

Contents

Prequalifying - 24-Hours of Le Mans

- Three BMW V12 LMR in the race for the race Page 2

Art an Motorsport

- BMW Art Car by Jenny Holzer in Le Mans Page 4

Curricula Vitae

- Bill Auberlen Page 6
- Yannick Dalmas Page 7
- Tom Kristensen Page 8
- JJ Lehto Page 9
- Pierluigi Martini Page 10
- Jörg Müller Page 11
- Steve Soper Page 12
- Joachim Winkelhock Page 13

Prequalifying - 24-Hours of Le Mans, 2 Mai 1999

Three BMW V12 LMR in the race for the race

Munich. BMW wants to compete in the legendary 24-Hours of Le Mans in 1999 with the BMW V12 LMR. The new sportscar has completed a comprehensive test programme, even winning the traditional 12-Hour Race in Sebring/Florida in March. However, before the car can start in Le Mans on 12 June, it has to get through prequalifying on 2 May.

48 starters are permitted to the race by the organiser, the Automobile Club de l'Ouest (A.C.O.), with 62 cars including three BMW V12 LMR, having been invited to contend the prequalifying round on 2 May.

BMW Motorsport Director Gerhard Berger commented the dress rehearsal in Le Mans: "Prequalifying gives the first indications of where we really stand. We have already come up against several competitors, but on 2 May, the field will be complete. We will also be able to see for the first time, how well our car meets the demands in Le Mans. There are no possibilities to test there and the special track conditions cannot be simulated."

The A.C.O. splits the candidates into two groups on the evening before prequalifying. One group practices on Sunday from 07:30 to 13:30, with the second group training from 14:30 to 20:30.

Team BMW Motorsport is directed on the track by Charly Lamm. The pilots, Pierluigi Martini (I), Tom Kristensen (DK) and Jörg Müller (D) have been entered for prequalifying for the three BMW V12 LMR with the starting numbers 15 to 17. In addition, the three-times Le Mans winner Yannick Dalmas (F), Joachim Winkelhock (D) and JJ Lehto (FIN) will take the opportunity to experience the BMW V12 LMR in Le Mans. Lehto won the endurance classic in 1995, with Kristensen winning it in 1997.

Technology of the highest standard

The BMW V12 LMR evolved at BMW Motorsport Limited in Grove in England. Dr. Mario Theissen, at the head of BMW Motorsports responsible for the technology explains: "Le Mans is also from the technological viewpoint unique. On no other comparable track are such high speeds sustained for such long distances".

The BMW V12 LMR is equipped both at the front and the rear with twin wishbone-axes. Pushrods operate the suspension units over rocker

arms. Carbon-fibre brakes make sure that the car comes to a halt in Formula-1 style.

The aerodynamically optimised outer skin consists mainly of five carbon-fibre body parts. Once the service-friendly front and rear hoods are removed, only the side panels remain, allowing a clear view of the carbon-fibre monocoque.

This self-supporting structure surrounds the cockpit and the integrated safety fuel tank which lie behind it. The regulations limit the tank capacity to 90 litres.

The engine and the gearbox are situated behind the tank. The transverse six-speed gearbox, constructed by BMW Motorsport Limited is behind the engine. The gearchange is sequential, but manually operated - automatic gearboxes are forbidden.

Le Mans winner back again - the BMW V12 engine

The tried and tested and once again further developed BMW six-litre V12 is the powerhouse of the BMW V12 LMR. This engine celebrated its first great victory in 1995, by winning the 24-Hours of Le Mans - at the time, it powered the closed super-sportscar, the McLaren BMW.

The engine power is limited to about 580 hp by air-restrictors. The diameter of each of the two restrictors, one per bank of cylinders, is 32.9 millimetres. The vehicle's total weight is also defined by the regulations. The dry weight of the BMW V12 LMR tips the scales at 900 kilogrammes.

BMW drivers Auberlen and Soper with Price+Bscher

As in Sebring, the Team Price+Bscher project will be supported during prequalifying by the BMW works drivers Bill Auberlen (USA) and Steve Soper (GB). They will be at the wheel of a modified 98 BMW V12 Le Mans. A second further development of last year's car will be deployed by the Japanese team Goh.

