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Paddock radar from the ADAC GT Masters at Zandvoort

- Guest entrant Marc Lieb is impressed with the ADAC GT Masters
- Zandvoort one of most popular circuits on calendar
- Football/darts tournament with ADAC GT Masters stars

Guest entrant is very impressed: FIA WEC champion and Le Mans winner Marc Lieb (38, GER) was delighted with his ADAC GT Masters debut at Zandvoort. “What a terrific series!” said the German, who is standing in for Kévin Estre from KÜS Team75 Bernhard at Zandvoort and sharing the drive in the Porsche 911 GT3 R with Timo Bernhard (37, GER). “There are many excellent drivers and teams, so the field is hotly contested. You have to get everything exactly right, especially in qualifying, otherwise pushing forward in the race can be tricky, but still, driving here is a lot of fun.” After finishing his active racing career, Lieb now works for Porsche as Head of Customer Sports. Four former FIA World Champions were in the Zandvoort line-up – Lieb, Bernhard, Porsche driver Lucas Luhr (39, GER, IronForce by RING POLICE) and Audi driver Markus Winkelhock (38, GER, BWT Mücke Motorsport).

Holiday atmosphere: Every season, the Zandvoort race weekend is one of the most popular events on the ADAC GT Masters calendar. The Dutch racetrack is located directly in the North Sea dunes, giving it a very special atmosphere all of its own, so it’s no big surprise that many drivers bring their families with them every year to combine the race meeting with a summer holiday by the sea.

All in a good cause: On Friday evening, ADAC GT Masters drivers Timo Scheider (39, GER) and Mikkel Jensen (23, DK, both BMW Team Schnitzer) plus local favourite, Indy Dontje (25, NL, Mann-Filter Team HTP Motorsport) held a joint football/darts tournament with fans of the Super Sports Car League on the beach at Zandvoort. Velcro footballs were kicked onto a huge dartboard to raise money for charity.

Home advantage: Local driver Indy Dontje was delighted with the support he received at Zandvoort. “Some 30 or 40 friends and people I know have come along to watch,” said the Dutchman. “That makes me extremely pleased and spurs me on to do really well.” For his home fixture, the Mercedes-AMG driver has brought along his traditional Dutch clogs or ‘klompen’. “I’ll put them on if I finish on the podium.” The odds of that happening are quite good, as Dontje and team-mate Maximilian Buhk (25, GER) will be second on the grid for the start of Sunday’s race.

Local heroes: Speedy local drivers are also competing in the other partner series at Zandvoort. Audi driver Niels Langeveld (30, NL) impressed in the ADAC TCR Germany by taking the win and the championship lead. In the Porsche Carrera Cup Germany, Jaap van Lagen (41, NL) showed once again that he is an accomplished Zandvoort specialist. The Dutchman was runner-up in Saturday’s race and won on Sunday. He took two wins in the ADAC GT Masters in 2014.

Pole position to say ‘thanks’: Precote Herberth Motorsport worked hard all night from Friday through to the early hours of Saturday morning to repair their Porsche 911 GT3 R after Robert Renauer (33, GER) crashed in first practice. Team-mate Mathieu Jaminet (23, F) promptly thanked the crew for their efforts by securing pole position for Sunday’s race. This was Porsche’s first pole of this season and the first for a 911 since the 2017 Oschersleben season opener.

Calendar for the 2018 ADAC GT Masters

13/04/18 – 15/04/18	Motorsport Arena Oschersleben
27/04/18 – 29/04/18	Autodrom Most (CZ)
08/06/18 – 10/06/18	Red Bull Ring (A)
03/08/18 – 05/08/18	Nürburgring
17/08/18 – 19/08/18	Circuit Zandvoort (NL)
07/09/18 – 09/09/18	Sachsenring
21/09/18 – 23/09/18	Hockenheimring Baden-Württemberg

Further information can be found at www.adac.de/gt-masters

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