

# V de V Three-Hours of Ledenon

With two championships to play for, the V de V three-hour race at Ledenon was an important one for regular competitors. The last round of the French Championship and the penultimate round of the Challenge VHC, the race at Ledenon was the setting for some very close racing on 26-28 September.

In taking first in the GTS11 class Damien Kohler and Richard Depagneux won the French Endurance Championship in their Porsche 911 after a season-long battle with the similar car of Philippe Burel and Patrick Brossard, who finished second in the Championship. An off by class contenders Philippe Giauque and Serge Kirkoff saw them delayed for several laps, leaving them in 18th place in the race and third place in the Championship.

In the brilliant sunshine of an Indian summer, race winners David Ferrer and Yvan Mahé led from start to finish in their Lola T70 ahead of Challenge VHC contenders Hal Catherwood and Jeff McConville's Chevron B16 and the Osella PA 4 of Christian Perrier and Gérard Bouvet.

Though the Lola led the way, second and third places were in dispute until the closing minutes of the three-hour race. McConville and Catherwood played it cool, increasing their pace and overtaking the Elva Mk 8 of Yann Le Calvez and Sylvain Guanzini and then the Osella in the last hour. The three-litre Porsche battle between leaders of the Challenge, the Swiss team of Patrick Biehler and Marc de Siebenthal and reigning champions Bernard Moreau and Miguel Langin in their three-litre Polybaie Porsche RSR was decided in favour of the French team, though the Swiss posted fastest lap of the two. With one round to go, the V de V Challenge is up for grabs between de Siebenthal's Porsche, the British-driven Chevron and the Elva.

The Chevron B26 of Jean-Marc Luco and Patrick Ancelet uncharacteristically started at the back of the grid after a fire during free practice left them sidelined for qualifying. Carving their way through the field, they were lying third by mid-race when their engine let go, provoking a long safety car period to clear up their oil.

The Porsche of Jean-Marc Rivet-Fusil and Bruno Tortora took the Group 3 win ahead of last month's Lausitz winners Joel Bozzetti and Didier Ortion. The last race of the Challenge will be at Estoril on 21-23 November.



David Ferrer and Yvan Mahé won convincingly in their Lola T70 Spyder while the battle for second and third raged behind them



Damien Kohler and Richard Depagneux are the new French Champions with their Porsche 911



The Swiss/French team of Stéphane Gutswiller/Stanislas De Sadeleer/Pierre Fillon came seventh in their Chevron B16. All photos courtesy V de V Organisation

### 3 Hours of Ledenon

1. Ferrer/Mahé (Lola T70 Spider)
  2. Catherwood/Mc Conville (Chevron B 16)
  3. Pernier/Bouvet Gérard (Osella PA 4)
  4. Le Calvez/Guanzini (Elva Mk 8)
  5. Moreau/Langin (Porsche 911 3.0)
  6. Biehler/De Siebenthal (Porsche 911 3.0 RSR)
  7. Gutzwiller/De Sadeleer/Fillon (Chevron B 16)
  8. Rivet-Fusil/Tortora (Porsche 911 3.0)
  9. Bozzetti/Ortion (Porsche 911 3.0)
  10. Havetta/Fabre (Porsche 911 2.7 RS)
  11. Caszalai/Caszalai (Porsche 911 2.7 RS)
  12. Luco (Chevron B 26)
  13. Kohler/Depagneux (Porsche 911)
  14. Morales/Cohen (Porsche 911)
  15. Burel/Brossard (Porsche 911)
  16. Munier/Peligas (Lotus Seven)
  17. Belousoff/Rueda/Lusseau (Porsche 911)
  18. Giauque/Krikhoff (Porsche 911)
  19. Kunert/Bachelier (Porsche 911)
  20. Moreau-Langin/Quiniou (Porsche 911)
  21. Bayers/Martin/Frulsux (Porsche 2.0)
  22. Damiani/Nervi (Porsche 911)
  23. Baumard/Chauland/Proff (Alfa Romeo Giulia Sprint)
  24. Gravel/Artero (Porsche 911 2.7 RS)
  25. Deslandes/Tironneau (Porsche 911)
- Fastest Lap: Ferrer/Mahé 1:29.284

