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## **RACECAR EURO SERIES 2011 ROUND 5 – ENGLAND – 3 / 4 SEPTEMBER HELARY, KING OF ENGLAND !!!**

Support series in a prestigious DTM event, this RACECAR Euro Series' 5<sup>th</sup> round knew a great welcome from a British audience came in large numbers. For this first event in UK, RACECAR drivers offered a great show once again. Eric Helary has been the boss all week end long by winning the 2 ELITE races but Ander Vilarino and Steven Palette did fight for the victory too.

### **ELITE Sprint: Helary from start to finish line!**

ELITE drivers have made a good start, especially the poleman, Eric Helary, who succeeds in keeping the lead. Behind, Romain Iannetta, who started 4<sup>th</sup>, reaches immediately the 2<sup>nd</sup> position before the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> lap. But, he has rapidly to give it back to Steven Palette. With no competitors in front of him, Helary, leader of the ELITE championship, improves the gap behind. At the back, we can assist to a beautiful heated exchange between Palette and Ander Vilarino. After several tries, the Spanish driver takes the advantage. Fastest on track, the driver of the #69 Chevrolet Camaro cannot fill the gap with Helary who perfectly manages lapped-cars overpassing. Palette finishes 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Junior.

There has been a big fight for the positions behind the podium: Frederic Lajoux (1<sup>st</sup> Challenger), Antoine Lioen, Olivier Pernaut and an impressive Romain Thievin. This last one, not present during qualifying sessions, starts from the last position on the grid. He makes an incredible race to finally finish 6<sup>th</sup> after a great fight with Pernaut to reach the top 5.

Classification: 1 E.Helary – 2 A.Vilarino – 3 S.Palette – 4 F.Lajoux – 5 O.Pernaut – 6 R.Thievin – 7 V.Gonneau – 8 B.Cosin – 9 S.Romecki – 10 A.Lioen

### **OPEN Sprint: Gonneau, once again !**

4<sup>th</sup> on the starting grid, Vincent Gonneau makes a perfect race to reach his second victory this year in OPEN Championship after the one in Magny Cours two months ago. The driver of the Chevrolet Camaro #15 nips in and out of the traffic and wins with 0.4 seconds ahead of Romain Fournillier and Manu Brigand.

Asian drivers create a sensation: poleman for the 1st time of his career, Jo Merszei makes a fault in the 3rd lap. The Macanese takes efficiently control of his car back and steps back on the track behind 4 rivals. It benefits to his compatriot Hon Keong Ho who takes the lead. The 2 Macanese drivers could have applied for the victory. Philippe Marie wins the Gentleman Trophy and Jack Gaudin the Legend one.

Classification: 1 V.Gonneau – 2 R.Fournillier – 3 M.Brigand – 4 HK. Ho – 5 J.Merzsei – 6 P.Marie – 7 J.Gaudin – 8 J.Gabarron – 9 S.Sabates – 10 E.Havette

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## **ELITE Endurance segment: Helary, with experience!**

Eric Helary, ELITE Championship leader, benefits of his high experience to avoid traps due to a changing weather and a slippery track. Start is almost calm with the poleman Vilarino who keeps the lead, but in the 3<sup>rd</sup> lap, the rain appears in the English skies and makes the track difficult to handle. In the 6<sup>th</sup> lap, some oil between the Druids and the Graham Hill turns causes a big mess in the classification. Only Helary and Palette, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, manage the trap and stay on the track.

Strong leader of the race, Vilarino is among the trapped. Losing all grip, his Chevrolet Camaro #69 goes straight away in the grass. Hopefully with no damage, he steps back on the track having lost 10 seconds and finishes on the podium just behind Helary and Palette, who wins the Junior Trophy once again. Behind, Antoine Lioen, Romain Thievin, Marcos Martinez, Bruno Cosin and Vincent Capillaire offer us a breathless fight with 3-wide attacks and beautiful slides on the English grass.

The Spanish driver Marcos Martinez, who attracted attention in GP2, 3.5 Formula or Superleague Formula, discovered RACECAR Euro Series this past week end. He finishes at an excellent 5 position. Antoine Lioen wins the Challenger Trophy ahead of Bruno Cosin and Frederic Lajoux.

Classification: 1 E.Hélary – 2 S.Palette – 3 A.Vilarino – 4 A.Lioen – 5 M.Martinez – 6 V.Capillaire – 7 B.Cosin – 8 F.Lajoux – 9 W.Boucenna – 10 J.Merzsei.

## **OPEN Endurance segment: Brigand completes the job!**

ELITE drivers give the wheel to their OPEN teammates after 24 laps. Doing good changes, Joaquin Gabarron (Ford Mustang #5) and Eric Havette (Dodge Charger #3) win one position exiting pitlane respectively 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The end of the race is animated especially with Jo Merszei and his Chevrolet Camaro #27. 10<sup>th</sup> at the end of the ELITE segment he finally finishes 3<sup>rd</sup>. What a fight he offers us with Gabarron and Eric Quintal!

Ahead, Brigand perfectly completes the job began by his teammate Helary. He wins 12 seconds ahead of an excellent Tanguy Ide, on the podium once more. Brigand takes the lead of the Championship with only 4 points more than his archrival Fournillier.

Classification: 1 M.Brigand – 2 T.Ide – 3 J.Merszei – 4 E.Quintal – 5 J.Gabarron – 6 E.Havette – 7 J.Laurin – 8 F.Bry – 9 P.Baudinnière – 10 J.Gaudin

In ELITE Championship, Helary has a significant lead over a serious pack of warriors such as Lucas Lasserre, Steven Palette, Romain Thievin, Willy Boucenna, Ander Vilarino and Romain Iannetta. In OPEN Championship, Manu Brigand and Romain Fournillier continue their fight for the title. There is a gap of only 4 points between them and have a few lead ahead of Tanguy Ide, Vincent Gonneau and Jo Merszei who can still apply for the title. Both championships will be decided in the Super Finale of Le Mans the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of October. All points will be double. Expect a great show!!!!

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