



## **HASSE-CLOT LATEST GRADUATES FROM ASTON MARTIN RACING DRIVER ACADEMY AFTER STELLAR 2020 SEASON**

- **GT4 European champion named Aston Martin Racing Academy graduate**
- **Hasse-Clot to receive career assistance and works guidance through 2021**
- **Academy alumni contribute to nine championship titles in exceptional year**
- **Applications now open for 2021 Aston Martin Racing Academy**

*Friday 22 January, 2021, Gaydon.* GT World Challenge Silver Cup race winner and 2020 GT4 European champion Valentin Hasse-Clot (F), has become the latest rising GT star to graduate from the Aston Martin Racing Driver Academy, following in the footsteps of 2019 winner Tom Canning (GB), Ross Gunn (GB) and two-time Le Mans class winner Jonny Adam (GB).

As part of his reward for topping the class of 2020, Hasse-Clot will receive career assistance and guidance from Aston Martin Racing through this season, including a financial contribution to his race programme. He will also continue to receive coaching from Aston Martin's works drivers and a range of measures to support his development through 2021.

The 24-year-old from Paris produced a stellar campaign in 2020 across multiple series. Alongside fellow AMR Academy candidate Theo Nouet (F), Hasse-Clot won the GT4 European Championship Silver Cup with two outright victories and four class wins, helping AGS Events Racing to the European GT4 Teams' Championship title. He also contributed to the team's success in the FFSA GT4 Championship in France. Elsewhere, Hasse-Clot competed in the GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Cup Silver class in Garage 59's Vantage GT3, winning the opening round alongside Andrew Watson (GB).

Hasse-Clot's results, combined with a positive and resilient approach to his programmes throughout a season disrupted by the global pandemic COVID-19, allowed him to stand-out to a judging panel that included Le Mans winners Darren Turner, Jonny Adam and Charlie Eastwood, Aston Martin Racing President David King and Managing Director John Gaw. It should be noted that Hasse-Clot, who will contest the Asian Le Mans Series with Garage 59 next month in an Aston Martin Vantage GT3, emerged victorious from an outstanding group of candidates in 2020, which proved a high watermark for the Academy with five of the alumni becoming champions and the group contributing to nine titles overall.

Hasse-Clot said: "When I began racing Aston Martins two years ago, it was always my goal to establish a long-term relationship with the manufacturer. Winning the Young Driver Academy is a great distinction that rewards the commitment of my partners in this project, and the tireless work of AMR customer teams Garage 59 and AGS Events. I am proud to officially join the prestigious Aston Martin Racing family, but I do not forget my short-term objectives – to continue to grow technically off- and on-track in new competitions such as the Asian Le Mans Series! I know that I will have all the tools to evolve, and I look forward to continuing the work I've begun with Aston Martin Racing. I can't thank them enough for making my dreams come true!"

David King, President of Aston Martin Racing, said: "Valentin has impressed greatly over the past 12 months. Not just with his results on track, which speak for themselves, but with his mature, focussed and inspiring approach to his various race programmes in a very challenging year. He has demonstrated many of the attributes vital to becoming a valuable works driver. He finished top of an exceptional class, any of whom would have made a strong candidate for graduation, and I firmly believe that he has what it takes to be very successful among the ranks of works Aston Martin Racing drivers in the future."

The initiative, designed to fast-track talent within Aston Martin Racing's thriving customer team network, will return for 2021. Details of the unrivalled platform for learning and development with an established manufacturer will be released later in the year, but early applications for those with secured season drives in an Aston Martin Vantage GT3 or GT4 are welcome.

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