Art and Motorsport

BMW Art Car by Jenny Holzer in Le Mans

Jenny Holzer, one of the greatest artists of this century, has clothed a BMW V12 LMR with her written art, thus producing the 15th Art Car of the BMW Art Car Collection.

Jenny Holzer, a concept artist born in 1950 in Ohio/USA, has attained worldwide recognition with her provocative text images. These represent a new and singular dimension in art. Jenny Holzer combines the medium of language with an object which she then places within a particular context. Her constructions and highly technological presentations, shining from walls and chiseled into stone, have gained a special standing in contemporary art.

This time, a BMW racing sportscar is to be the canvas for her statements. She intends to deliver surprising messages in a spectacular car race with this Art Car. "PROTECT ME FROM WHAT I WANT", Jenny Holzer's most famous statement, is to be part of her foray into the world of motorsports. The concept will be based on the traditional markings, colours and graphics of racing car design.

The idea of the BMW Art Cars thus returns to its origins in Le Mans. The American artist Alexander Calder transformed a BMW 3.0 CSL into an extravagant art-work on wheels for his friend, the art auctioneer and racing driver Hervé Poulain in 1975 in Le Mans. In the years that followed, this unique combination of motorsport and BMW design fascinated the most famous artists of our time. Frank Stella, Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol have turned BMW racing sportscars into Art Cars. The spectrum of designated models widened in the '80s: the painted bodywork was no longer restricted to racing cars, but now encompassed above all BMW series models.

Following their premier presentation in front of international motorsports spectators, the BMW Art Cars could be contemplated in the world's most famous museums, amongst which are the Louvre in Paris, the Ludwig Museum in Cologne and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York.

All the BMW Art Car artists in chronological order:

Alexander Calder (USA)	1975	BMW 3.0 CSL
Frank Stella (USA)	1976	BMW 3.0 CSL
Roy Lichtenstein (USA)	1977	BMW 320i Group 5 Race Version
Andy Warhol (USA)	1979	BMW M1 Group 4 Race Version
Ernst Fuchs (A)	1982	BMW 635 CSi
Robert Rauschenberg (USA)	1986	BMW 635 CSi
Michael Jagamara Nelson (AUS)	1989	BMW M3 Group A Race Version
Ken Done (AUS)	1989	BMW M3 Group A Race Version
Matazo Kayama (J)	1990	BMW 535i
César Manrique (E)	1990	BMW 730i
A.R. Penck (D)	1991	BMW Z1
Esther Mahlangu (ZA)	1991	BMW 525i
Sandro Chia (I)	1992	BMW Racing Touring Car Prototype
David Hockney (GB)	1995	BMW 850 Csi
Jenny Holzer (USA)	1998	BMW V12 LMR

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Bill Auberlen (USA)

Date/birth place: 12 October 1968 / Redondo Beach (USA)
Address: Redondo Beach, USA-California
Family: Single
Hobbies: Golf, motorcycles, water skiing, skiing, tennis

Racing career:

1972 Motocross races in the USA
1987 eight races IMSA GTU -
one 2nd place in Sebring/USA
1988 IMSA GTU; 2nd, 24 Hrs Daytona/USA
1989-1990 Six races IMSA GTU -
one 3rd place in Long Beach/USA,
one pole position
1991 Seven races IMSA GTU
1992 IMSA GTU - one 3rd place in Laguna Seca/USA
1993 IMSA GTU - winner in Elkhart Lake/USA,
two pole positions;
Winner from pole position, IMSA East-West
Challenge in Fuji/J
1994 4th, IMSA GTU -
two wins and three pole positions;
Winner from pole position, IMSA East-West
Challenge in Autopolis/J
1995 2nd, IMSA GTS-2 -
five wins and seven pole positions;
first entry in a formula race (Toyota Atlantic), finished
2nd in Miami/USA
1996 IMSA GTS-2 with factory BMW team which won the
Constructor's Championship - two pole positions;
Testing: IMSA WSC (Ferrari),
Toyota Atlantic
1997 Winner, IMSA GTS-3 Championship (BMW),
wins: 24 Hrs Daytona, 12 Hrs Sebring, Sears Point,
Pikes Peak and Sebring Fall Festival -
five pole positions;
Toyota Atlantic - one 3rd place
1998 Class Winner from pole position 24 Hrs
Daytona/USA (BMW);
4th place, 24-Hrs Le Mans (McLaren BMW);
Development programme for the BMW V8 race
engine, victory in Laguna Seca/USA

