

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

The F.C.C. TSR Honda France team retired 1h30 from the finish of the 24 Heures Motos, the opening round of the 2024 FIM EWC championship, after a courageous battle.

- Class / FORMULA EWC •Machine / HONDA CBR1000RR-R
- Result / RETIRED
- Total Time / 22:26:43.924 •LAP / 775
- TEAM STANDINGS / 11th 5pts
- Blue Rider / Josh Hook •Yellow Rider / Mike Di Meglio •Red Rider / Alan Techer

The 48 qualified teams took to the track at 3pm on Saturday April 20 for 24 hours of racing on the Bugatti circuit in Le Mans (France).

Josh Hook, the first rider to take to the handlebars of the number 5 Honda CBR1000RR-R, got off to a good start from third on the grid and completed the first lap in second place.

The weather conditions were rather good at the start, but that didn't stop several teams from making mistakes. With F.C.C. TSR Honda France firmly in the fight for victory, two early crashes disrupted the team's plans.

On lap 6, Josh Hook went down after a crash that was not serious enough to require the intervention of the mechanics. Now in 26th place, with the gaps not yet wide, the Australian put in a series of strong laps and was one of the four fastest riders on track. He rejoined the forefront before handing over the handlebars to Mike Di Meglio.

In 7th position, the Frenchman was also caught out, but this time the bike hit the gravel trap and suffered serious damage. He returned to the track in 45th place after 25 minutes of repairs in the pits.

A new race now begins for F.C.C. TSR Honda France, who will have to fight against the clock to pick up precious championship points.

Alan Techer supported his team-mates by setting the team's fastest lap of 1.36.754 a little later. The three riders, engaged in a long climb up the standings, put in a series of high-speed stints, regularly being among the fastest throughout the race.

At dawn, the #5 Honda was back in 9th position in the EWC class, giving the team 2 points in the intermediate standings after 16 hours of racing.

Finally back in the TOP10 in the overall standings, the team suffered a final twist of fate when the chain broke, causing irreparable damage.



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At the end of an edition marked by a courageous comeback, the F.C.C. TSR Honda France team retired with 1h15 to go.

The Franco-Japanese team left Le Mans with 5 points, determined to take its revenge at the next round on 8 June, the 8 Hours of Spa Motos.

In the Honda squad, which lined up 14 bikes at the start, satisfaction came in the Super-stock class with the fine victory of the #55 National Motos team.

■ Josh Hook - rider

"It was a day to forget unfortunately. Everything looked good for the race. Everyone was feeling good on the bike. But it didn't work out as expected. It's a shame, but that's racing. In my last stint the chain broke and hit the back of my leg. I'm in a bit of pain, so I'm going to see the medical team to check my leg and find out the verdict."

■ Mike Di Meglio - rider

"Unfortunately, it was a very difficult race for us. We had braking issues. I thought Josh's crash was due to a problem with the front tyre, but when I crashed afterwards it was due to a lack of feeling with the front braking. It was a difficult start to the race, but then we came back to the front as fast as we could. Then we had a problem with the fuel tank which cost us another 10 minutes. In the end, we're happy that Josh wasn't badly injured. It's difficult to start the season like this, but I prefer to start like this and finish well."

■ Alan Techer - rider

"It really wasn't the race we'd expected. After the first troubles, we knew it wasn't over and that with the good pace we showed stint after stint, we could still challenge for the podium and even victory. We rode very fast all night and all morning until we were back up to 8th and hoping to take some points at the finish. But in the end the chain broke, damaging the engine block and preventing us from finishing the race. That's endurance racing, you never know in advance what might happen. Now we have to think about Spa, where we absolutely have to win."

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