

2024 FIM EWC | FIM Endurance World Championship Round.1 24 HEURES MOTOS 2024 Race Report

F.C.C. TSR Honda France has qualified 3rd on the grid for the 24 Heures Motos, the kick-off to the 2024 World Endurance Championship, with a 2nd consecutive victory at Le Mans as its target.

Result / Overall Qualifying Classification / 2nd

•Blue Rider / HOOK Joshua / 01:35.087 •Yellow Rider / DI MEGLIO Mickael / 01:35.680
•Red Rider / TECHER Alan / 01:35.359

The 47th edition of the 24 Heures Motos, the opening round of the 2024 FIM EWC season, takes place from 18 to 21 April on the iconic 4.185-kilometre Bugatti circuit in Le Mans.

Winners of last season's event, the F.C.C. TSR Honda France team enters the 2024 round with the ambition of collecting as many points as possible to reclaim the world title.

The team has therefore renewed its faith in the same solid trio of riders: Australian Josh Hook and Frenchmen Mike Di Meglio and Alan Techer.

After a start of the week devoted to technical and administrative scrutineering, followed by official free practice, the 48 teams entered took part in the first qualifying session on Thursday 18 April from 4pm, in ideal conditions and on a dry track.

Josh Hook, the blue rider and first to start, set his fastest lap of 1.35.485, which put him in 4th position in his group. Mike Di Meglio, riding the #5 Honda, followed with a time of 1.35.680, putting him in 2nd place among the yellow riders. Alan Techer set the fastest time with a lap of 1.35.359. He finished 2nd after provisionally leading until the very end of the session, underlining the consistency of the Honda trio on track.

Cloudy weather and lower temperatures greeted the teams for the second qualifying session, scheduled for Friday from 10.20am. That didn't stop Australian Josh Hook from grabbing 1st place right from the start, then extending his lead to over a second on the following lap, with a time of 1.35.244. Although the gap narrowed towards the end of the session, he retained the lead with a further improvement to 1.35.087, almost 4 tenths quicker than the previous day. Mike Di Meglio, more at ease in Thursday's conditions, set his fastest lap of 1.36.461, the 5th fastest of his session. To round off the qualifying session, his compatriot Alan Techer took 2nd place among the red riders with a best time of 1.35.998.

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Taking the average of the two best times after all the qualifying sessions, the Franco-Japanese team was credited with a time of 1.35.223 and will therefore start the race in 3rd position. This result already gives it 3 precious points for the championship.

Following the preparatory tests carried out at the beginning of the month, the team's efforts to optimise the CBR1000RR-R have paid off. Confident in the performance of the #5 Honda, the riders are ready to take on the challenges of this long-awaited tricky race and aim for a two-times win at Le Mans.

The 47th edition of the 24 Heures Motos, which gets underway at 3pm on Saturday April 20, will be broadcast live and non-stop on Eurosport Player. Several long periods of live coverage will also be available on Eurosport and La Chaîne L'Équipe in France. Other media will be broadcasting the event around the world.

■ Josh Hook - rider

"This morning I had a very good feeling on the bike. The track was fast and conditions were good for qualifying. I was a bit hampered today by the traffic, which prevented me from setting the perfect lap. But we're very happy to start 3rd, it's a very good result. I can't wait for the race to start!"

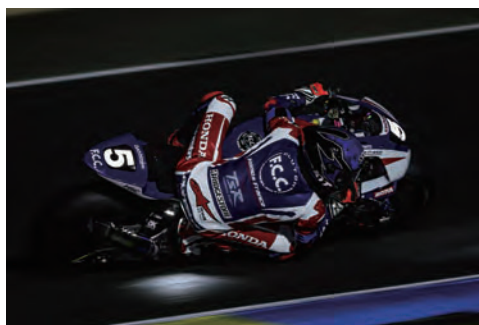
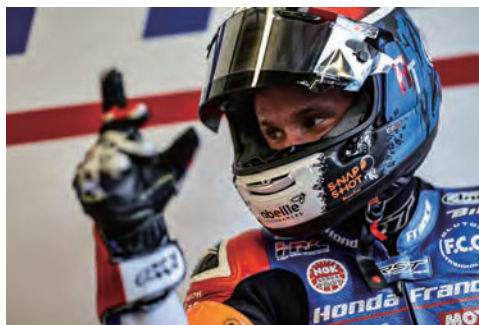
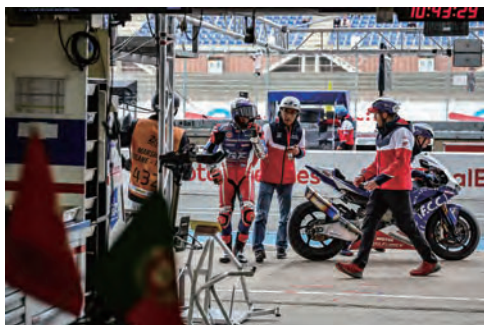
■ Mike Di Meglio - rider

"We're happy with this result. If Josh had had a clear lap we could have started 2nd, but the team has done a really good job of optimising performance since testing. All 3 of us feel good on the bike. Now we need to stay calm because we have a long race ahead of us."

■ Alan Techer - rider

"The whole team is very happy with qualifying because we've found the right set-up for the race and all 3 of us have a good pace. We know that this is a very difficult race, so we need to stay focused during the stints to pocket some big championship points at the finish on Sunday."

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