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Le Mans Legend: 1949 to 1965

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On 13th June 2009, a few hours before the start of the Le Mans 24 Hours, a huge grid of historic Le Mans cars will take to the circuit for the Le Mans Legend race. This is the ninth historic support race that UK-based Motor Racing Legends has run at the world-famous endurance event - each time visiting a different era of motorsport. In 2009, the Le Mans Legend will welcome cars which ran at Le Mans between 1949 and 1965.

Says **Duncan Wiltshire** of **Motor Racing Legends**, "It is the exhilarating sight of historic cars in full-on combat, combined with the Le Mans pedigree of the cars taking part, which makes the **Le Mans Legend** so popular with the 230,000 spectators at the 24 Hours race weekend. We want to ensure that the battle for overall victory - and in each class - is as closely fought as possible and, to this end, **GT40s** will not be invited this year, as their success lay after this era."

The **1949 Le Mans 24 Hours** was the first time for 10 years that the race had been held and it welcomed such entries as **Aston Martin DB2**, the **Embiricos Bentley** and the eventual winner, **Ferrari 166MM**. Moving on in time through the post-War years, **Le Mans** started to see the road-going sports cars replaced by purpose-built racers and, by the end of the chosen era, **Le Mans** had been the battleground for **Ferrari 250LM** and **330LMB**, **Aston Martin DBR1** and **Jaguar C-type** and **D-type**, along with **AC Cobra** and **Shelby Cobra Daytona Coupé**, **Austin-Healey 100S**, **MGA Le Mans** and many others.



“Since cars from the Fifties and Sixties are so widely recognised and admired, we think this period will prove extremely popular with spectators,” concludes **Duncan Wiltshire**.

The race will pay further tribute to the heritage of this great event by starting with the traditional ‘ear of corn’ formation, while scrutineering will take place – true to history – in the city centre on the Thursday of Le Mans week.

Text: Charis Whitcombe

Photos: Motor Racing Legends

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