



DTM
Race 1, Hockenheim, Race

Successful DTM comeback: Priaux in the points for BMW – 142,000 fans flock to season-opener in Hockenheim.

Hockenheim, 29th April 2012. BMW is back in the DTM – and was immediately in the thick of things in a turbulent opening race of the 2012 season at the Hockenheimring (DE). Andy Priaux (GB) of BMW Team RBM was the only one of the six BMW drivers to complete the 40 laps without any notable incidents.

Under the watchful eyes of Members of the Board of Management of BMW AG, Dr.-Ing. Herbert Diess (Development), Dr.-Ing. Klaus Draeger (Purchasing and Supplier Network) and Ian Robertson (Sales and Marketing BMW, Sales Channels BMW Group), Priaux crossed the line in sixth place in his Crowne Plaza Hotels BMW M3 DTM to score eight points. The three-time World Touring Car Champion finished 28.4 seconds behind Gary Paffett (GB), who won the race for Mercedes.

Starting the race from third place on the grid, Dirk Werner (DE, E-POSTBRIEF BMW M3 DTM) was hit by Mercedes driver Ralf Schumacher (DE) very early in the race, and dropped to the back of the field. Bruno Spengler (CA, BMW Bank M3 DTM), who was directly behind Schumacher at the time, could do nothing to avoid colliding with the former Formula One driver, and subsequently had to retire from the race.

In all the turmoil, reigning DTM champion Martin Tomczyk (DE) was forced off the track and suffered damage to his BMW M Performance Parts M3 DTM. As a result, Tomczyk's first race of the new DTM era also came to a premature end just a few laps into the action. Joey Hand (US, SAMSUNG BMW M3 DTM) was hit by another competitor and spun in the hairpin, losing time and dropping positions. He eventually crossed the line in 13th. Augusto Farfus (BR, Castrol EDGE BMW M3 DTM) finished 15th, while Werner brought his car home in 17th.

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Former BMW DTM drivers Roberto Ravaglia (IT), Eric van de Poele (BE), Harald Grohs (DE) and Steve Soper (GB) were in Hockenheim to watch BMW's first DTM race for 20 years and, despite the results not going its way, BMW will take a lot of positives from the event. Over the course of the race weekend, 142,000 fans watched the first meeting of the three German premium automobile manufacturers in the DTM. In Saturday's qualifying, four of the six BMW drivers made it into the top ten.



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Jens Marquardt (BMW Motorsport Director):

“On the whole, I am very happy with our DTM comeback. Nobody really knew what the balance of power would be at the start of the new DTM era. The unexpectedly strong performance in qualifying on Saturday, and the good sixth place achieved by an in-form Andy in Sunday’s race are just reward for the hard work put in by our entire team. A huge compliment and thank you to all the BMW teams and everyone at BMW Motorsport. We have taken the first step – and we will continue to pursue our path. It is good news for the fans that the three manufacturers are at a similar level. We will have to wait and see how we fare at the other circuits on the calendar. We are well aware of the huge challenge we face in such a fiercely competitive series as the DTM. Our competitors have many more years of experience than we do. We want to overcome that advantage as soon as possible.”

Note to the editor:

You will shortly receive a further press release with reactions from the six BMW DTM drivers.

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