



LARBRE COMPETITION READY FOR 2019 LE MANS 24 HOURS

After completing the traditional *Pesage* ceremony, which included scrutineering of the Ligier JS P217 LMP2 car, and the traditional drivers' official autograph session, French team Larbre Competition is prepared and ready for the 87th running of the Le Mans 24 Hours.

Held at the Place de la Republique in downtown Le Mans, the *Pesage* ceremony offered fans the first chance to see the car and team, including the driver trio of Romano Ricci, Erwin Creed and Nicholas Boule, in an official capacity.

On Sunday the #50 machine was passed through the mandatory technical scrutineering by the Automobile Club de l'Ouest, before the crew members completed administrative checks.

The following day was the Val de Vienne-based squad's usual retreat, which was used for sporting activities as team building exercises for the management and drivers. As well as this, discussions took place regarding race strategy and potential problem scenarios, built on 25 years knowledge of racing at the 13.626km circuit.

Prior to the drivers' autograph session on Tuesday, Romano and Erwin visited the Galeries Lafayette in Le Mans for a Q and A with official ACO speaker Bruno Vandestick.

The drivers are ready to hit the circuit, for the first time since the official test day, in Wednesday's free practice session at 16:00 and the first of three qualifying sessions at 22:00 (local time).



Jack Leconte, Team Manager: "With the experience we have, we know that this week is very long but where everything is going 200 miles an hour. So we have a tradition after scrutineering to get everybody together and go on a retreat in order to avoid doing briefings too far into the week. We keep that period for technical and sporting issues, but the retreat is all about organisation and what can happen during the race. We try to pool our experience and eliminate traps that we have encountered during the past 25 years, warn our drivers and place them in that situation. Every year we have a line-up which did not race together during the season, so they need to get to know each other. This day is very important in order to have a harmonious and balanced programme for race week. All questions and potential issues have been reviewed and now we just have to implement our working programme during the coming week.

"Scrutineering went smoothly as we have a car which competed in the 2018 Le Mans 24 Hours and the full FIA World Endurance Championship season, so there were no major surprises. It has also been completely rebuilt for this race. The coming week will be

challenging, with a nightmare weather forecast on Wednesday for free practice and the first qualifying session. We were lucky to have the test day as we are going to run in wet conditions Wednesday and Thursday before competing in dry conditions over the weekend. We know the car well yet each time you go out you always learn something, but the wet weather is not going to help. During the test day we worked well with Michelin and we have been able to make progress and we have an idea of what modifications we need to bring, we just need to validate them."

Romano Ricci: "Scrutineering is always an enjoyable moment, being close to the fans who follow the race and I was amongst them not so long ago. The retreat on Monday was very good and it allowed us to spend time together which is great for the cohesion of the crew. I cannot wait to get back on board the car as it has been a while since the official test day."

Erwin Creed: "It was a real pleasure to be at scrutineering and we were lucky with the weather when it was my turn. There was a large crowd, with a great atmosphere, it was cool. We felt more a part of the endurance family as now we know everybody at the end of the Super Season. All went well on Monday with the retreat, we embraced it and it was very interesting."

Nicholas Boule: "Getting to spend more time together makes sense for us, it's good anytime you get to spend with the team. I really enjoy being able to get outside and make sure I get a decent run in, being active keeps me grounded and feeling good for the race. I think we found out what wasn't necessarily helping us at the test and we can work through them quickly in practice and qualifying. The scrutineering is a lot of fun and there's so many guys out there who know so much about the sport, but the kids make it really fun. Right when I was leaving there was a cute group of 10 kids who'd figured out where the exit was. They all lined up and got signatures, so it was great."

Jeremy Bordes, osteopath: "We left after scrutineering and we went to a resort called Domaine de Cicé near Rennes in order to prepare for the race week. We reviewed and discussed various questions about organisation and strategy, plus it allowed me to meet Nick and check his physical condition, which is excellent. It also brought the crew together over this day on Monday, we did some kayaking, got the drivers together and brought them closer. We also did some technical work in the morning: stretching, physical preparation, reflex optimisation exercises, and a physical test. The drivers were briefed for free practice and qualifying, and we discussed how the team would work together during the race weekend. In the afternoon when the weather was better, we did a 10km run and played some golf."

2019 Le Mans 24 Hours programme*

Wednesday 12th June

16:00-20:00: Free Practice

22:00-00:00: Qualifying #1

Thursday 13th June

19:00-21:30: Qualifying #2

22:00-00:00: Qualifying #3

Friday 14th June

17:30-19:00: Drivers' Parade - downtown Le Mans

Saturday 15th June

09:00-09:45: Warm-Up

15:00: 2019 Le Mans 24 Hours start

Sunday 16th June

15:00: 2019 Le Mans 24 Hours finish

**All times local*





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