Yannick Dalmas (F)

Date/birth place: 28 July 1961 / Toulon (F)
Address: Campione (CH)
Family: Single, two sons: Paul and Pierre
Hobbies: Jogging, mountain biking, karting, cooking

Racing career:

1976-1981	Enduro racing and moto cross racing
1982	Winner, Marlboro final contest
1983	3rd place, French Formula Renault Turbo, three wins
1984	1st place, French Formula Renault Turbo, six wins
1985	2nd place, French Formula 3 - three wins
1986	1st place, French Formula 3 - six wins, Winner, Formula 3 Grand Prix of Monaco
1987	5th place, European Formula 3000 Championship - two wins (Pau and Jarama); three Formula 1 Grand Prix (Lola-Ford), 5th place in Australia
1988	Formula 1 (Lola-Ford)
1989	Formula 1 (Lola-Lamborghini, AGS-Ford)
1990	Formula 1 (AGS-Ford)
1991	Sportscar World Championship (Peugeot) - wins in Magny Cours/F and Mexico City/MEX
1992	Winner, Sportscar World Championship (Peugeot) - three wins: Silverstone/GB, Le Mans/F and Suzuka/J, 2nd places: Monza/I and Donington/GB
1993	2nd place, 24-Hrs of Le Mans/F (Peugeot); 2nd place, 24-Hrs of Spa/B (Porsche); French Touring Car Championship (Peugeot-Testdriver)
1994	Winner, 24-Hrs of Le Mans/F (Porsche); 4th place, French Touring Car Championship (Peugeot 405), four wins
1995	Winner, 24-Hrs of Le Mans/F (McLaren BMW); German Touring Car Championship (Opel Calibra)
1996	3rd place, 24-Hrs of Le Mans/F (Porsche); German and International Touring Car Championship (Opel Calibra)
1997	FIA GT-Championship (Porsche); Winner, 12-Hrs of Sebring/USA (Ferrari); 3rd place, 24-Hrs of Daytona/USA (GT2, Porsche); 24-Hrs of Le Mans (Porsche)
1998	3rd place, FIA GT-Championship (Porsche) 24-Hrs of Le Mans/F (Porsche)

Tom Kristensen (DK)

Date/birth place: 7 July 1967 / Hobro (DK)
Address: Monte Carlo, Monaco
Family: Girl-friend Hanne, son Oliver
Hobbies: Sport, music, skiing

Racing career:

1984	Danish Kart Champion (Formula Nordic)
1985	Scandinavian Kart Champion in Sweden, Seniors, 3rd place, Race of Champions, Las Vegas/USA, 3rd place, Kart Grand Prix in Hongkong, Danish Kart Champion (team title)
1986	2nd place, European Kart Championship, 1st place, Italian and Danish Kart Championship, 2nd place, Race of Champions, Zaragoza/E,
1987	2nd place, Kart World Championship, Lido di Jesolo/I
1991	German Formula 3 Champion, 6th place, Formula 3 Grand Prix in Macau
1992	5th place, Japanese Formula 3 Championship, 1st place, Formula 3 Super-Cup in Suzuka (J), 5th place, Formula 3 Champion Grand Prix in Macau, 2nd place, Jap. Touring Car Championship (Nissan), 2nd place, Final Jap. Sports Car-Prototype Championship (Toyota, Group C)
1993	Japanese Formula 3 Champion (Toyota) - five wins, 1st place, Formula 3 World Final in Fuji/J (Toyota), 2nd place, Formula 3 Grand Prix in Macau (Toyota) Overall winner, Fuji INTER-tec (500-km-race for the Jap. Touring Car Championship, Nissan)
1994	9th place, Japanese Formula 3000 Championship, 2nd place, Japanese Touring Car Championship, 3rd place, Touring Car Race in Macau (Toyota)
1995	2nd place, Japanese Formula 3000 Championship, 5th place Jap. Touring Car Championship (Toyota)
1996	6th place, Int. FIA Formel 3000 Championship (took part in seven out of eleven races), Test driver for Toyota (Le Mans), Test Indy Car, Japanese GT Championship (Toyota)
1997	Victory and lap record Le Mans 24-Hour Race (Joest- Porsche); 6th place, Int. FIA Formula 3000 Champi onship - one win, six poles, Formula 1 test (Minardi); Japanese GT Championship (Toyota)
1998	Le Mans 24-Hour Race (BMW V12 Le Mans), 11th place German STC Championship (Honda), Formula 1 test driver (Tyrrell)

