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## RACECAR EURO SERIES 2011 SUPER FINALE – LE MANS – 8/9 OCTOBER HELARY CHAMPION!!!

The 53700 spectators present on the mythic circuit of Le Mans this past week-end enjoyed the 1<sup>st</sup> Super Finale of RACECAR Euro Series as an FIA International Series. With no doubt, the Spanish Ander Vilarino was the fastest on track but it's Eric Hélyary who is finally the 2011 Champion, with 5 victories this season. Winning the 70<sup>th</sup> victory of his legendary career, he will race for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in NASCAR. In OPEN Championship, the battle for the title was so tight and finally the young Romain Fournillier takes the best on Manu Brigand in the last race of the season. The 2011 season was exceptional and the RACECAR Euro Series passed successfully the international step... "2012 will be better, with nice surprises..." promise Anne and Jérôme Galpin, creators of the series.

### **Sprint ELITE: Helary in spite of Vilarino!**

Poleman Ander Vilarino was designed to win after leading the main part of the race but due to a mechanical problem he has to give up few meters before the finish line. The victory comes to... Eric Hélyary who dominates a furious pack consisting of Romain Thiévin, Laurent Fresnais, Romain Iannetta and Steven Palette. With this victory, Hélyary takes a good advance for the title. Steven Palette finishes 6<sup>th</sup> due to a penalty and confirms his leadership on the Junior Trophy just as Antoine Lioen who finishes in the top 5 once again and has the main chances to win the Challenger Trophy.

Eric Hélyary wins in Le Mans, 18 years after his victory in the famous 24 hours of Le Mans. He also wins this week-end the 70<sup>th</sup> victory of his career.

Classification: 1 E.Hélyary – 2 R.Thievin – 3 L.Fresnais – 4 R.Iannetta – 5 A.Lioen – 6 S.Palette – 7 V.Gonneau – 8 B.Cosin – 9 A.Garbarino – 10 F.Lajoux

### **Sprint OPEN: Fournillier flies over!**

Starting from the pole position, Romain Fournillier leads all the laps to finish 1<sup>st</sup>, 8 seconds ahead of Vincent Gonneau when Anthony Garbarino, who races for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in RACECAR Euro Series, takes the 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Fournillier's strategy was clear: to take the lead and increase the gap. And so he leads the Championship for 10 points. Behind, the battle is hard between Gérald Cormon, Emmanuel Brigand, Alain Grand and Tanguy Ide. Gérald Cormon was in good way for a result but due to a knocking with Brigand's car the 2 men lose their chance for a podium and precious points for the Championship. Philippe Marie wins the Gentleman Trophy and Jérôme Laurin the Legend Trophy.

Classification: 1 R.Fournillier – 2 V.Gonneau – 3 A.Garbarino – 4 E.Brigand – 5 P.Marie – 6 G.Cormon – 7 F.Violas – 8 F.Radet – 9 J.Gabarron – 10 J.Laurin

### **Endurance ELITE part: Vilarino wins finally!**

Starting from the 1st line, Vilarino is 1st under the "Dunlop" bridge just after a hot 1<sup>st</sup> corner where Hélyary, the Championship leader, is victim of a crash. What a surprise for spectators! The car number 9 continues 3 laps at low speed before coming back in the pits. Steven Palette, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Championship, cannot take any benefit and has to give up due to a mechanical problem. And Hélyary is officially titled 2011 RACECAR Euro Series Champion! Vilarino dominates the whole race but due

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to a drive thru, Kevin Estre, for his 1<sup>st</sup> participation in RACECAR Euro Series, finally passes the checkered flag 1<sup>st</sup> ahead of Romain Iannetta, Romain Thiévin, Antoine Lioen and Bruno Cosin. Finally after video watching by officials, Vilarino's penalty is cancelled and he wins. Estre wins the Junior trophy and Lioen the Challenger's one.

Classification: 1 A.Vilarino – 2 K.Estre – 3 R.Iannetta – 4 R.Thievin – 5 A.Lioen – 6 B.Cosin –  
7 V.Gonneau – 8 P.Ragues – 9 F.Lajoux – 10 C.Anquetil

## **Endurance OPEN part: First victory for Cormon!**

Starting in good position after the drivers' change, Alain Grand and Gérald Cormon fight all race long to the final benefit of Cormon who wins with only 4/10<sup>th</sup> of second. Vincent Gonneau takes the 3<sup>rd</sup> step of the podium. Fournillier takes the 4<sup>th</sup> place and wins the 2011 RACECAR Euro Series' OPEN Championship title. Unfortunately, Manu Brigand could not have compete due to the crash of his ELITE teammate Héлары in the beginning of the race. Joaquin Gabarron completes the top 5 ahead of Jérôme Laurin and Franck Radet.

Classification: 1 G.Cormon – 2 A.Grand – 3 V.Gonneau – 4 R.Fournillier – 5 J.Gabarron – 6 J.Laurin  
– 7 F.Radet – 8 P.Marie – 9 F.Violas – 10 J.Gaudin

## **SUPER FINALE FOR SUPER CHAMPIONS**

### **ELITE Championship**

Once again, RACECAR Euro Series' drivers offered us superb races with battles at every level of the pack. Eric Héлары is the 2011 CHAMPION ahead of Romain Thiévin and Ander Vilarino who both benefit of a successful week-end in Le Mans to reach the final Championship's podium. All season long the fight has been intense with a final gap of only 50 points between the 5 first drivers when more than 500 points have been given. Héлары officially announced his sportive retirement to devote himself to his own racing team, in RACECAR Euro Series of course!

Steven Palette wins the Junior Trophy for drivers less than 25 years old, ahead of Willy Boucenna, unlucky this week-end, and Vincent Gonneau, who make a very promising result for his first complete season. Antoine Lioen is the fastest driver of the Challenger Trophy and is logically titled ahead of the fighting Bruno cosin and Franck Violas.

### **OPEN Championship**

Romain Fournillier wins the OPEN championship just ahead of Manu Brigand after an all-season-long tight duel. Vincent Gonneau reaches the 3<sup>rd</sup> step. Not to forget a special mention to Tanguy Ide who finishes 4<sup>th</sup> after a dark week-end in Le Mans. Gérald Cormon wins the beautiful Zenith watch which awards the winner of the Gentleman Trophy ahead of Philippe Marie and Joaquin Gabarron. Jérôme Laurin wins the Legend Trophy for drivers over 50 years old. Alain Grand is 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jack Gaudin 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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