



BEN BOWLBY

LM P1 Team Principal and Technical Director

“Ben's brain, if you haven't figured it out yet, is HUGE,” wrote Top Gear in April 2015. In a career spanning three decades, Ben Bowlby has earned his reputation as a maverick engineer. NISMO itself was founded by a group of maverick engineers over 30 years ago, so it is fitting that Ben is the creator of Nissan's LM P1 car: the Nissan GT-R LM NISMO.

Ben is an innovator, a racer and an engineering virtuoso who is more than equipped to deal with the pressure of designing a car for the top class at the Le Mans 24 Hours. With the GT-R LM, he has turned current thinking on its head and created a car that is very different to the other LM P1 cars.

As a child, Ben built many racing “cars”, but he was heading toward a career as a surgeon before fate intervened (by not getting the required A-level grades!) and he switched to an engineering degree. He was on his way.

Ben joined Lola Cars in 1991 as a graduate engineer and became Chief Designer of the company. It was here in the 1990s that Ben cut his teeth and developed his motivational leadership style - always quick to praise his team for good work but equally fast to push it closer and closer to the limits of engineering possibilities.

During his time at Lola, he led the design of numerous racing cars, creating one of Lola's most successful eras: CART ChampCars, Euro and Nippon F3000, SR1/SR2/LMP 675/900kg sports cars and touring cars, among others. In 2003, Ben joined Chip Ganassi Racing as Technical Director, leading the team's development of their IndyCars, Grand Am Sports Prototypes and NASCARs, as well as conceiving and developing the unique full-scale straight-line aerodynamic test facility under the mountains of Pennsylvania.

It was the birth of the ACO's “Garage 56” concept that brought Ben and Nissan together in 2012. As the creator of both Nissan Garage 56 entries (in 2012 and 2014), Ben put his wide experience to work on the issues facing racing's sustainability and relevance to the automobile industry. Both cars have since become known for their innovative layouts, efficiency, and conventional wisdom-challenging vehicle dynamics.

Ben leads the Nissan NISMO LM P1 Team as Technical Director and Team Principal. The Nissan GT-R LM NISMO is still in its infancy, and the true potential will not be seen for many months - but Ben's vision is clear. As Motorsport.com recently wrote, “...His hunger and ambition to take on and eventually beat his competition should never be underestimated.”