

Communiqué n° 9

19/06/2005 02h00

00h – 02h00

- Our reporter in the pits told us that the Aston Martin team mechanics looked relaxed, sitting in comfortable chairs, sipping tea and eating biscuits.
- At 23:40 hrs the Audis looked to be in control, they occupied the first three places with No. 3 Champion Audi (Lehto) leading, No. 2 Champion Audi (Biela) second and No. 4 Audi Playstation Team Oreca Audi (Gounon) third. In LM GT2 the Porsches began to take control when the Panoz and Ferrari challenges faded away; Porsche occupied the first seven places at 23:45 hrs.
- The No. 61 Cirtek Ferrari 550 Maranello was running smoothly, sixth in class despite Vasiliev crossing the gravel traps at the Playstation Chicane just before he came into the pits.
- Martin Short and the No. 18 Rollcentre Dallara Judd were back running after their long pit stop trying to resolve power steering problems.
- Tom Kristensen was interviewed by French radio and he said: "We were surprised to lead the race so early on - but helped by the misfortune of others, yes we are there. We are just trying to hang on, trying to do our best. It's very difficult, there are a lot of accidents and a lot of oil on the track - we just have to stay out of trouble - but the race is young - we'll see."
- In LMP2 Liz Halliday was leading the class in the No. 32 Intersport Lola AER. This is her first visit to Le Mans, and so far it's been a rather rewarding experience for the young American.
- At the end of the eighth hour, the standings were as follows:
- LMP1
No. 3 Champion Audi, Lehto
No. 2 Champion Audi, Biela
No. 4 Audi Playstation Team Oreca Audi, Gounon
- LMP2
No. 32 Intersport Lola AER, Halliday
No. 37 Belmondo Courage Ford, Sutherland
No. 36 Belmondo Courage Ford, Gosselin
- GT1
No. 58 Aston Martin DBR9, Enge
No. 64 Corvette C6-R, Beretta
No. 63 Corvette C6-R, O'Connell
- GT2
No. 71 Alex Job Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, Leib

No. 90 White Lightning Racing Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, Bernhard
No. 76 Raymond Narac Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, Dumas

- **00:20 hrs**
- At just a minute past midnight, the No. 8 Rollcentre Dallara Nissan and the No. 17 Pescarolo Judd touched at the PlayStation chicane bringing out yellow flags. The Dallara appeared to have a fire. Ayari took the Pescarolo back to the pits for inspection of the damage. At 00:16 it was still stationary in pit garage.
- Both Corvettes pitted together and No. 64 had a driver change.
- The No. 36 Belmondo Courage Ford was troubled with electrical gremlins. It was fitted with new plugs and battery.
- At 12:20 the 3rd placed No. 4 Audi Playstation Team Oreca Audi pitted. Gounon took over the car.
- **00:40 hrs**
- As we moved into the small hours of Sunday morning, the No. 9 Team Jota-Zytek Engineering Zytek has quadruple-stinted. Dunlop is the only tyre manufacturer that had no punctures up to half past midnight.
- At 00:35, Lehto and Biela continued to hold control of the race in the No. 3 Champion Audi and No. 2 Champion Audi. There was only one lap between them and they were two laps ahead of No. 4 Audi Playstation Team Oreca Audi with Montagny at the wheel.
- No. 32 Intersport Lola AER was wheeled into the pit garage at 12:31 from leading position in LMP2. Liz Halliday was complaining of vibration in the car.
- **01:00 hrs**
- The No. 9 Team Jota-Zytek Engineering Zytek went into its garage and was still there at 12:51am.
- Bosch tookover the No. 10 Racing for Holland Dome Judd after a brief visit to the pits with a rear wheel puncture. It rejoined, apparently the bodywork was not significantly damaged.
- The 14th-placed No. 17 Pescarolo Judd was given a stop and go penalty at 12:45am.
- Just before 01:00am Kaneishi took the No. 5 Jim Gainer International Dome-Mugen for a visit to the gravel at the PlayStation chicane but rejoined undamaged.
- At the end of the 9th hour, the standings were as follows:
- **LMP1**
No. 3 Champion Audi, Lehto
No. 2 Champion Audi, Pirro
No. 5 Jim Gainer International Dome-Mugen, Kaneishi
- **LMP2**
No. No. 37 Belmondo Courage Ford, Belmondo

- No. 32 Intersport Lola AER, Fisker
- No. 36 Belmondo Courage Ford, Gosselin
- GT1
 - No. 58 Aston Martin DBR9, Enge
 - No. 64 Corvette C6-R, Beretta
 - No. 63 Corvette C6-R, O'Connell
- GT2
 - No. 71 Alex Job Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, Leib
 - No. 90 White Lightning Racing Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, Burgmeister
 - No. 76 Raymond Narac Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, Dumas
- 01:20 hrs
 - The Corvettes continued their habit of visiting the pitlane together. The No. 63 and 64 Corvette C6-R, again pitted at the same moment and both changed drivers. Magnussen got into No. 64 and Papis into No. 63.
 - JJ Lehto brought in the race leading No. 3 Champion Audi at 1:08am for routine stop but experienced a slight delay while the front bodywork was properly secured.
 - The puncture of the No. 10 Dome Judd was the first failure for a Dunlop after 8 hours of racing. The car was still in the pit garage at 1:12am.
 - Mitchell took the No. 30 Kruse Motorsport Courage Judd and had for a spectacular spin into the gravel at the Dunlop chicane at 01:15am. The car appeared to be undamaged as it was extracted.
 - The No. 10 Racing for Holland Dome Judd was still in the pit garage at 01:23am getting a new left side radiator.
 - No. 18 Rollcentre Dallara Judd was in the pits at 01:21am for a driver change and new supply of power steering fluid. The power steering problems of the Dallara Judd are keeping Vanina Ickx from taking over. "You need to be a gorilla to drive it" said Martin Short.
 - The No. 58 Aston Martin DBR9 continues to run well into the top 10, running 6th, only one lap behind No. 4 Audi Playstation Team Oreca Audi. The two Corvettes were also running in the top 10 in 8th and 9th positions at 01:28am. The No. 64 Corvette C6-R was just over a minute behind class leader the No. 58 Aston and closing the gap.
 - No. 25 RML Lola MG was pushed into garage at 01:37am. After a brief pit lane application of tank tape, it appeared that the problem was a little more serious.
 - The race for GT1 remained very close with the top 3 cars on the same lap at 01:40am