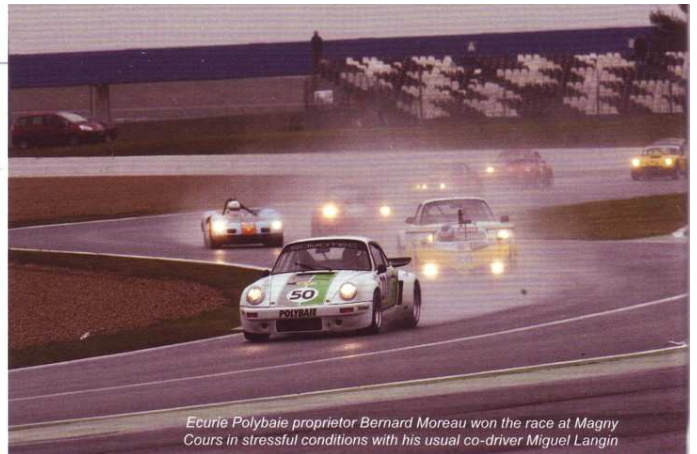


**F**or their last event of the year - at the Magny-Cours track in weather conditions ranging from deluge to sunshine - the drivers in the Championnat de France Endurance VHC (run in conjunction with the V de V Challenge Endurance VHC) and the modern Challenge Funyo designated their champions, as did the drivers in the hotly disputed modern Challenge Endurance Proto. We'll have to wait for the last event at Estoril at the end of November for the names of those keeping us in suspense in the historic V de V Challenge and the Challenge Endurance GT/Tourisme.



*Ecurie Polybaie proprietor Bernard Moreau won the race at Magny Cours in stressful conditions with his usual co-driver Miguel Langin*

## Championnat de France and Challenge Endurance VHC

### 4 Hours of Magny-Cours

#### Rain is the decider

Generally at ease against the GTs, the sport prototypes almost always take the scratch win but with rain keeping them company on Saturday morning, the GTs left them standing right from the first laps and monopolised the top placings.

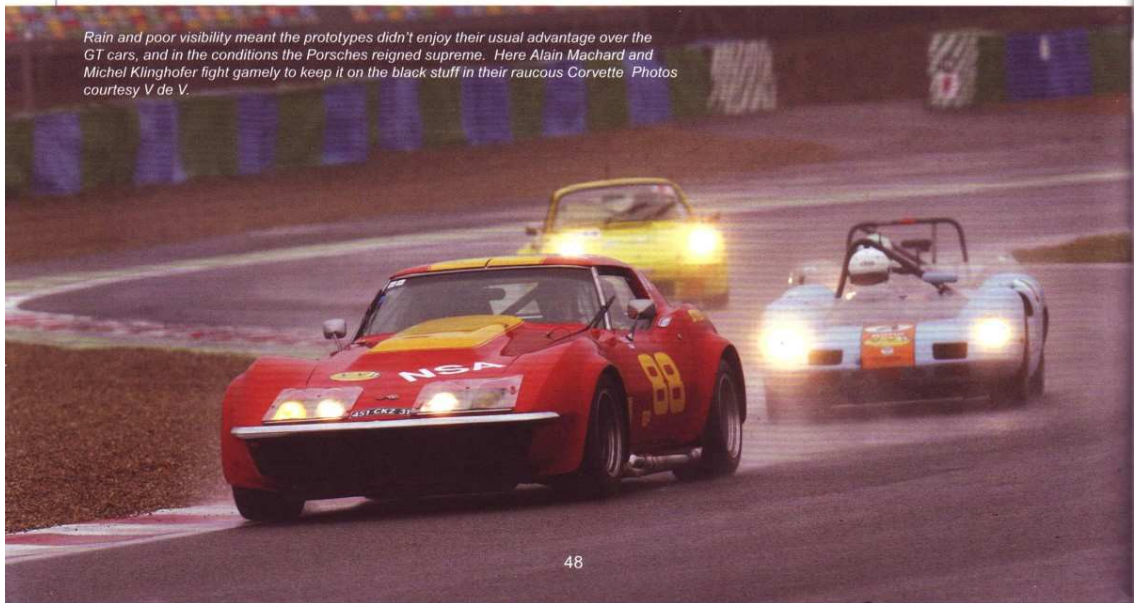
The Chevron B26 of Jean-Marc Luco and Maurice Basso lined up at the start with a damaged brake calliper, but it was the two local Elva MK8's of Meca Moteur, including that of Yann Le Calvez and Lionel Robert, and the Osella PA 4 who were in for a tough ride as soon as the red lights went out. The Porsches were straining at the bit behind them and the prototype drivers could not keep them at bay for very long, the pack of GTs being more at ease under these conditions.

