

Binnie Motorsports Victorious at Le Mans 24 Hours

June 18, 2007

Binnie Motorsports from Portsmouth, New Hampshire was victorious over the weekend in one of the biggest, most grueling and important motor races in the world; the Le Mans 24 hours in France. The Portsmouth-based team won the LMP 2 class in one of the most difficult races in the world. In a stunning performance from beginning to end, at speeds in excess of 200 mph, the Binnie team built a huge lead in terrible weather conditions that saw almost half the field of 54 cars either crash or fail to finish due to mechanical difficulties.

Drivers Bill Binnie, Chris Buncombe and Allen Timpany had a virtually faultless race, taking LMP2 class honors and covering a total of 317 laps with a 16 lap lead over their nearest rivals, the Fernandez Racing Team driven and owned by Alex Fernandez, a former Indy 500 winner.

This year's running of the 24 hours was the 75th in history. The event is known the world over, and is the most watched motor race on television, reaching out to over 250 million homes in over 60 countries. It is estimated that almost a million spectators saw the race in person.

Bill Binnie is now a two-time Le Mans 24 Hour Champion having also won in 2004.

Driver and team owner Bill Binnie commented "Today we competed against great factory teams like Ferrari, Corvette, Audi and Porsche, Radical and Courage and won our Class and it was a great thrill. The guys worked their hearts out and the drivers drove perfectly in the most dangerous conditions---I am just so proud of our team. To be doing this at my ripe old age of 49 is just fun and to be able to come out and compete at this level with guys half my age keeps me young. We are in international team with the best engineers and mechanics from all over the world and it is a great feeling to be able to compete at this level, hold your own and win."

Binnie Motorsports is considered one of the best private sports car race teams in the world and has an impeccable record at the Le Mans 24 Hour race including a 2nd in class last year, 2006. The team has won or achieved podiums (top three places) in almost all of its races for the last 2 years and Bill Binnie won outright LMP2 victory in 2004 when driving for the Ohio-based Intersport Racing team.

Le Mans rookie Chris Buncombe from London, England added "To be at Le Mans and to come away with the class victory is unreal. It's a dream come true. My team mates Bill and Allen did a great job and I can't thank the team enough. Bill's opening drive for almost 3 and _ hours was amazing and kept us in it in the most difficult conditions of the race. The team prepared a faultless car for us. It was a real challenge, but the three of us made no mistakes and brought it home.

We had only 1 drama with an electrical problem near the end of the race but we overcame that and won. “

British driver Allen Timpany has raced with Bill for the 3rd Le Mans in a row, but this tops his 2nd place finish in last year’s event. “It is an incredible experience to stand on the top step of the podium knowing that you have beaten so many able people trying their best. Beating works teams and other very capable private teams under some of the toughest racing weather conditions imaginable makes the victory even more satisfying. The Team preparation ahead of the race and throughout the week was faultless. It is a real privilege to drive with Bill and for Bill’s team, and great fun”.

“Chris Buncombe drove an incredibly mature race for a young rookie – tripling stinting at night and handling the rain towards the end”. He added “There was a moment of "tension" in my helmet when after 22hrs driving rain was running off my visor and I was still on slick tyres!”

Binnie Motorsports competes all over the world in the Le Mans series including Italy, Spain, France, England, Germany, Brazil and the United States (Sebring 12 Hour). Their next race is in Nurburgring, Germany on July 1st.

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Further Information and images, contact: binniems@gmail.com