



JAMIE STANLEY RACING

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Podium Joy at Spa



After months of bad fortune and technical problems, GWS Motorsport overcame early drama to secure the squad's long overdue first podium of the season when the Lotus Cup UK visited Belgium's famous Spa-Francorchamps circuit on 12/13th July 2013.



With Jamie Stanley in a stronger championship position than his co-driver, team principal Glenn Sherwood, the Winchester-based team decided that Stanley would take solo driving honours in the series' only foreign round – an arrangement that will continue for the remainder of the season.

Stanley took to the track, which is renowned for hosting the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix, like a duck to water, setting the overall third quickest time in free practice before posting the fastest lap time in the Exige Cup class to secure fifth on the grid in

qualifying.

Although Stanley lay in a strong position at the start, there was early drama when the race got underway as the Chester racer narrowly avoided contact with a spinning car at Radillon on lap two. Stanley was overtaking a car on the outside at Eau Rouge when a vehicle further up the track spun, which he craftily navigated to not only avoid damage to his Lotus Exige but also to raise him up the order.

Stanley quickly worked his way up to second place during the hour-long encounter and drove a faultless race, controlling the gap to his nearest rival and piloting the #47 car through a smooth, timely pit stop.

By the chequered flag GWS Motorsport was almost two minutes ahead of their nearest class rival and six seconds in front of third place, securing their first 2013 podium in second position and victory in the Exige Cup class.

Jamie Stanley, GWS Motorsport driver, said: "That's the result we've been waiting for! We've suffered so much bad luck this season – technical problems, weather conditions, getting caught up in other people's accidents – you name it, it's happened to us! It's brilliant that we've managed to put that all behind us and finally score a top three finish. Thanks to the team for preparing a brilliant car and I hope this is the first of many podium results for GWS Motorsport. On behalf of the team I'd like to dedicate this win to our team principal, Glenn Sherwood."

Glenn Sherwood, GWS Motorsport team principal, added: "I am delighted for Jamie for his class victory and second overall at Spa. Furthermore to the rest of the team - Wayne, Ralph, Mark, Sean, Pohl – for producing a very competitive, reliable and well presented race car. It's great for the team to achieve its first podium on European soil, particularly at Spa with its Formula One and 24-hour racing heritage.

"Once more, due to my business commitments I was unable to join them in Belgium, although GWS Motorsport is so well structured now it runs well as a team and the results speak for themselves.

“After Oulton Park I decided that, as I have had very little time in the car and have not completed one race so far this year, I would hand the seat over to Jamie for the rest of the season in order for us to pull together a team capable of winning an Exige Cup hat trick.

“Subject to final adjudication I understand after this weekend’s performance the team is leading the standings. We are now off to Brands Hatch Grand Prix circuit at the end of August where I will join up with the squad again and still keep my hand in with testing and free practice.

“Finally I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all our sponsors, key partners, and supporters in what has become an interesting season.”

The next round of the Lotus Cup UK will take place at Brands Hatch on 24th/25th August as part of the 2013 Lotus Festival.