



**PORSCHE**

Press Release

April 15, 2017

---

LMP1 qualifying FIA World Endurance Championship, round 1 in Silverstone (GB)

### **Porsche 919 Hybrids to start from second row**

**Stuttgart.** Porsche, the reigning world champion team, will start third and fourth on the grid for the season's opening race of the FIA World Endurance Championship in Silverstone (GB) with the two 919 Hybrids. Toyota secured a front row lock out for the start of the six-hour race on Sunday. For strategic reasons, Porsche's Le Mans prototypes approach the fast Formula One circuit in Britain with significantly less aerodynamic downforce than the track layout actually would require.

In the WEC, the average of the two fastest laps of two drivers counts for the qualifying result. In Silverstone the qualifying drivers were Neel Jani (CH) and Nick Tandy (GB) in car number 1. They finished in position 3 (1:38.615 minutes). Timo Bernhard (DE) and Brendon Hartley (NZ) shared qualifying duties in car number 2 and came fourth (1:39.063 minutes). Their respective partners – André Lotterer (DE) and Earl Bamber (NZ) – also did not drive in the morning session in order to help the Porsche LMP Team's qualifying preparation. Third free practice saw the two Porsche 919 Hybrids in P2 (car number 1, 1:40.223 minutes) and P3 (car number 2, 1:40.373 minutes). The WEC experienced another day with sessions held in dry conditions on Saturday.

The season's first six hour race gets underway on Sunday at 12:00 hrs (local time). Here is the international TV broadcasting plan: <https://tinyurl.com/k3q194s>

## The Porsche LMP Team after qualifying

**Fritz Enzinger, Vice President LMP1:** “It was a very deliberate decision before we came here to focus our aerodynamics completely on Le Mans. It was crystal clear that this meant a disadvantage for Silverstone. This has a smaller impact in the race than for a single fast lap, but it will definitely be a disadvantage tomorrow as well. We fully back the decision and will get through the consequences together. I’m proud on our driver line-up. All six are performing on a very high level and also handle the current situation very well.”

**Andreas Seidl, Team Principal:** “Both cars worked fine all day and the team and drivers made an excellent job in qualifying. The grid positions as well as the gap to the front are what we have expected. We keep focussing on race preparation. We want to remain in striking distance to Toyota and try to put them under pressure.”

### Drivers Porsche 919 Hybrid car number 1:

**Neel Jani (33, Switzerland):** “We had expected to end up in P3 and P4. Because of the low downforce aero level we are driving here, this is the maximum possible compared to Toyota. Of course in a six hour long race a lot can happen. But from sheer performance, we don’t expect higher positions tomorrow. It is very important to learn more about the car for Le Mans.”

**Nick Tandy (32, Great Britain):** “This is undoubtedly the best 919 I’ve ever had the privilege to drive. It was fantastic with super high-grip which gave me confidence. The gap to the opposition is more than we’d like but we have set different priorities. The race should be much closer.”

### Drivers Porsche 919 Hybrid car number 2

**Timo Bernhard (36, Germany):** “For our car, qualifying didn’t go perfectly well. I made a small mistake on my first lap and had to start again, but then the tyres were over the peak. We actually looked quite good on our long runs in FP3. That’s all im-

portant information for the race. Then also strategic aspects come into play on top of sheer speed. We want to get as many points as possible. Perhaps we can catch one of the Toyotas.

**Brendon Hartley (27, New Zealand):** “We finished fourth in qualifying but we put zero focus on this element – it's been all about long runs for race preparation and they've gone well. We believe we've a very good racecar for tomorrow.”

All scores: <http://www.fiawec.com/courses/classification.html>

All results: <http://fiawec.alkamelsystems.com>

**Note:** At <https://presse.porsche.de> text, image and video material on the LMP1 programme is freely accessible. The link <https://presskit.porsche.de/motorsport/en/mediaguide/index.html> takes you straight to the Porsche Motorsport Media Guide. The LMP1 twitter feed @Porsche\_Team broadcasts information, photos and video material live from the race track. Further live features from the races are available at [www.porsche.com/fiawec](http://www.porsche.com/fiawec). For further press content, please visit the Newsroom at [www.newsroom.porsche.com](http://www.newsroom.porsche.com). Video news is available at [www.vimeo.com/porschenewsroom](http://www.vimeo.com/porschenewsroom).