

RML Media Information

13th May 2005

RML Continue Le Mans Preparations

RML's sportscar team continued with their planned development programme this week with the MG Lola EX264 at a two day test in Snetterton, Norfolk. All three drivers, Mike Newton, Tommy Erdos and recently signed Warren Hughes were present at the test and were encouraged by the cars performance and reliability.

"We are really pleased with the progress we have made this week," Phil Barker, Team Manager commented, "The test has gone very well and we have eliminated the system problems that have blighted us so far this season. We made some changes to resolve an electrical problem and have been able to thoroughly check a number of safety features on the car."

These safety features included a double paddle engine kill which enables the drivers to cut the engine by pulling both paddles together. The team also finalized a system which enables them to switch to a manual gearshift in the event of a loss of semi-automatic transmission. They were also able to gather useful data from the tyre pressure monitoring system.

Mike, Tommy and Warren each drove in one hour stints in rotation over the two days and accumulated 1200km of valuable mileage. All three drivers were pleased with the performance and reliability which enabled them to gain as much seat time as possible.

Tommy commented "The test has been really encouraging, the weather has been kind to us which has enabled us to maximize our track time. That was our main priority this week, putting miles on the car. The team worked really well and I am delighted with the appointment of Warren as a team mate."

Mike commented "I am very pleased with how our programme is progressing. We have resolved a few minor problems and our reliability is good. We have set some times here that are only a fraction slower than the EX257 of last year which is good for an LMP2 contender. We are much closer to LMP1 pace than we had previously been. The test has given us a huge level of confidence for Le Mans."

This was Warren's first opportunity to get behind the wheel of the MG and he soon familiarized himself with the car. "Warren took to the car really well, starting off steadily but he was soon up to speed and setting some good lap times." Phil Barker commented. "All three drivers have driven very well this week and maintained a consistent performance throughout. We have a really well balanced squad for Le Mans this year and I am looking forward to the Official Test in three weeks time."

After his initial drive Warren commented "It was great to get back in a prototype after three years and the MG is fabulous to drive. The team have made me very welcome and it's good to be driving with Tommy again. We have a bit more work to do on my fit in the car when we return to the workshops but apart from that I'm really happy."

The MG will now undergo a complete rebuild back at RML's headquarters in Wellingborough, Northants before the team travel to France for the official Le Mans 24 Hour test on Sunday 5th June.

A high quality image is available for download at:
<http://www.rmlmallock.co.uk/imagescustom/MGLolaEX264WH01.jpg>
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