



ASTON MARTIN REVEALS AMR DRIVER ACADEMY CANDIDATES

- **Aston Martin Racing selects 23 drivers for 2019 Driver Academy**
- **Winner to receive AMR Junior status, after year of assessment**
- **Charlie Eastwood and Andrew Watson promoted to AMR Junior status**

Friday 29 March, Gaydon: Aston Martin has confirmed the 23 drivers who will participate in the 2019 Aston Martin Racing Driver Academy – the recently-announced season-long initiative designed to fast-track talent and stimulate healthy competition within the AMR customer network.

Since its launch last September, the AMR Driver Academy has received a large number of applications from drivers around the world, aged between 17 and 25, who are signed to customer teams racing Aston Martin Vantage GT3 or GT4s this season. From this group, a judging panel that includes three-time Le Mans 24 Hours winner Darren Turner (GB), works FIA World Endurance Championship drivers Jonny Adam (GB) and Maxime Martin (BEL) as well as Aston Martin Racing team principal Paul Howarth, selected the successful applicants who will compete for the prize of an Aston Martin Racing Junior contract in 2020.

The selection process included a comprehensive series of interviews with the judges at Aston Martin Racing's headquarters in Banbury, near Oxford, last month. As well as this the candidates were put through a set of stringent examinations, including simulator tests at Base Performance and a fitness assessment with Boomerang Pro Fitness. The result is a highly competitive field of drivers with representation from 12 countries including Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The Academy drivers will continue to be assessed through the year, based on their on-track performances in their chosen GT3 and GT4 championships as well as off-track assessments. They will also attend seminars that focus on driver performance, simulator work, engineering and

technical analysis and marketing and PR. Each driver will have access to nominated mentors, including Aston Martin's newly-promoted Junior drivers Charlie Eastwood and Andrew Watson who are also both on the judging panel.

Finally, at the season's close, the judges will decide on a winner based on the following criteria: pace, consistency, technical feedback, team work, strategy, fitness, PR and commercial awareness and their overall approach.

Aston Martin Racing President David King said: "We were highly impressed by the standard of the candidates that attended the Aston Martin Racing Driver Academy assessment days. All those who have been selected thoroughly deserve this opportunity. Their performances during the assessment highlights the strength and professionalism of the drivers we have racing in our customer teams around the world.

"The Aston Martin Racing Driver Academy is an important first step on a pathway to success within our organisation. With the recent promotion of Charlie Eastwood and Andrew Watson to Junior status, and former Academy winner Ross Gunn as reserve driver for the FIA WEC team, we now have talented individuals at all stages of the driving ladder within the team. The Academy allows us to draw on significant pool of talent to continue to supply that success ladder."

ASTON MARTIN RACING DRIVER ACADEMY CANDIDATES

| Driver | Team | Series | Car |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Patrick Kibble (UK) | TF Sport | British GT | Vantage GT4 |
| Tom Canning (UK) | TF Sport | British GT | Vantage GT4 |
| Ash Hand (UK) | TF Sport | British GT | Vantage GT4 |
| Josh Price (UK) | TF Sport | British GT | Vantage GT4 |
| Clement Seyler (LUX) | StreetArt | GT4 European Series | Vantage GT4 |
| Julien Darras (F) | StreetArt | GT4 European Series | Vantage GT4 |
| Jamie Vandenbalck (BEL) | StreetArt | GT4 European Series | Vantage GT4 |
| Matthew Cowley (UK) | Academy | GT4 European Series | Vantage GT4 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Alex Toth-Jones (UK) | Academy | British GT | Vantage GT4 |
| Micah Stanley (MON) | Academy | British GT | Vantage GT4 |
| Ben Hurst (CAN) | Academy | British GT | Vantage GT4 |
| Tom Wood (UK) | Academy | GT4 European Series | Vantage GT4 |
| Connor O'Brien (UK) | Optimum | British GT | Vantage GT4 |
| Jack Butel (UK) | Optimum | British GT | Vantage GT4 |
| Patrick Matthiesen (DEN) | Optimum | British GT | Vantage GT4 |
| Ollie Wilkinson (UK) | Optimum | British GT/ Int. Cont. GT | Vantage GT3 |
| Matthew George (UK) | Generation AMR | GT4 European Series | Vantage GT4 |
| Akhil Rabindra (IND) | PROsport | GT4 European Series | Vantage GT4 |
| Jeremie Lesoudier (F) | PROsport | GT4 European Series | Vantage GT4 |
| Florian Thoma (CH) | PROsport | GT4 European Series | Vantage GT4 |
| David Griessner (A) | PROsport | GT4 European Series | Vantage GT4 |
| Jeremy Sarhy (F) | PROsport | GT4 European Series | Vantage GT4 |
| Yves Volte (GER) | BSEM | China GT | Vantage GT4 |

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Rachel Adam

Aston Martin Driver Academy Coordinator

Tel: +44 (0)1295 273355

E-mail: radam@astonmartinracing.com

Simon Strang

Motorsport Press Officer

Mobile : +44 (0)7554 436372

E-mail: simon.strang@astonmartin.com