

**2019/2020 FIA World Endurance Championship  
Round 4: BAPCO 8 Hours of Bahrain**

***Michelin's FIA WEC tyres deliver winning performance and consistency in all four classes... day and night***

- **One-two honours for Toyota in LMP1 / Third place for Rebellion**
  - **Michelin finishes on top in LMP2**
- **A thrilling scrap between Aston Martin and Ferrari in LMGTE Pro**
  - **Team Project 1 takes the top prize in LMGTE Am**

After Rebellion Racing's win in Shanghai, China, Toyota Gazoo Racing bounced back to secure first and second places in Bahrain with the N°7 and N°8 TS050-Hybrids of Conway/Kobayashi/Lopez and Buemi/Nakajima/Hartley respectively. Shanghai victors Senna/Menezes/Nato (N°1 Rebellion R13-Gibson) were third over the line.

A tangle between the pole-winning Rebellion and one of the Team LNT-run Ginetta G60-LT-P1-AERs on Lap 1 allowed the N°7 Toyota TS050-Hybrid to take command. The N°8 sister prototype was forced off the track to avoid getting caught up in the collision, but it was back up to second place within the opening hour. Switzerland's Sébastien Buemi was helped as he warded off pressure from Ginetta and Rebellion by a double-stint strategy from the outset, which saved valuable time during his first refuelling stop.

Despite the cloud cover and veiled sun, the track temperature climbed to 35°C during the afternoon, but the consistency of Michelin's medium-compound slick played a big part in aiding the N°8 Toyota to climb back up the order. Also of note was the strong performance of Team LNT's Robertson/Hanley/King who held third spot until three hours from the end when a technical problem ended up side-lining the Ginetta trio, but not before Jordan King had succeeded in posting the fastest race lap on Lap 52 (1m45.240s).

When darkness swept over Sakhir International Circuit at the end of the afternoon, the track temperature soon dipped to 24°C, prompting the LMP1 teams to switch to the soft Michelin slick which fulfilled its mission by delivering consistent performance for the remainder of the race, lap after lap, despite the fact that the Bahrain circuit is notorious for the hard reacceleration it calls for out of its many tight turns and which can be very hard on tyres.

Unlike their LMP1 colleagues, which were able to choose between medium and soft Michelin slicks, the French firm's LMP2 runners had a choice between a medium and a hard compound. In addition to attracting a growing number of partners, the performance and longevity of tyres Michelin has developed for this class helped United Autosports to take the day's win with its N°22 Oreca 07-Gibson (Hanson/Albuquerque/Di Resta). High Class Racing will join the ranks of Michelin's LMP2 teams for February's Lone Star Le Mans – the next round of the 2019/2020 FIA World Endurance Championship – in Austin, Texas, USA.





The LMGTE Pro race produced a thrilling fight between Aston Martin and Ferrari whose cars took turns at the top of the class's leaderboard. Victory ended up in the hands of the British make's N°95 Vantage AMR (Sorensen/Thiim), but the N°71 Ferrari 488 GTE Evo (Rigon/Molina) was running less than a second off the lead when it was handed a penalty with half-an-hour remaining. It survived the setback to claim the day's silver medal, however, chased by the third-placed N°97 Aston Martin (Lynn/Martin).

Victory in LMGTE Am went to Team Project 1's N°57 Porsche 911 RSR (Keating/Ten Voorde/Bleekemolen) which spent much of the race in front. Second and third were the N°98 Aston Martin Vantage AMR of Dalla Lana/Turner/Gunn and the N°86 Porsche 911 RSR (Gulf Racing, Wainwright/Watson/Barker).

“We are very pleased with the consistency of the lap times we saw at Sakhir which is a very hard circuit on tyres due to both its layout and the sand and dust that gets blown onto the surface,” said **Pierre Alvès**, the manager Michelin's FIA WEC programme. “Because of the temperature drop after sunset, the moment the teams chose to switch from the harder compound slick to the softer alternative was extremely important, but our technicians were on hand to assist our partners in optimising their respective strategies. There were some good fights up and down the order and we are particularly pleased to have won LMP2 in association with United Autosports.”

Round 5 of the 2019/2020 FIA World Endurance Championship will be the Lone Star Le Mans at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, USA, on February 23.

