

X-Type Wins 2005 Belgian Touring Car Series

You might not think the X-Type has any kind of competition history, but, in 2005, it won the competitive Belgian Touring Car Series.

The winning car, entered by Thiry Racing International (TRI) from Luxembourg, was a 'Silhouette' – a light-weight, tubular-frame chassis X-Type powered by Jaguar's 3.0-litre V6 with a six-speed Hewland sequential gearbox.

The car was built for TRI by the Belgian racing car specialist Motorsport International, based in Theux. It was the brainchild of Albert Thiry, a Jaguar dealer from Habay-la-Neuve, Luxembourg.

The car won its first race, the final round of the 2003 Belgian Touring Car Series at Spa-Francorchamps, resulting in an attack on the Championship in 2004. Following a win at Zolder, TRI was suddenly the team to drive for.

In 2005, it entered a second car for the pairing of Vincent Radermecker and Jérôme Thiry; and David Dermont and Bernard Delhez. With the best drivers,



Between 2003 and 2009 several motorsport racing teams ran lightweight X-Type Jaguars in the Belgium Touring Car Series (BTCS), amassing numerous podium finishes.

a lucrative sponsorship from Kodak and a competitive car, Albert Thiry was unashamedly aiming for success. "Like all the other advanced teams," he said at the start of the season, "we can affirm that the victory at Zolder last year gave us a taste for champagne and you can

count on us to do everything we can to stand on the top step of the podium."

The season started well with a second place at Spa-Francorchamps for Radermecker and Thiry, followed by a win at Dijon for Delhez and Stéphane



In 2005, Thiry Racing won the Belgium Touring Car Series with Vincent Radermecker and Jérôme Thiry. In 2010 they replaced the X-Types with XF Silhouettes with further success.

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Lémeret, the Belgian driver and journalist who won the BTCS in 2004 and who was standing in for Dermont.

Following fifth place and fastest lap for Thiry and Radermecker at the 12 Hours of Spa in July, and a month later at the same circuit, the pair won two shorter sprint races. "We are now back in third place in the Championship, not far from the leaders," said Thiry afterwards. "We can once again believe in the title."

The pair won the 25 Hours VW Fun Cup at Spa-Francorchamps and came second at the double-header again at the Belgian circuit a month later, moving them up into second place in the Championship behind the Porsche 911 996 GT3-RS drivers, Frédéric Bouvy and David Loix.

Following a two-race meeting at Zolder in September, the Jaguar drivers went into the final race of the season at Spa-Francorchamps a mere 9.5 points behind the leaders.



Thiry finished second in the first race behind an Audi A4 Silhouette and Radermecker as runner-up in the second race of the meeting gained enough points to make the pair 2005 BTCS Champions. A great reward for the team and for Jaguar. It was a fabulous result for and gave the X-Type some much-needed publicity on the continent.

The win prompted other teams to develop their own X-Types for the BTCS.

Although the TRI continued to win BTCS races, it remains the X-Type's most important motorsport success. TRI went onto more success and in 2010, Thiry Racing replaced the X-Types with Jaguar XF Silhouettes. ■



No less than 52 cars at the start of the 2007 Belgian Touring Car Series, Race 1 at Zolder circuit. Jérôme Thiry and Vincent Radermecker's X-Type finished 1st ahead of field of Renault's, BMW's, Peugeot's, Porche's, Honda's and Audi's.