

WEC: Porsche 919 Hybrids to start from second row

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15/04/2017 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. The Porsche GT Team takes up race from the fourth grid row.

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.

Porsche GT Team uses qualifying for race preparation

After a year-long development period, the Porsche GT Team returns to the Sports Car World Endurance Championship WEC as a factory squad with the new Porsche 911 RSR. The newly developed race car from Weissach takes up the season-opening race on Sunday from the fourth grid row. In the qualifying on the storied Grand Prix racetrack in the British Midlands, where the main focus was clearly on preparing for the race, Richard Lietz (Austria) and Frédéric Makowiecki (France) planted their 911 RSR (#91) on the seventh grid spot. Their works driver colleagues Michael Christensen (Denmark) and Kévin Estre (France) set the eighth quickest time in the number 92 car.

Porsche Young Professional Matteo Cairoli (Italy) tackles his first WEC race from the second grid row of the GTE-Am class. Starting from the third grid spot, he shares the 911 RSR fielded by the customer team Dempsey Proton Racing with Christian Ried (Germany) and Marvin Dienst (Germany).

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