

STRAKKA RACING

Strakka concludes first LMS season on a positive note

Strakka Racing rounded off their 2009 Le Mans Series season with a strong run to eighth in LMP1 for the final 1000 Kilometre race at Silverstone. The weekend concluded a debut season that has seen the team pitched from the highs of pole position, to the lows of two non-finishes. Throughout this rollercoaster ride, the team has displayed an impressive level of professionalism and enthusiasm that has established the name of Strakka as one to be reckoned with for the future.

The season finale got off to a challenging start for the Silverstone-based outfit when Danny Watts was required to start the race from the rear of the forty-car field. Knowing he had to overtake three-quarters of those cars in order to reach his rightful position in the ranks, he set about it with a will, and was knocking on the door of the top-ten within the first hour.



“The car was very nimble through traffic, but I wasn’t prepared to take risks,” he said. “I strung together some decent times, and made it through to the fringes of LMP1 before the end of my stint, but from then on it was much harder to gain ground.” Team Manager Piers Phillips was impressed. “In a situation like that, it’s critical that you work through traffic as quickly as you can, but you also have to be very careful. Danny’s stints were excellent. He handed over in tenth, and I couldn’t have asked more from him. He did a stellar job.”

Nick Leventis consolidated the hold on ninth with a consistent and measured double-stint. “Traffic was a serious problem, and you either had to be very aggressive or extremely cautious. Under the circumstances I felt that a strong finish was more important, so I chose to err on the cautious side. Even so, I had an unfortunate incident with one of the GT2 cars - which I’ve been assured was entirely his fault! – and that cost us valuable time.” It also cost the team a couple of places, and when Danny took over again the #23 Ginetta-Zytek was lying in eleventh place.

“The fresh tyres meant I was able to push a little harder for the first half-hour or so,” said Danny, and during that period he was one of the fastest on track. “The car was easy and consistent to drive and I could certainly reel off the laps.” The lap lost at the start was later compounded by a problem with Danny’s harness, when he was forced to make another pitstop. These two lost laps could never be regained, but a solid finish was certainly on the cards.

The fast pace resulted in one of the quickest 1000 Kilometre races on record, at less than five and a half hours, and also demanded a sixth stop for fuel. “We thought we’d put the boss back in for the last half-hour!” said Piers. So Nick Leventis climbed in for the final stint. “I was delighted to see that flag,” said Nick, “but I’m disappointed that I couldn’t reward the team with something better. This year has been an extremely steep learning curve for everyone at Strakka, but we’ve proved that we can compete very effectively at this level, and we’ve certainly not disgraced ourselves. It’s excellent to know that we have such a dedicated, tight knit and strong-willed group to help carry us through to even bigger and better things in 2010.”



“It may have been a tough year but we’ve enjoyed working closely with Zytek and are proud to have scored several competitive finishes,” said James Turner, Commercial Director at Strakka Racing. “It is only right that we thank all the team at Zytek for their unstinting efforts to build reliability and pace throughout the season.” Strakka now enters the closed season, confident that it can challenge the best and enthused for the challenges and opportunities to come.

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Further information: Please visit the [Strakka Racing](http://www.strakkaracing.com) website.
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