

V de V VHC French Championship and Endurance Challenge Round Two - Le Mans

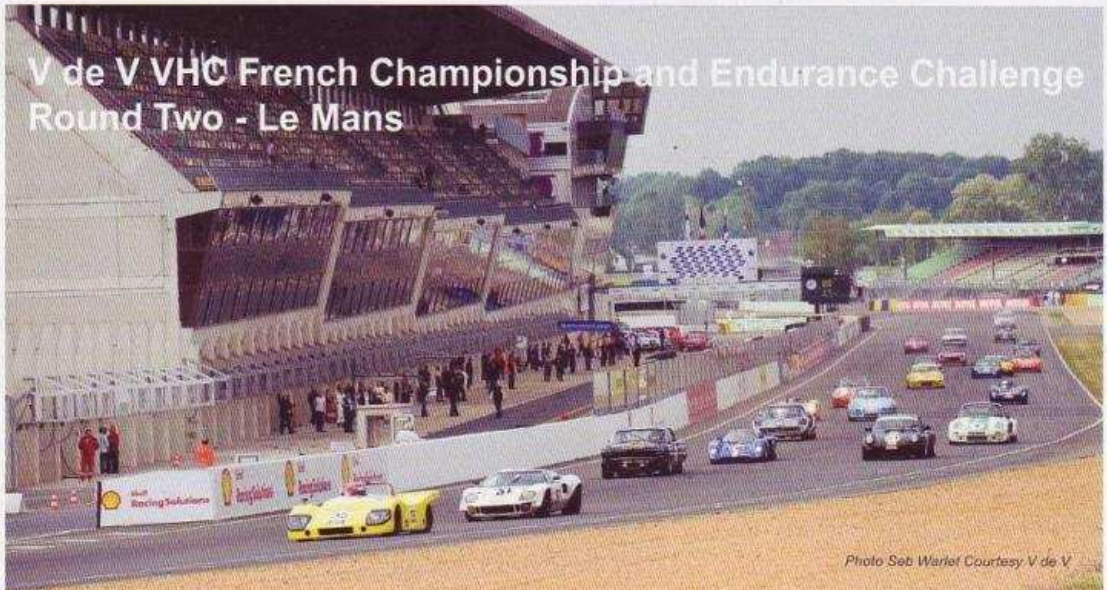


Photo Seb Warlet Courtesy V de V

Le Mans was a fitting setting for the cars that make up the V de V VHC French Championship and Endurance Challenge. This meeting was a bit of a rehearsal for some, including Jacques Nicolet, who will be competing in the 24 Hours in June at this venue, which has helped write some of the most amazing pages in motorsport history. And plenty of competitors turned up. Certainly more than at Jarama, making for a better show.

Jean-Marc Luco was there in his wonderful Ligier JS3 for two out of the four hours. He set off ahead of everyone, but his left rear tyre came off its rim 45 minutes into the race, throwing driver and car into the sand trap and resulting in retirement. Consequently, the Allemang family's Ford Falcon took control of the two-hour race, until the mid-point when the gas-guzzler was forced to refuel, and son made way for father. The latter's fun was spoiled by a puncture, making third place the best he could manage. Serge Krikhoff, in his 2.8 Porsche 911, was the beneficiary and he looked set for the win, but for bad luck and the proximity of his closest pursuer, Philippe Hottinguer in a Porsche 930 Turbo. The latter passed him in the final two laps and won the two-hour event ahead of the Swiss.

The main four-hour race saw a great start for Pierre Nicolet's Chevron B16 and Bernard Moreau's Porsche. The latter's efforts came to nothing thanks to a faulty accelerator cable, which lost him three laps in the pits, benefitting the two Elva Mk8s from Meca Moteur. These two cars had collided during qualifying, which meant a great deal of overnight overtime for both crews to enable them to take to the grid. Their effort that was rewarded by third place for car driven by Sylvain Guanzini and Marc Alloend-Bessand, which finished just behind the Polybaie Porsche, driven for the final two hours by Miguel

Langin at full tilt throughout his stint in order to finish just behind the Nicolet family, with father taking the chequered flag following an outstanding innings by son Pierre.

The 1969 Ford GT40 driven by Eric Vincenot and Jean-Marc Bacheleier finished fourth overall and second in the French championship, ahead of Marc Peccolo and Gérard Besson's Alpine M63B, which put on a fantastic show in the final three laps' jousting with the LDR Porsche driven by Jean-Claude Barthe and British driver Marcus Mahy.

In the lower classes, Philippe Louet at the wheel of his Morgan Plus 8 and Lionel Deslandes in the 2-litre Porsche 911, provided a great scrap, with the Porsche coming out on top, finishing eleventh, three laps ahead of the Morgan in twelfth.

