



## Tide of Change Turns for RML AD Group

The new Le Mans Series season has started on a very positive note for RML AD Group, with a first round podium in the Paul Ricard 8 Hours for Mike Newton, Thomas Erdos, Andy Wallace and the team's Lola B08/80 HPD.

Tommy Erdos made an emphatic start from fourth position on the LMP2 grid, and was through to third before the end of the opening lap. He then started bearing down on Olivier Pla in the #40 ASM Ginetta Zytek for second place, and with half an hour gone, the Brazilian swept through to take the place. Erdos then began catching Jonny Kane in the pole-setting Strakka Racing HPD, narrowing the gap to just six seconds before making his first pitstop.



Taking on tyres was a wise precaution, despite the added length to the stop, and Strakka followed suit, but ASM left the change until the end of their second stint. This gave Pla the class lead, with Tommy holding third behind Kane until mid-way into the third hour. A bodywork problem delayed the #42 Strakka HPD, and RML's pitstop strategy then enabled Erdos to fight through for the class lead. Once there, he established a comfortable margin to hand on to Mike Newton for the middle stints of the race.

Having taken on the responsibility of the LMP2 lead, Mike responded to the challenge, and held on to it throughout his two stints, passing on the baton to Andy Wallace with nearly five hours completed. Emerging from the pitstop in third, Andy regained second before losing out in the next round of pitstops to the recovering Danny Watts in the Strakka HPD. Tommy Erdos returned to the Lola cockpit for the final ninety minutes, setting some of the car's quickest laps as he fought back to third, and even raised hopes of a possible second.

"It's a very positive result for us," said Erdos. "A podium and twenty-four points is a great way to start the team's new partnership with HPD (Honda Performance Development), Lola and Dunlop. Once we moved into the lead and the Strakka HPD encountered that problem, I actually started to think then that we might have a chance. Our own HPD engine ran like clockwork, and the consistency of the tyres, especially on the double-stints, was very impressive. It was such a great feeling, and one I felt for the whole team, when I took the lead, and I'm only disappointed that we couldn't hold on to that to the finish."



"It's certainly a very encouraging start to the year," agreed Mike Newton, co-driver and CEO of AD Group. "The whole interactivity between the chassis, tyres and engine is very encouraging,



especially as there's evidently so much more still to come. It was also personally very satisfying for Tommy to give me a car in the lead, and then to bring it back in again with one dot still showing on the side. That was enormously rewarding."

Pauline Norstrom, Marketing and Motorsport Director of AD Group, shared the team's delight. "After last season, when even a finish was something of an achievement, we're just so happy to score a podium in the first race of the year. The engine has lived up to all our expectations. We hope this sets the precedent for a successful year all round, and the tide of change is here perhaps."

The next round takes place at Spa in Belgium on May 9th, followed in June by the Le Mans 24 Hours.



Press Release Issued April 12th 2010

Click any thumbnail for an enlargement.

Please credit photos 1, 2 & 4 to *Peter May / Dailysportscar* and Photo 3 to *David Downes / Dailysportscar*

The website features a navigation menu with links for Home, Contact, Winery, News, Racing, Media, Partners, Merchandise, Technology, and Links. The main content area includes a headline "2010 Le Mans Series, Round 5 Silverstone, England" and a sub-headline "Silverstone 1000 Kms England". The article text begins: "With support from the AD Group of companies, RML introduced their sports programme in 2003. Six full seasons have followed, with Mike Handley and Thomas Eklow campaigning with great success, including two class wins in the Le Mans 24 Hours (2005 & 2006) and the LMP2 title in the 2007 Le Mans Series. Between 2003 and 2009 the team raced with MG, starting with the EX257, moving on with the Judd-engined EX264 in 2006 - a direct development of the EX257 - and then the MG EX266 in 2008. Employing an AER turbocharged 2-litre engine, the EX264 took RML to a second consecutive class win at Le Mans and a string of six unbeaten qualifying poles. In 2007 Mike, Tommy and RML claimed the LMP2 drivers' and team titles in the Le Mans Series. The updated MG Loto EX266 was introduced in 2009, culminating in the fourth of the 200 Cupid in September. At the end of 2009 the link with MG was finally severed, and the team ran a Porsche engine in 2010. 2010 has brought a new era of partnership with Honda Performance Development (HPD) Inc.

Below the article are several sections: "The MG Archives" (For six years, between 2003 and 2009, RML, AD Group raced in the Le Mans 24 Hours and the Le Mans Series with a highly designed LMP2 sports prototype bearing the MG badge. Explore the archives of those years here), "Latest News" (RML takes 2010 title: 2010, like HPD's previous fourth in season 2004 to reclaim Le Mans Series driver and team titles), "RML AD Group @ Le Mans" (RML has an impressive record at Le Mans, with consecutive class wins in 2005 and 2006, and the sparkling start in June this year. A full record of their most recent appearance in the 24 hours can be found by following this link), and "2010 Le Mans Series, Round 4 Hungaroring, Budapest, Hungary" (LE MANS SERIES ROUND 5 SILVERSTONE 1000 KMS ENGLAND).

**RML: Rupert Manwaring,**  
Sponsorship & Marketing Director.  
Telephone: +44 (0)1933 402440

**AD Group: Pauline Norstrom,**  
Director of Worldwide Marketing.  
Telephone: +44 (0)1928 706 449

Visit the Team Website for additional high resolution galleries:  
[www.rml-adgroup.com](http://www.rml-adgroup.com)