

Orangemen

International Marshalling Services

2011 Review

December 31th, 2011

Dear reader,

On the brink of the new year, we like to give you a look back of the year behind us and the prospects for 2012 – a special year for Orangemen which promises to be very exciting.

2011 saw the continued activities of Maurice and Arjen, providing their marshalling services all around Europe and the US. And there was an addition to the squad: Gert Ketel joined Orangemen for the annual trip to Sebring. We also had a guest for the ILMC Silverstone 6 hours when Michel Helders came along.

Sebring 12 Hours

The traditional opening of the Orangemen season saw an extended squad of three for this year's 12 Hours event. Although very early in the season, Sebring is always one of the highlights of the season and definitely the best event. Le Mans 24 hours might be bigger as a race, but not as an event!

After thoroughly enjoying his debut at the Le Mans 24 hours in 2010, Gert Ketel was invited to come to Florida to enjoy the party in Florida – O, and there was some racing too.

Sebring was also the opener of the expanded ILMC – *Intercontinental Le*

Mans Cup for Prototypes and GT cars. We were planning on doing the entire schedule (with the exception of the Chinese race). To make our intention clear we had a special patch made – a real collector's item (once again)!



2011 Orangemen ILMC patch

On track there were no special incidents (just the usual stuff at turn 7), first time in 3 years we had no track fire!

Our 2011 season would revolve around the ILMC but since there were only 6 events (7 incl. China), it gave us plenty of time for other events as well. Arjen added the FIA GT round at Zolder to the schedule and Maurice attended the retrieved Pau GP in the South-West of France.

Another highlight was the ILMC 6 hours at Spa, a real crash fest during practice...



Spa: Lahaye destroyed guardrail

Le Mans 24 Hours

The quatre-vingt heures saw more misbehavior from the usual suspects (including rookies John, Arie and Andy). No surprise as this year saw the opening of Bar123 (including cinema). Next year we'll be upgrading to Club123!

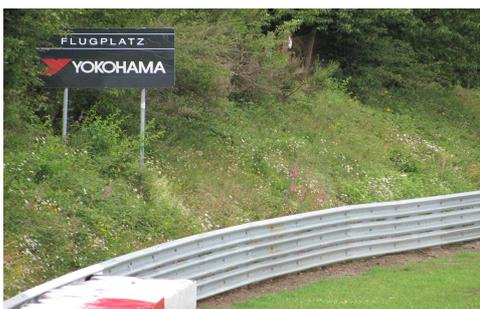


Le Mans: Gert goes planking

Overall a lot of fun, no major dramas at our turn (poste 123, hence the name of the bar). Special award goes to our colleagues at poste 121 who had little trouble providing the final destructive touch to Mr. Bouillion's Rebellion on Sunday morning!

Nurburgring 24 Hours

Just 2 weeks after Le Mans but no complaints (they've been on the same weekend a couple of years earlier). Arjen's debut after all those years. Much different than Le Mans in many ways but truly enjoyable. Most impressive: the darkness. Most memorable: the sound of a porn movie coming from a camping site at noon! Next year is the 60th edition of this classic race, so we'll be back – we just need a bigger car (or less stuff), the Volvo Estate seemed to be on the small side...



Downforce needed

Imola ILMC 6 hours

Only a couple of days after returning from the Ring, another highlight was the one off for the ACO series at the famous Imola circuit in Italy. Our first trip to Italy, the land of pasta and Ferrari. A fabulous track as well and most special for the place where the greatest F1 driver ever so sadly died. Especially Maurice made sure to pay his tributes to the late Ayrton Senna.



Senna Memorial Imola

Never been to a more relaxed circuit, it's possible to enjoy a magnificent cup of coffee inside the track at a public bar while watching the cars speeding by!

Imola was an adventure, not many of the Italian marshals understood and spoke English. And in Italian, Track marshal apparently means Pit marshal... Communicating was a bit of a challenge then, but a very rewarding one.