JJ Lehto (FIN)

Date/birth place: January 31 1966 / Espoo (FIN)
Address: Monte Carlo, Monaco
Family: Married to Satu, daughters Juulia and Johanna
Hobbies: Old timers, rally racing, badminton, skiing

Racing career:

1972-1980	Cart sport
1981-1983	Moto-cross
1985	4th place, Finnish Formula Ford 1600
1986	1st place, European, Skandinavian and Finnish Formula Ford 1600
1987	1st place, British and European Formula Ford 2000, 1st place, Formula Ford World Cup
1988	1st place, British Formula 3 Championship
1989	Formula 3000-European Championship, start in Formula1 (Onyx)
1990	Formula 1 (Onyx)
1991	12th place, Formula 1 (Scuderia Italia), 3rd place in Imola (I)
1992	Formula 1 (Scuderia Italia)
1993	Formula 1 (Sauber)
1994	Formula 1 - crash whilst testing at Silverstone (Benetton), six GP for Benetton, 6th place in Montreal (CDN), two GP for Sauber
1995	Victory 24-Hours of Le Mans/F (McLaren BMW), 13th place, German Touring Car Championship, 11th place, Int. Touring Car Series (Opel)
1996	5th place, Int. Touring Car Championship (Opel), 24-Hours of Le Mans (McLaren BMW), Victory, 1000 Kilometer Race Suzuka/J (McLaren BMW)
1997	2nd place, FIA GT Championship, 24-Hours of Le Mans (McLaren BMW)
1998	CART Series (USA/Hogan Racing), 5th place in Australia

Pierluigi Martini (I)

Date/birth place: 23 April 1961 / Lugo di Romagna (I)
Address: Monte Carlo, Monaco
Family: Married to Sandra, daughter Maria-Vittoria,
son Arturo
Hobbies: Golf, angling, jogging

Racing career:

1975	Kart sport in Italy
1980	Formula FIAT Abarth
1981	Italian Formula 3 Championship
1982	3rd place, Italian Formula 3 Championship
1983	European Champion Formula 3, four wins 2nd place, Formula 2 race in Misano/I
1984	24-Hour Race Le Mans, retired (Lancia)
1985	Formula 1 (Minardi)
1986	2nd place, International Formula 3000 Championship, three wins
1987	International Formula 3000 Championship
1988	4th place Formula 1 World Championship (Minardi), 6th once (Detroit/USA); Formula 3000 victory in Pergusa/I
1989	Formula 1 (Minardi), 5th twice (England and Portugal), 6th once (Australia), Touring car races in Italy (BMW, Team Bigazzi)
1990	Formula 1 (Minardi), 2nd on the grid in Phoenix/USA
1991	11th place, Formula 1 (Minardi), 4th twice (San Marino and Portugal)
1992	Formula 1 (Scuderia Italia), 6th twice (Spain and San Marino)
1993	Formula 1 (Minardi)
1994	Formula 1 (Minardi Scuderia Italia), 5th twice (Spain and France)
1995	Formula 1 (Minardi Scuderia Italia)
1996	24-Hours of Le Mans, pole position and retirement (Joest-Porsche)
1997	8th place, 24-Hours of Le Mans, FIA GT Championship (Scuderia Italia Porsche), 1st place, ISRS race in Donington/GB (Joest Porsche)
1998	Le Mans 24 Hour Race, Team BMW Motorsport (BMW V12 Le Mans); Development programme for the BMW V8 race engine

Jörg Müller (D)

Date/birth place: 3 September 1969 / Kerkrade (NL)
Address: Monte Carlo (MC)
Family: Single, girlfriend Julia Golliard
Hobbies: Squash, windsurfing, snowboarding, carting

Racing career:

