



BENTLEY
ANDY SOUCEK
Bentley Boy
Continental GT3 #8



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Meritorious P6 finish for Bentley #08 at the Suzuka 10 Hours

The Bentley Boys in the M-Sport #08 car came to Suzuka with expectations of remaining in the battle for the overall standings of the Intercontinental GT Challenge. Just after their arrival, the menace of typhoon “Cimaron” left everybody in suspense for a whole day. Although finally there were no consequences at the race venue itself, only 100km away some devastating damages were caused.

The Free Practice on Friday saw Soucek, Soulet and Abril trying to adapt quickly to a completely new circuit for all of them. Suzuka is a very demanding track, making it a classic within worldwide Motor Racing. Despite the complicated task and the extreme conditions of humidity (94%) and heat (36°C), thanks to a great effort by the whole Team a good set-up was found for the Bentley Continental.

The Qualifying result was positive, with the #08 car finishing in P12, which qualified them for the “superpole”. Soucek took the car out for this decisive session, and he was able to improve his previous lap time by over a second. A very tight session saw him qualifying for P16 on the grid, a mere tenth of a second away from P9.

The progression in the race was clearly positive, with the Bentley Boys in a constant forward progression. There were many beautiful head-to-head duels with the works Audis and Porsches all throughout the race, all of which took place in a respectful manner.

Even though the pace was not sufficient to aim for the podium spots, The Bentley Boys fought very bravely all race long and managed to cross the finish line in a noteworthy sixth position, after a great display of the new Continental GT3’s reliability.

Andy Soucek comments on his adventure in Japan:

“We suffered a lot due to the extreme heat and humidity on a track which without a doubt is the most technical I have ever raced on. Degradation was so severe that there was a five-second difference between new tyres and used ones. It took us a while to work out the set-up but thanks to a great job by the whole team we got it right in the end.

All race long we fought very bravely with the Audi and Porsche works cars, and the public was able to enjoy some nice battles full of mutual respect, despite our pace being a bit behind the one of the race leaders. There was not room for surprise moves on the tactical side, as there was only one Safety Car phase and one Full Course Yellow in the whole of the 10 hours, which limited our strategic opportunities as trying “undercuts” by pitting early to a big extent.

To finish P6 of 33 highly competitive cars after so many nice duels is quite a remarkable result, which highlights our new car’s reliability and our consistency.”

The next event on Andy Soucek’s schedule is his “home race”, as the Blancpain Endurance Series finale will be taking place at Montmeló circuit (Barcelona). On September 29 and 30, Soucek counts on the support of his fans, friends and family to bring his 2018 European season to a successful end.



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