



## Championnat de France and Challenge Endurance VHC



Yann Le Calvez and Lionel Robert brought their Elva MK8 home first ahead of the powerful Chevron B26 and ahead of stablemates and fellow MK8 drivers, Sylvain Guanzini and Marc Alloend-Bessand (car no. 4) Photos Courtesy V de V

## Ledénon 3 Hours

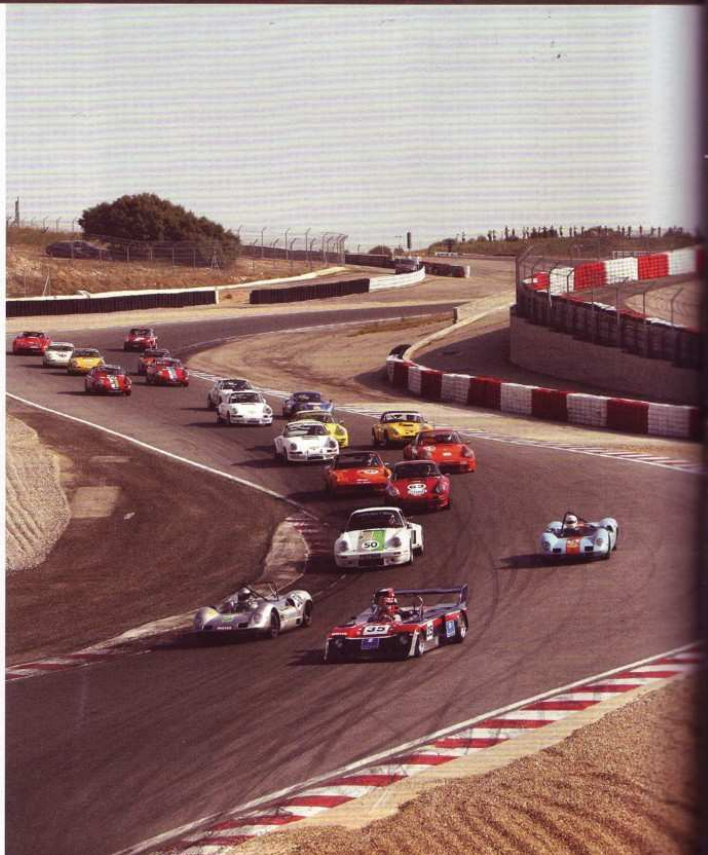
### Down to the Wire

Three 2-litre BMW-Powered Prototypes occupied the front of the grid as the flag fell signalling the start of the 3 Hours of Ledénon, and all three put on some outstanding performances, with the outcome uncertain until the very end.

Jean-Marc Luco and Maurice Basso easily took pole in their Chevron B26 with the two front-running Elva MK8s of Meca Moteur on their heels. Right from the start, Luco got the better of Yann Le Calvez who also had to fight off opposition from his stable-mate Marc Alloend Bessand in the other Elva. Bessand proved faster at the start of the race and took the lead in the seventh lap until a broken wishbone ball joint sent him scurrying back to his pit, losing three laps in the process.

Bernard Moreau took advantage to move into third but he was also forced to stop after an hour's racing. His stop proved permanent as the clutch of his Porsche 911 3-litre RSR had given up the ghost. Serge Krikhoff moved into first place in Group 4, which he held to the finish taking his first win. With Didier Denat, the pair was fourth on scratch and first GT. Laurent Bayers, Denis Fruleux and Eric Martin completed the Group 4 podium in their Porsche 911 3-litre RSR.

At mid-race, Marc Alloend Bessand, now in the



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Sylvain Guanzini Elva, was lying third behind the Calvez Elva and Luco, when Luco went in to refuel and hand over to Maurice Basso. They lost too much time in the operation and Le Calvez made the most of it, taking the lead for a few laps until he too made his stop to hand over to Lionel Robert. Robert took off in second place, putting in a tremendous performance that brought him to within a few lengths of the Chevron with the finish in view.

It did not look as though he could make it, but two laps from the end, Basso slowed with a loss of power from his BMW engine caused by an exhaust problem. Lionel Robert gave it all he could and ended up in the lead the last time down the finishing straight as the chequered flag came out.

In Group 3, the Porsche 911 3-litre RS cars of LD Racing were once again supreme and had a problem-free weekend, bringing Christophe Decultot and Pierre Fontaine to their fourth win of the season ahead of Dominique Nury, teamed up for the occasion with Jean-Marc Rivet-Fusil. Third on the podium were Jean-Pierre Grave, Tiziano Carugati and Bernard Salam having run a superb race.

In the Championnat de France, Eric Van de Vyver was in the lead in his TVR Griffith at the start of the race, battling it out with the Porsche 3-litre cars and the Alpine M63 B of Marc Peccolo and Gérard Besson, who were later unfortunately slowed by a problem. Before handing over the wheel to teammate Philippe Burel, Eric was brought to a halt on the track, followed by a long tow to replace a faulty accelerator cable. The Porsche 911 2-litre cars then took things in hand, with lots of overtaking in this hotly disputed category. It was during one of these manoeuvres that Franck Lamanna

accidentally came together in a shunt with Patrick Brossard, after the changeover from Jean-Pierre Mothe. Franck Lamanna lost a lot of time for repairs along with any hope of a podium finish for himself and co-driver Séverine Moreau-Langin. Already delayed when refuelling, Brossard nevertheless finished third. After a fine performance it was provisional points leader, Fabio Spirgi, who finished second with teammate Philippe Giauque. Christian and Sébastien Morales took a superb second consecutive win having led the class practically from start to finish, while the MGB of Jean-Pierre Maingault and Vincent Le Besne finished the race unmolested.

#### 3 Hours of Ledénon

1. Calvez/Calvez/Robert (Elva MK8)
2. Luco/Basso (Chevron B26)
3. Guanzini/Alloend-Bessand (Elva MK8)
4. Denat/Krikhoff (Porsche 911 2.8)
5. Fontaine/Decultot (Porsche 911 3.0)
6. Nury/Rivet-Fusil (Porsche 911 3.0)
7. Grave/Carugati/Salam (Porsche 911 3.0)
8. Caszalot/Caszalot (Porsche 911 2.RS)
9. Morales/Morales (Porsche 911)
10. Spirgi/Giauque (Porsche 911)
11. Brossard/Mothe (Porsche 911)
12. Van De Vyver/Burel (TVR Griffith 200)
13. Moreau-Langin/Lamanna Franck (Porsche 911)
14. Bayers/Frueux/Martin (Porsche 911 3.0RSR)

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*Jean Marc Luco and Claude Basso led the field, here pictured with Eric Van de Vyver's TVR Griffith 200. After re-fuelling problems, they still managed to re-take the lead, but with only two laps to go, their Chevron B26 slowed with exhaust problems and Calvez got past*



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