The Osella PA 4 of Christian Perrier and Gérard Bouvet was

forced to retire at mid-race and leave the contest for the Prototype category to the two Elvas. These suffered various misfortunes, and a gearbox selector problem on Sylvain Guanzini, Marc Alloend Bessand and Philippe Tissandier's car handed class victory to Yann Le Calvez and Lionel Robert, in spite of a tough start-of-race with their car suffering from water ingress.

Majestic, Bernard Moreau and Miguel Langin, provisional leaders in the GT Challenge before this race, imposed their Porsche 911 3-litre RSR from the Team Polybaie stable to the end of the four-hour race, which they had led from start to finish. Reigning champions, Patrick Biehler and Marc De Siebenthal took second podium step in the RS version, only

*Rain and poor visibility meant the prototypes didn't enjoy their usual advantage over the GT cars, and in the conditions the Porsches reigned supreme. Here Alain Machard and Michel Klinghofer fight gamely to keep it on the black stuff in their raucous Corvette. Photos courtesy V de V.*



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two laps behind. Their Swiss compatriots Didier Denat and Serge Kriknoff completed the overall podium in their 2.8-litre RSR. In group 3, the two 3-litre RS Porsches of LD Racing took the lion's share of the spoils, with that of Dominique Nury, teamed up for a one-off with Bernard Salam, taking the win ahead of Pierre Fontaine/Christophe Decultot.

But the Challenge Endurance VHC is not over yet, neither in GT, nor in Prototype and the last rendezvous at Estoril should be the decider.

However, Magny Cours was the last round for the Championnat de France and all eyes were on the many who could still claim the title.

Provisional leader Fabio Spirgi, sharing the wheel of his Porsche 911 2-litre with Philippe Giaque, lost all chances of doing well after a broken rocker in the first third of the race sent him into the pits. In spite of a lightning repair by his ecurie (12

minutes), he could not make up the time on the other Porsches. The TVR Griffith 200 Series of Philippe Burel and Eric van de Vyver took category race honours after four hours, with a magnificent seventh on scratch.

Taking second step on the VHC podium, Séverine Moreau-Langin and Franck Lamanna had shaken off their jinx and finished second on final classification in the Championship. They left the final victory to the man on form this end of season, Sébastien Morales. Well supported by co-driver Laurent Cohen, and by Christian Morales for the longer races, Sébastien was crowned Champion of France Endurance VHC 2009 after finishing on the third step of the podium in the category reserved for 2-litre Porsche 911's in this race. For their come-back, Damien Kohler and Richard Depagneux were no longer in the running for the Championnat podium but were placed second in the 2-litre category and took third place in the race.



Séverine Moreau-Langin and Franck Lemanna came ninth at Magny Cours but second in the French Endurance Championship 2009.

#### Results 4 Hours of Magny Cours

1. Moreau/Langin (Porsche 911 3.0 RSR)
  2. Biehler/De Siebenthal (Porsche 911 3.0 RS)
  3. Denat/Kriknoff (Porsche 911 2.8 RSR)
  4. Nury/Salam (Porsche 911 3.0 RS)
  5. Fontaine/Decultot (Porsche 911 3.0 RS)
  6. Le Calvez/Robert (Elva MK 8)
  7. Van De Vyver/Burel (TVR Griffith 2000)
  8. Guanzini/Alloend-Bessand/Tissandier (Elva MK 8)
  9. Moreau-Langin/Lamanna (Porsche 911)
  10. Kohler/Depagneux (Porsche 911)
  11. Morales/Cohen (Porsche 911)
  12. Brossard/Mothe (Porsche 911)
  13. Machard/Klinghofer (Chevrolet Corvette)
  14. Spirgi/Giaque (Porsche 911)
  15. Deslandes/Tironneau (Lotus Seven)
  16. Tolman/Chevallier/Vignjevic (Porsche 911 3,0 RSR)
  17. Maingault/Le Besne (MGB)
- Fastest Lap Moreau/Langin 2"13.922

#### Final Results

##### Championnat de France Endurance VHC 2009

1. Sébastien Morales (Porsche 911)
2. Séverine Moreau-Langin/Franck Lamanna (Porsche 911)
3. Fabio SPIRGI (Porsche 911)
4. Patrick Brossard/Jean-Pierre Mothe (Porsche 911)
5. Laurent COHEN (Porsche 911)
6. Eric Van de Vyver/Philippe Burel Philippe (TVR Griffith 200)
7. Christian Morales (Porsche 911)
8. Laurent Didenot/Gérard Cayeaux (Porsche 911)
9. Jean-Pierre Maingault/Vincent Le Besne (MGB)
10. Claude Le Jean/Christian Pelletier/Jean-Marc Rivet-Fusil (Porsche 911)
11. Guillaume Van De Vyver/Damien Kohler/ Richard Depagneux (Porsche 911)

\*

The 2009 French Endurance Champions enjoy the podium after a hard-fought season

