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## **Press Release 09 / 2018**

Madrid, May 22, 2018

### **Soucek and the Bentley Boys gain 36 positions and score fourth-fastest lap at Silverstone.**

Things started well at Bentley's "home track" during the Free Practice sessions. They ended amongst the Top Ten and hopes were high regarding Sunday's qualifying and race.

In Q1, just when he entered the track, Vince Abril detected an electric issue and came back to the pits to enable the team to make the necessary repairs before Q2 and Q3.

In his qualifying group, once he had scored the third-fastest time, Soucek decided to save his set of tyres for the race and finished Q2 overall after the chequered flag was given.

Due to the new Qualifying format (which takes into account the average time of all three sessions) the Bentley Boys knew they would have to start from the last spot of the grid so the Team started to work out an alternate race strategy.

Abril made an impressive start and gained 20 positions in the first five laps. Bentley Team M-Sport decided to bring the car #8 for its first pit stop just when the window opened, and to bring Soucek out on fresh tyres to try to undercut the cars Abril was fighting against towards the end of his stint.

The Spaniard's stint was just as impressive, his lap times equalling the ones of the race leaders, and he managed to score the fourth-quickest lap time overall.

Maxime Soulet drove the last stint and brought the car to the finish line in P14 after an impeccable and flawless comeback.

Soucek comments on the weekend:

"We arrived at our home race hugely motivated and with a very good feeling after the great pace shown at Monza. From the first Free Practice on, the Bentley Continental GT3 worked fine and has adapted pretty well to the resurfaced track and its new levels of adherence.

Qualifying was quite a blow as from Q1 we knew we would be starting from last on the grid. However, giving up was not an option compatible with our DNA. We knew we had the pace to fight back since the car behaved really well running on used tyres in free practice.

Vince made a fantastic first stint and fought himself up to a mid-field position. We decided to stop as soon as possible to gain some more positions during the first few laps of my stint on fresh tyres. The pit-stop was impressive and everything went as planned, but I was unfortunate to encounter some backmarker traffic which did not make it any easier for me.

Our next Race in the Endurance Series will be at Paul Ricard, where we won last season, so we hope to score the same result again.

But before that, I will be back in the States for the Pirelli World Challenge. On Wednesday I will be travelling to NYC for the SprintX event at Lime Rock, Connecticut, where I share a K-PAX Racing first Gen Continental GT3 with Alvaro Parente."

The schedule for the American event are as follows (all times CET)

Saturday May 26: 21:00h Qualifying

Monday May 28: 17:25h Race 1

22:05h Race 2



@Asoucek & @bentleyracing



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