



DTM

Interview with Charly Lamm, Bart Mampaey and Stefan Reinhold.

Munich, 15th July 2011. This trio has lofty ambitions: In partnership with BMW the three team managers, namely Charly Lamm (BMW Team Schnitzer), Bart Mampaey (BMW Team RBM) and Stefan Reinhold (BMW Team RMG), intend ensuring a successful comeback to the DTM for BMW in 2012.

In this interview, Lamm, Mampaey and Reinhold comment on the current state of preparations and provide an insight into their duties.

Gentlemen, from your angle, how have preparations progressed?

Charly Lamm: "All three teams were naturally integrated into the development process. The roll-out and the first tests went off positively, so we have been able to draw very positive conclusions. The flow of information between BMW Motorsport and the teams has been excellent. We have been constantly involved and kept up to date."

Bart Mampaey: "For us the preparation phase has been very intense. We have been in Munich since the beginning of the build process for the first car. The DTM demands special equipment from teams, and we have also worked towards that at our base in Mechelen."

Stefan Reinhold: "The preparation phase has gone off very smoothly. For BMW Team RMG the building of a fundamental structure also played a role. Simultaneously we prepared for the start of the test programme. Our manpower planning was completed some time ago, so we are ready."

What are your first impressions of the BMW M3 DTM Concept Car?

Charly Lamm: "First of all I need to compliment BMW on the relatively short period within which this car was developed to this level. The BMW M3 DTM is a great car. We last entered a car in the DTM in 1992. I am convinced the new car will seamlessly continue the successful history of the BMW M3."

Bart Mampaey: "The chassis is manufactured totally from carbon fibre. For RBM this is the first time we have worked with such an extreme car. That is a fantastic jump. However, it is still too early to judge whether we will be competitive and fast, but the car certainly looks fantastic."

Stefan Reinhold: "I am not only a team manager, but also a BMW fan: Against this background the BMW M3 is obviously one of my favourite cars. The DTM car looks fantastic, and emphasises the sportiness of the BMW M3 even more. A race car must look like this."



What particular challenges face you over the coming months?

Charly Lamm: "As we are currently also racing in the GT programme with BMW in parallel with our DTM preparations, our test programme commences relatively late. So we will need to rapidly switch focus to DTM after an intensive first half of the season in order to play a more active role in the development programme."

Bart Mampaey: "It will be important to gain a good overview of the finer points of the new regulations. Only then can we go to the limit by exploiting all possibilities. That is a function of the test programme, which needs to be very intensive in order to enable us to reach the high performance level of the DTM. An ambitious test programme lies ahead."

Stefan Reinhold: "Naturally the first laps with our own cars will revolve around functionality. In addition we will continue enhancing our co-operation with BMW Motorsport. Then we will start analysing the car technically in order to improve it step by step."

Can you sense the excitement building day by day within your teams ahead of the first race?

Charly Lamm: "The DTM is where racing cars with great pedigrees compete, where their dynamics and lap times are the only decider. For all our team members is it an exciting challenge to work and compete with such cars on the race track."

Bart Mampaey: "It is good for every one of our team members to return to the track, to test and to experience the project of the future. However, I must add that this phase is extremely challenging for the entire crew. Overall it is a project that certainly builds excitement by motivating every member of the team."

Stefan Reinhold: "That applies to our team, too. After all our preparations our team members can hardly wait for our 'own' car to make it to the track. The stage is ready, and now we need the show to go ahead."

What makes the DTM so interesting from your perspective?

Charly Lamm: "In no other production racing series is the level of performance of the race cars as high as in the DTM. The entire field is extremely close. For each team it is a challenge to face up to the competition."

Bart Mampaey: "The closeness of the competition is immense. The three premium brands will ensure a high level of competition in 2012. That is a massive challenge for BMW Motorsport, the teams and the drivers, and one we accept with pleasure."



Stefan Reinhold: "Next year sees three top brands represented in the DTM. The level of technology will be correspondingly high. The DTM is very professional. During pit stops every team member knows exactly what to do. Those who prove successful in this environment belong to the elite in motorsport. That is where we aim to be."

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