



## **Press Release 13 / 2016**

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### **Top 10 finish for Soucek at Hungaroring, Bentley quickest turbocharged car on track**

The Sprint Series weekend at the Hungaroring was full of challenges for Andy Soucek and the Bentley Boys, as the characteristics of the twisted Hungarian track did not fit the strengths of the Continental GT3. This, as well as the few overtaking opportunities at this track meant that some hard work lay ahead to try to get some reward in form of championship points out of here.

From the very start, the disadvantage of the turbocharged cars compared to the other competitors became evident. The risky strategy of saving one set of new tyres to try to gain some positions during the race resulted in P22 on the grid, but hopes were focussed on climbing up some positions during Saturday's qualifying race.

Soucek made a great start, but after overtaking several competitors within the first few metres he got forced onto the dirty part of the track and lost some positions. From there on, he started a constant and hard-worked comeback which, helped by a quick pit-stop, saw Soucek and Soulet finish in P16.

The approach for Sunday's main race was essentially the same: to try to gain an advantage via a good strategy and to finish within the Top 10 to score some valuable championship points. This time, it was Soulet who took the start and made a solid stint of about half an hour, being one of the last competitors to come in for his mandatory pitstop. Thanks to an excellent timing and a great pitstop they managed to overtake their Bentley sister car just when Soucek took over for the last 25 minutes of the race. The Austro-Spaniard delivered a great stint and showed a better pace than the cars ahead of him. Despite the few overtaking opportunities at the Hungaroring, he was able to chase and finally overtake Jiménez in the #4 Audi. Andy managed to achieve his goal by finishing in a meritorious ninth position, and was first of the turbocharged cars.

The two points they got out of this weekend may seem little reward, but they allow Soucek and his colleagues at M-Sport to maintain their aspirations in the overall standings of the GT Series, and to focus on the two remaining races of the seasons with chances of finishing in the Top Three in the Drivers and Teams standings-

Soucek comments on his Hungarian experience:

"It's been a complicated weekend as we were coming from several circuits where our car was up there with the Leaders constantly. In this case, the track characteristics did not benefit us, and for one reason or another the turbocharged cars were at a certain disadvantage.

However, thanks to our great work and some excellent pitstops (second quickest in the combined overall) we managed to achieve our goal to finish in the Top10 and have scored two points that could be very valuable in the overall GT Series standings. I'd like to congratulate M-Sports' mechanics as well as the rest of the Team for their great work. We will continue to fight hard to finish the season with some great results in the two remaining races."

The next event in Soucek's race calendar, the Endurance Series event at the Nürburgring (Germany) will take place on September 17 and 18. Soucek, Soulet and Reip are currently running second in the championship and still have options to take the title home.



Stay tuned with the official Twitter accounts @Asoucek & @bentleyracing

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