



ASTON MARTIN

**JOHNATHAN HOGGARD ANNOUNCED AS 2019 ASTON MARTIN AUTOSPORT BRDC
AWARD WINNER**

- **British rising star beats talented rivals to secure prestigious accolade**
- **Hoggard earns test in Aston Martin Red Bull Racing F1 car and collects £200,000 as part of prize**
- **Aston Martin Lagonda plays vital role in identifying future British world champions in new Autosport Award partnership**

Sunday 8 December 2019, Gaydon: Aston Martin Lagonda is proud to announce Johnathan Hoggard as the 2019 Aston Martin Autosport BRDC Young Driver of the Year Award winner. The 19-year-old Briton, from Spalding in Lincolnshire, was awarded the most prestigious honour in junior motorsport during the gala Autosport Awards ceremony held at the Grosvenor House Hotel, on London's Park Lane, on Sunday evening.

Hoggard, who finished runner-up in the 2019 BRDC British F3 Championship with seven victories, earns a full test in an Aston Martin Red Bull Racing Formula 1 car on the Silverstone Grand Prix circuit, as well as a run in the Aston Martin Racing Vantage GTE FIA World Endurance Championship challenger. He also received a cheque for £200,000 presented to him by Aston Martin Lagonda President and Group CEO, Dr Andy Palmer, a full membership to the BRDC and an Arai crash helmet.

Hoggard joins a star-studded list of former winners that includes 2009 Formula 1 world champion Jenson Button, three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dario Franchitti, and several Le Mans 24 Hours class winners including Aston Martin's Darren Turner. The roll of honour also includes current Formula 1 drivers George Russell and Lando Norris.

To win the Award, Hoggard had to compete against three other talented finalists, Japanese F3 race winner Enaam Ahmed (19), W Series champion Jamie Chadwick (21) and BRDC British F3 race winner Ayrton Simmons (18), in an intensive two-day shoot-out at Silverstone

in four 550bhp Motorsport Vision F2 cars, Garage 59's Aston Martin Vantage GT3 and a Ligier LMP3 prototype. Moreover, the finalists were subjected to an extensive fitness and simulator assessment at the Red Bull Racing headquarters in Milton Keynes, prior to their on-track examination.

"I'm over the moon and a little lost for words," said Hoggard. "It's been over a month I've been waiting to find out about this [since the end of the assessment], and it's been agonising. I'm thankful for everyone who's helped along the way; family, sponsors, judges and the organisers Aston Martin, Autosport and the BRDC. I knew it was a very tough competition and it's amazing to have actually won it. It's a great honour and I'm very proud to have joined such a prestigious roll of honour."

The judging panel was led by Judges' Chairman, 1992 World Sportscar champion and former Grand Prix driver Derek Warwick and included Turner, 24 Hours of Le Mans-winning engineer Leena Gade, Garage 59 team owner Andrew Kirkaldy, Jason Plato, Alexander Sims, Ian Titchmarsh, Autosport editor Kevin Turner and Mark Williams. They concluded Hoggard the winner after a fiercely-contested event that shone a bright light on the outstanding talent of all four finalists.

Turner said: "This year witnessed another exceptional crop of talent, with four very strong drivers fighting for the right to be the Aston Martin Autosport BRDC Young Driver of the Year. It was great to see them battling it out of over two days at Silverstone in what were actually quite difficult conditions. Without doubt this year's winner was phenomenal in his approach, and every time he jumped into any of the cars he was bang on the pace. It's been a real privilege to be back involved as a judge, and I am very proud that Aston Martin is now a part of the Award because I know how important a role it plays in the development of a driver's career and what a difference it can make to their future."

This year marked the first time in the 37-year history of the Award that Aston Martin Lagonda has been the title partner alongside the world-renowned Autosport media platform, which celebrates its 70th anniversary in 2020 and the British Racing Drivers' Club, owner of Silverstone, the home of British motorsport and also Aston Martin's High Performance Test Centre.

Aston Martin Lagonda, President and Group CEO, Dr Andy Palmer said: "We have said all along that the development of British talent is vital to the future of our motorsport industry, whether that be driving, engineering or design. Securing the next generation of British world

champions helps shine a light on the thriving motorsport and motoring industry that we have in this country and of course it's hugely important that continues. Johnathan is clearly an exceptional talent and nothing we saw over the course of this year's Awards assessments suggests anything other than that he is on the path to a very bright future in the sport and we are hugely proud to be playing a role in his development."

- ENDS -

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About Aston Martin Lagonda:

Aston Martin Lagonda is a luxury automotive group focused on the creation of exclusive cars and SUVs. The iconic Aston Martin brand fuses the latest technology, exceptional hand craftsmanship and timeless design to produce models including the Vantage, DB11, Rapide AMR and DBS Superleggera. The Lagonda brand will be relaunched as the world's first luxury electric vehicle company. Based in Gaydon, England, Aston Martin Lagonda designs, creates and exports cars which are sold in 53 countries around the world.

Lagonda was founded in 1899 and Aston Martin in 1913. The two brands came together in 1947 when both were purchased by the late Sir David Brown. Under the leadership of Dr Andy Palmer and a new management team, the Group launched its Second Century Plan in 2015 to deliver sustainable long-term growth. The plan is underpinned by the introduction of seven new models including the DB11, new Vantage, DBS Superleggera and an SUV, as well as the development of a new manufacturing centre in St Athan, Wales.

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