1982	1st place, Burg Brüggen Karting Club Championship
1984	2nd place, ADAC Junior Kart Driver Regional Championship, 1st place, ADAC Junior Driver Kart Finals
1985	1st place, ADAC Junior Kart Driver Regional Championship, 1st place, ADAC Junior German Kart Team Championship
1987	1st place, ADAC Karting Regional Championship
1988	1st place, German Formula Ford Championship
1989	1st place, German Formula Opel Lotus Challenge
1990	1st place, European Formula Ford Championship, 5th place, German Formula 3 Championship
1991	1st place, Monaco Formula 3 Grand Prix
1992	7th place, German Formula 3 Championship
1993	German Formula 3 Championship (participated in four races, one win), 1st place, Macau Formula 3 Grand Prix
1994	1st place, German Formula 3 Championship
1995	BMW works driver in the ADAC Super Touring Car Cup (BMW 320i)
1996	1st place, European Formula 3000 Championship, BMW works driver in the ADAC Super Touring Car Cup (BMW 320i)
1997	Formula 1 test driver for Arrows, 24-Hours of Le Mans (Nissan GT1)
1998	Formula 1 test driver for Sauber, 2nd place, 24-Hours of Le Mans (Porsche GT1)

Steve Soper (GB)

Date/birth place: 27 September 1953 / Greenford, Great Britain
Address: Monte Carlo, Monaco
Family: Married to Lulu; daughters Cassia and Gabriella
Hobbies: Boats, helicopters, family

Racing career:

1972-1976	Special touring car races in Britain
1977/79	Winner, Mini Cooper Cup
1980	Winner, British Ford Fiesta Cup
1981	Winner, British MG Metro Cup
1983	British Touring Car Championship and European Touring Car Championship (Rover)
1984/85	European Touring Car Championship (Rover)
1986	European Touring Car Championship (Ford)
1987	World Touring Car Championship, Winner, 24 Hrs Nürburgring (Ford)
1988	2nd, European Touring Car Championship (Ford)
1989-1992	German Touring Car Championship (BMW M3), nine wins overall
1992	Winner, 24 Hrs Spa-Francorchamps/B (BMW M3)
1993	2nd, British Touring Car Championship (BMW 318i), three wins
1994	3rd, Japanese Touring Car Championship, 7th, British Touring Car Championship (BMW 318is)
1995	Winner, Japanese Touring Car Championship, Win- ner, 24 Hrs Spa-Francorchamps/B (BMW 320i)
1996	2nd, ADAC Super Touring Car Cup (BMW 320i)
1997	2nd, FIA GT Championship, 24-Hrs Le Mans, (McLaren BMW); Winner, Touring Car Race in Macau (BMW 320i)
1998	24-Hrs Le Mans, (BMW V12 Le Mans); 24-Hrs Nürburgring (BMW 320d); Development programme for the BMW V8 race engine

Joachim Winkelhock (D)

Date/birth place: 24 October 1960 / Waiblingen, Germany
Address: Korb, Germany
Family: Married to Sabine, daughters Sina and Nina
Hobbies: Squash, cycling, family

Racing career:

1979	Renault 5 Cup
1981	Renault 5 Turbo European Cup
1982	Formula Ford 1600
1983-1985	Various touring car races (inter alia in a BMW 323i)
1986	Winner, Porsche 944 Turbo Cup
1987	Runner-up, German Formula 3 Championship (Reynard-VW), European Touring Car Championship (Ford)
1988	Winner, German Formula 3 Championship (Reynard-VW)
1989	Formula 1 (AGS-Ford)
1990-1992	German Touring Car Championship (BMW M3), three wins
1990/91	Winner, 24 Hours of Nürburgring (BMW M3)
1993	Winner, British Touring Car Championship (BMW 318i)
1994	6th place, British Touring Car Championship, races for the ADAC Touring Car Cup, Winner, Asia Pacific Championship (BMW 318is)
1995	Winner, ADAC Super Touring Car Cup, Winner, 24-Hours of Spa-Francorchamps/B (BMW 320i)
1996	5th place, British Touring Car Championship (BMW 320i)
1997	Runner-up, ADAC Super Touring Car Cup, 2nd place, 24-Hours of Spa-Francorchamps/B (BMW 320i)
1998	6th place, German STC Championship (BMW 320i), BMW Motorsport Team Schnitzer; 24-Hours of Le Mans (BMW V12 Le Mans), Team BMW Motorsport; Winner, Macau Touring Car Race (BMW 320i), BMW Motorsport Team Schnitzer