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Difficult weekend for the #18 Bentley Boys at the Bathurst 12 Hours

The 2018 Season starter has not been as satisfactory as Andy Soucek had hoped for. Due to several setbacks, the Austro-Spaniard was only able to drive in Free Practice, as car #18 had to retire from the Race before he could get behind the wheel.

Upon landing in Australia at the start of the week, bad news were awaiting the Bentley Boys: the ship that was transporting Team M-Sport's cars had suffered an emergency at sea and had to be towed through a storm, which lead to a two-day delay in delivering the Team's containers.

Therefore, Team M-Sport's mechanics had to work around the clock to meet the deadline and get both Bentley Continentals ready for Free Practice, in which they succeeded, but track time was not as long as they had wished for.

Maxime Soulet qualified #18 car for P14 on the starting grid, which was a great result given the circumstances. In a 12-hour-race, which is usually decided only in the last hour, the Bentley Boys had to be confident in the resiliency and the car's pace to keep their options open until the closing hours of the race.

Sadly, even though Vincent Abril had a promising start getting close to the Top Ten runners, a gearbox problem first and a tyre burst at 285 km/h that caused extensive damage to the car lead to an early retirement after only 58 laps.

Soucek comments on his adventure Down Under:

"Having come to Australia with so many hopes, such commitment and hard work behind it and seeing it end like this is just a pity. Our colleagues in the #17 car have been fighting for victory until the last two and a half hours, which shows the potential of the car and that we could have fought for the podium. Huge achievement by whole Team getting the cars ready in time for Practice.

Now we go straight into the preparation of the Blancpain GT Series in Europe, and I have high hopes for the arrival of the new car which will undoubtedly bring us happy and successful moments along 2018."

Soucek starts into the Blancpain GT Series on April, 22 with the Endurance event at Monza (Italy).



Miguel A. Moreno

Press Relations www.andysoucek.com











