



### **Minassian on pole for Silverstone 1000km**

Nicolas Minassian was quick straight out of the box as qualifying got underway at Silverstone this morning and just got quicker and quicker as the session progressed. The very talented Frenchman jumped to the top of the timesheets on only his second lap out of the pits with a time that was the quickest time set yet this weekend [1:35.935]. Not satisfied with that he bettered it again on his third lap and once more on his fourth lap with a time of 1:34.562 to take Pole Position some one and three quarter seconds faster than the Zytec that will start alongside him.

**"This is a reward for the whole team, we all work very hard together and it is nice when it all comes together," said Minassian. "It was a magic lap, I love this place. It is great to be on pole again, I could get used to this."**

Minassian and the Creation Autosportif team have had their fair share of bad luck with the DBA's reliability, but there has never been any doubt about their speed and competitiveness. With the performance the team has clearly shown this weekend at Silverstone, they will all be hoping that the mechanical gremlins have been left behind once and for all.

**"The problems we have had have only been little things, but they all cost you time on track," explained Minassian. "Everyone has worked really hard to make sure we have a trouble free run from now on and it is about time we had a little luck too."**

The six hour race gets underway at 4pm BST when Minassian will lead them away for the 1000km race.

#### ***Note on Night Practice (Friday)***

To comply with FIA rules, LMES staged an hour long night practice session at Silverstone yesterday evening in which each driver had to take part. Any driver that did not drive under these conditions will be unable to drive the latter part of tomorrow's race. Minassian ran just the mandatory laps required to compete in the late running 1000km of Silverstone today.

#### **Editorial Notes**

Nicolas Minassian, 32, lives in England with his wife Jayne. Minassian was runner up in the French F3 Championship in 1995, British F3 in 1997 and the FIA F3000 Championship in 2000. He has tested with both Williams and Honda in Formula One and competed in the Champ Car World Series with Ganassi Racing before taking the 2002 ASCAR title with RML. With Creation Autosportif, Minassian was a front-runner in the inaugural four-round LMES Championship and will contest the series once again in 2005 for the team as well as driving in their Le Mans 24 hrs debut.

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