There were lots of minor incidents at Tamburello and Thursday afternoon's downpour made the Radical session more look like an Olympic swimming contest than racing practice!

After Maurice's little demonstration of the use of his safety helmet on Saturday, it was time for the grid walk on Sunday where we had a laugh about the grid marshal who tried to get us off the grid - because we were not wearing our safety helmets – our suits seemed insufficient protection to him while guests in skirts

and shorts invaded the place... The Playboy bunnies were in a better mood!



Happy Bunnies in Imola

A big thanks to George for his help with our efforts to get in contact with the organizers. We'll be back in Italy for more. Monza, Mugello, Valllunga, etc. here we come!

Split programs

Orangemen didn't do all events together – we simply couldn't or didn't want to. So Arjen went to Spa for the 24 hours (another classic endurance race) and Maurice participated in the inaugural Baltimore Grand Prix in the US as he likes the IndyCar/ALMS combo (as well as street races).

Thanks to the ALMS livestream it was possible to follow not only the race but also the practice sessions so as soon as Maurice was out on track, he could feel his cell phone buzzing – another text message from Orangemen base!



Baltimore: Orangeman vs. a lot of IndyCars

Going to Baltimore also meant that Maurice had to skip Petit Le Mans at Road Atlanta (or just Petit as we like to call it) because of immigration regulations.

We should have a little chat with that president guy...

Silverstone ILMC 6 hours

Number five – out of six. As a regular marshal at Zandvoort and often seen as guest in Belgium, Michel Helder came along to the 'airfield circuit' in the UK. Another good trip and some nasty on track accidents. *Astro turf* and *hybrid* were the two items that probably got more attention than they were looking for. A learning experience in many aspects.



Silverstone: Frying the hybrid

Petit Le Mans

Orangemen's ILMC final. An overcrowded entry on an 'old fashioned' road course even gave Arjen fatigue while blue flagging, he needs to improve drastically! Next year, the Petit will not have those problems again as the WEC (ILMC's successor) will only visit the US once (Sebring). It's back to its IMSA roots for the Petit it seems.



Petit: Pink lady & Orangeman

2012 prospects

Well, it's the anniversary year – Daytona's 50th, Nurburgring 60th, Le Mans' 80th and Petit's 15th edition. Even Bathurst 1000 is celebrating (50th). There's also the first 24 hours race in the Artic area and even Orangemen seem to have some sort of celebration!

2012 also sees the (re)birth of the World Endurance Championship, organized in joint venture by the ACO and the FIA. We're not sure if that will lead to a long and happy marriage but the first year is starting to look more and more promising by the week! Expect a lot of WEC events to be part of the Orangemen 2012 schedule! Ever wanted to go to Brazil or Japan anyone?

2012 schedule

What can we say? Crowded and ambitious best sum up the Orangemen 2012 schedule. It will be published shortly – and we'll make sure it gets noticed.

But we'd like to give you a little preview: No Middle East start unfortunately but Maurice will be present for the Daytona 24 hours at the end of January. Then it's time again for Sebring – and a very special one because Orangemen will be celebrating their 10th anniversary at the 'only 12 Hours'. Don't miss the party!

The rest will be revealed shortly so stay tuned.

Merchandise

Demand of Orangemen items seem to go from strength to strength. In order to satisfy this demand, we are pleased to announce we'll be publishing the Orangemen catalogue. Soon all our fans will be able to get their hands on those great collector items!



More merchandise available soon

So only a couple of more hours in 2011 – we thoroughly enjoyed it and had lots of fun. Hope you did too.

We'd like to thank all our friends and fellow marshals in the US, UK, France, Hungary, Italy, Belgium, Holland and the rest of the world. If it wasn't for you, it wouldn't be so satisfying!

Take care and have a great start to 2012!

See y'all soon!

Orangemen,
Maurice Pijpers
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