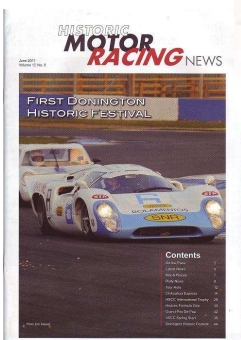
Bernard Salam, Xavier Mielvaque and Pierre Destic won Group 3 in their 3l Porsche ahead of Belousoff, Rueda and Lusseau's similar car.

The two Team Miroux Nissans rounded out the Group 4 podium that was headed by the Porsche of Jean-Daniel Raulet and Benjamin and Tristan Miroux. Worth noting was the retirement of Corvette of Alberto Francioni, which was enjoying a good race until the gearbox locked up after two hours.

VHC 4H du Mans

1. Nicolet/Nicolet (Chevron B 16)
 2. Moreau/Langin (Porsche 911 3.0 RSR)
 3. Guanzini/Alloend-Bessand (Elva MK 8)
 4. Vincenot/Bacheleier (Ford GT40)
 5. Destic/Mielvaque/Salam (Porsche 911 3.0 RS)
 6. Besson/Peccolo/Dougnac (Alpine M 63 B)
 7. Barthe/Mahy (Porsche 911 3.0 RS)
 8. Belousoff/Rueda/Lusseau (Porsche 911 3.0 RS)
 9. Miroux/Miroux/Raulet (Datsun Nissan 240 Z)
 10. Le Clavez/Tissandier (Elva MK 8)
 11. Morales/Deslandes (Porsche 911)
 12. Louet/Da Rocha/Mestrot (Morgan Plus 8)
 13. Trivier/Haustraete (Datsun Nissan 240 Z)
- Fastest Lap: Luco (Ligier JS 3) 1.46.273

The Oak Racing team prepares Nicolet for battle






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 **4H JARAMA**
March, 25-26-27th

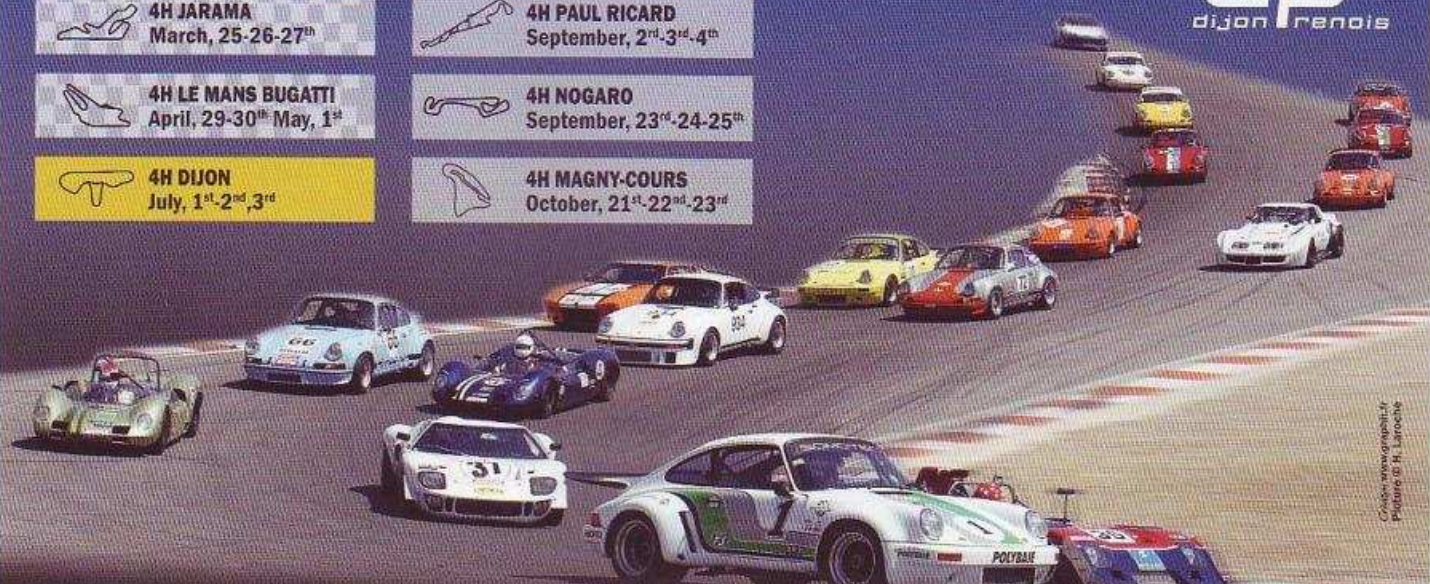
 **4H PAUL RICARD**
September, 2nd-3rd-4th

 **4H LE MANS BUGATTI**
April, 29-30th-May, 1st

 **4H NOGARO**
September, 23rd-24-25th

 **4H DIJON**
July, 1st-2nd-3rd

 **4H MAGNY-COURS**
October, 21st-22nd-23rd



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