



"LM" P1

1. N° 1, Audi Sport Team Joest, Audi R10 TDI
2. N° 2, Audi Sport Team Joest, Audi R10 TDI
3. N° 4, Saulnier Racing, Pescarolo Judd
4. N° 5, Team ORECA Matmut, Courage-ORECA LC70 Judd
5. N° 6, Team ORECA Matmut, Courage ORECA-Judd
6. N°10, Charouz Racing System, Lola Aston Martin
7. N° 12, Charouz Racing System, Lola Judd
8. N° 14, Creation Autosportif, Creation CA07-AIM
9. N° 16, Pescarolo Sport, Pescarolo Judd
10. N° 18, Rollcentre Racing, Pescarolo Judd
11. N° 19, Chamberlain Synergy, Lola AER
12. N° 20, Epsilon Euskadi, Epsilon Euskadi Judd

"LM" P2

13. N° 25, RML, MG Lola
14. N° 26, Team Bruchladich, Radical AER
15. N° 30, Racing Box, Lucchini Judd
16. N° 31, Team Essex, Porsche RS Spyder
17. N° 33, Speedy Racing Team, Lola Coupe Judd
18. N° 34, Van Merksteijn Motorsport, Porsche RS Spyder
19. N° 40, Quifel - ASM, Lola AER
20. N° 41, Trading Performance, Zytek 07S

"LM" GT1

21. N° 007, Aston Martin Racing, Aston Martin DBR9
22. N° 50, Larbre Competition, Saleen S7R
23. N° 51, Larbre Competition, Saleen S7R
24. N° 55, IPB Spartak Racing, Lamborghini Murcielago
25. N° 61, Strakka Racing, Aston Martin DBR9
26. N° 72, Luc Alphand Aventures, Corvette C6R
27. N° 73, Luc Alphand Aventures, Corvette C6R

"LM" GT2

28. N° 75, IMSA Performance Matmut, Porsche 997 GT3 RSR
29. N° 76, IMSA Performance Matmut, Porsche 997 GT3 RSR
30. N° 77, Team Felbermayr Proton, Porsche GT3 RSR
31. N° 93, Aston Martin Racing, Aston Martin DBR9
32. N° 94, Speedy Racing Team, Spukder C8 Laviolette
33. N° 95, James Watt Automotive, Porsche 997 GT3 RSR
34. N° 96, Virgo Motorsport, Ferrari 430 GT



Audi, Porsche, Saleen set the pace at Paul Ricard

The first day of the 2008 Le Mans Series heralded perfect weather conditions for the contenders who took part in the now traditional pre-season test at the Paul Ricard High Tech Test facility in southern France.

For many teams it was the first time that they ran their new cars against their season-long competitors, and for some, it was the first time that the cars ran at all.

The majority of the teams worked through their test programmes without incident though, inevitably after eight hours of running, there were some teams that ran into problems.

One was the Trading Performance Zytek of Karim Ojeh which spun and hit the barriers during the three hour morning session. The car was unable to complete any more running today and is not likely to run tomorrow, while the RML team of reigning champions Mike Newton and Tommy Erdos suffered a rare mechanical failure.

Audi breaks 1m40 barrier

Audi's Allan McNish broke the 1m40s barrier in the closing minutes of the afternoon session, which finished at 6pm just as the sun was beginning to dip towards the horizon. As others drove into the dusk, the Scotsman's best time of 1m39.705s put the number 1 Audi at the head of the field by more than a second over the sister car, driven by Mike Rockenfeller and Alexandre Premat. Third fastest was the Team ORECA Matmut car of Stephane Ortelli and Soheil Ayari which is due to run through the night in a full 24-hour race simulation.

Throughout the "LM" P1 field there was much interest, not least in the Aston Martin-powered Lola which concluded the afternoon session in sixth position in the hands of Jan Charouz and Stefan Mucke with a best time of 1m43.598s. That time was still an improvement over last year's fastest time overall, set by the

Peugeot 908 HDI FAP or 1m43.705s at the start of its development phase. The Chamberlain Synergy team was another to be in the spotlight as Amanda Stretton, partner of Bob Berridge, joined the team with Gareth Evans at the test. Further down the pit lane, the Rollcentre Pescarolo team was also testing drivers, including Vanina Ickx who drove for the team for two Le Mans Series seasons. Pierre Bruneau and Marc Rostan also had drives in the car.

Porsche leads into the night

Porsche teams finished their afternoon session heading the "LM" P2 class. The van Merksteijn Motorsport Porsche of Jos Verstappen, Jeroen Bleekemolen and Peter van Merksteijn set fastest time with a 1m44.246s, almost two seconds faster than last year's fastest lap set by the Bruichladdich Radical team. The Essex Racing Porsche RS Spyder of Casper Elgaard and John Nielsen was second quickest with a 1m45.738 and the Quifel – ASM Team Lola was third, a further five tenths of a second behind. The Porsches were due to begin 1000km testing into the night, with Dutchman Jos Verstappen completing the majority of the running and increase his experience of driving at night.

The Speedy Racing team completed its first ever laps with the Judd-powered Lola Coupe, Robbie Kerr given the honour of completing the shake down.

The British driver worked his way down to a 'best' time of 1m52.434s before handing to co-drivers Steve Zacchia and Andrea Chiesa, who eventually set a 1m49.035s. "There is a lot more performance left in the car," said Kerr. "This was just a shakedown run and I will only push the car harder when I am told to do so. It was running well within its limits when I was driving."

Larbre returns to the top

The 2006 Le Mans Series winner Larbre Competition returned to the top of the time sheets with their Saleen S7R, which will be campaigned by David Hallyday, Dino Lunardi and Frederic Makowiecki this season. The car set a best time of 1m52.486s, nearly a second faster than the same car achieved at the test here in 2007. Behind there was some tough competition, with Karl Wendlinger, Andrea Piccini and Antonio Garcia



putting miles onto Aston Martin Racing's Le Mans challenger, the number 007 DBR9. Garcia is due to drive the Team Modena Aston Martin in the series this year, but took the opportunity to drive with the factory in the absence of the British team at the test.

Olivier Beretta joined Guillaume Moreau and Patrice Goueslard in the Luc Alphand Aventures Corvette which finished the session third fastest.

IMSA up front again

Richard Lietz and the IMSA Performance Matmut team again started the season by heading the "LM" GT2 category, ahead of the champion Virgo Motorsport Ferrari team. Lietz, who went on to score pole position at the opening two races, set a time of 1m58.439s, two hundredths of a second slower than last year's best but there is plenty more time for the Austrian to improve.

The Virgo team suffered a puncture with Rob Bell on board mid-afternoon which caused some minor bodywork damage and upset the team's testing plans.

Third fastest, in the hands of Marc Lieb and Australian Alex Davison, was the Team Felbermayr Proton Porsche, the second to be running the new update kit from Porsche. The pair finished the second session third fastest with a best time of 1m59.232s.

Darren Turner and Tomas Enge spent the day putting further miles on Aston Martin's new GT2 challenger, the V8-powered vantage and finished fourth fastest.



Sunday, March 2

0900	Morning session
1200	Morning session ends
1230	Lunch Panoramic club
1300	Afternoon session
	Start of 24 hour test
1800	Afternoon session ends
0000	Evening session ends

Monday, March 3

0900	Morning session
1300	Morning session ends
	24 hour test ends
1300	Press conference
	GP Hall
1400	Afternoon session
1700	Afternoon session ends

