberto Lacorte/Giorgio Sernagiotto (M)**

Made their debut at Imola but retired after running out of fuel. Reserve car at the Test day.

### **Timetable**

#### **Friday May 29<sup>th</sup>**

09.00-19.00 Test Day Scrutineering at the Circuit

#### **Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>**

08.30-16.00 Test Day Scrutineering at the Circuit

16:00 Official photo of cars on grandstand straight

#### **Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>**

09.00-13.00 Test Day Session 1

14.00-18.00 Test Day Session 2

#### **Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>**

14.00-18.00 Scrutineering & Admin Checking at Place de la Republique

#### **Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>**

10.00-17.00 Scrutineering & Admin Checking at Place de la Republique

18.30-19.00 The winning Audi drivers from 2014 handprints are revealed on a plaque to be placed in Le Mans city centre at Saint Nicolas Square.

#### **Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup>**

17.00-18.30 Drivers' Autograph Session at the Circuit

#### **Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>**

08.00-15.00 Pitwalk

16.00-20.00 Free Practice Session

20.00-21.00 Concert - The Lemon Queen

20.30-21.30 Aston Martin Festival Free Practice

21.00-22.00 Concert - Jabberwocky

22.00-24.00 Qualifying Session 1

#### **Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup>**

08.00-15.00 Pitwalk

16.00-17.00 Le Mans Legends Qualifying Session

17.30-18.30 Aston Martin Festival Qualifying Session

19.00-21.00 Qualifying Session 2

20.00-21.00 Concert - Ton Zinc

21.00-22.00 Concert - Cali

22.00-24.00 Qualifying Session 3

#### **Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>**

10.00-20.00 Pits and Track open

10.00-17.00 Virage de Mulsanne/ The Band Trio Bele Noci will play/ Miss Le Mans will be there

17.30-19.30 Drivers' Parade in the City Centre

18.00-20.00 Concert - Jr Yellam

20.00-22.00 Concert - Trinity

22.00-23.30 Concert - Willy William

23.30- Concert - Irie Ites Sound

#### **Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>**

09.00-09.45 Warm Up

10.05-10.50 Support Race - Le Mans Legends

11.15-12.00 Aston Martin Racing Festival

14.22 Beginning of starting procedure

**15.00 Start of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Le Mans 24 Hours by Grand Marshal Tom Kristensen**

20.00-21.00 Concert - DJ Loran

21.00-22.00 Concert - Heymoonshaker

22.00-23.00 Concert - Charlie Winston

23.00-23.30 Concert - DJ Moule



23.30- Concert - Dixon Brothers

**Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>**

15.00 Chequered Flag / Podium celebrations.

**British Week in Saint-Saturnin:** The theme this year is the celebration of the MG marque. ([WWW.CLASSICBW.ORG](http://WWW.CLASSICBW.ORG))

Monday/Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Young Drivers' Rally starts from Val-de-Vray centre.

Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> Go Kart competition at the Speed Park

Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> Volunteers set up stands, etc for Friday

Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> from 9.00 Free Entry - Classic British Welcome

" Classic car show in Val-de-Vray

"

16.30 Saint Saturnin Cavalcade leaves

## **FIA WEC & ELMS Events before Le Mans**

WEC Prologue March 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> Paul Ricard HTTT

April 12<sup>th</sup> Silverstone 6 Hours

May 2<sup>nd</sup> Spa 6 Hours

ELMS Tests March 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Paul Ricard HTTT

April 11<sup>th</sup> Silverstone 4 Hours

May 17<sup>th</sup> Imola 4 Hours

## **Test Day - Sunday May 31st**

Entries must be with the ACO by April 1st and up to 70 cars will be accepted.

Up to 5 drivers may drive in each car and declared by Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>.

All new drivers to Le Mans and drivers who haven't raced at the track for over 5 years must complete a one day simulator test before driving on the circuit.

## **Anniversaries this year**

10 years ago - Last win for the Audi R8 and Tom Kristensen beats Jacky Ickx's record of 6 wins.

20 years ago - Last win by a "road-going" car at Le Mans - McLaren F1 GTR (which will parade on Saturday morning this year with 4 other McLaren's which took part in that year's race).

First time the Driver Parade was held in the city centre.

*Foundation of Club Arnage!*

30 years ago - Same Joest Racing Porsche 956 wins for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running.

The Syndicat Mixte was formed to administer the development of the circuit.

40 years ago - Derek Bell's first win, driving a Gulf Mirage -Ford with Jacky Ickx.

50 years ago - Ferrari's last overall win at Le Mans (Jochen Rindt/Masten Gregory in a 250LM).

60 years ago - First Jaguar "D" Type victory (Mike Hawthorn/Ivor Bueb) following Pierre Levegh's crash resulting in over 80 fatalities.

80 years ago - Lagonda's only win at Le Mans (John Hindmarsh/Luis Fontes).

90 years ago - First (and last) award of the Rudge-Whitworth Coupe Triennial to Robert Senechal & Alberic Locqueneux in a Chenard et Walcker (although they finished 13<sup>th</sup> in that year's race!).

## **SUPPORT RACES**

There will be two support races on race day morning of 45 minutes each – the first for the Aston Martin Racing Festival where cars from the last 11 years such as the LMP1 Aston Martin Lola DBR1 and the GT class winning DBR9 will race against current cars such as the Vantage V8 GTE and the V12 Vantage GT3. There will also be demonstration laps from Aston Martin road cars of the future ([www.astonmartinracing.com](http://www.astonmartinracing.com)).

The other will be for “Legends” cars dating from 1949 to 1968

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

There will be up to 61 cars such as Ford GT40's and Porsche 908s and 910s taking part.

**Tony Light - Last updated on 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015**

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