



RACE TO GRADUATE ASTON MARTIN RACING DRIVER ACADEMY IS BACK ON

- **15 fresh Aston Martin GT racers sign-up to the 2021 AMR Driver Academy**
- **Judges include two-times Le Mans winner Jonny Adam and Ross Gunn**
- **Winner receives works support and assistance tailored to 2022 season**

Wednesday 19 May, 2021, Gaydon. The Aston Martin Racing Driver Academy returns for 2021 as the British luxury sportscar manufacturer renews its search to uncover the next generation of GT endurance superstars.

The initiative, designed to fast-track talent within Aston Martin Racing's thriving customer team network has already uncovered three rising stars in Ross Gunn (GB), Tom Canning (GB) and 2020 graduate Valentin Hasse-Clot (FR). This year another 15 candidates have signed up to participate from a range of championships around the world.

An unrivalled platform for learning and development with an established manufacturer, this essential initiative is continuously fine-tuned and improved to effectively coach drivers in the early stages of their careers. Drivers aged between 17 and 26 with Vantage GT3 and GT4 race programmes in recognised championships are eligible. The prize on offer for the successful graduate includes financial support towards their 2022 race programme, as well as assistance and guidance from the factory, tailored to their season plans.

As always, the contestants are judged on a wide range of criteria including pace, consistency and technical feedback. The judging panel, which includes AMR President David King, Managing Director John Gaw, two-time 24 Hours of Le Mans winner Jonny Adam (GB), works star Ross Gunn (GB), and Hasse-Clot, will also evaluate each drivers' ability to manage the strategic,

teamwork, commercial and public relations aspects of their role. Finally, the outstanding candidate will demonstrate the most potential to develop their talent for the future.

The reigning GT4 European Series Silver Cup champion and GT World Challenge Europe Silver Cup race-winner Hasse-Clot emerged top of the class in the 2020 AMR Driver Academy. The 25-year-old, from Paris, who follows in the recent footsteps of British GT4 champions Gunn and Canning, is contesting the GTWC Europe Endurance Cup for Garage 59 as well as the FFSA GT Silver Cup with AGS Events where he leads the points standings after two rounds.

Aston Martin Racing President David King added: “The Aston Martin Racing Driver Academy has proven itself a key indicator of talent in recent years, and we see it as a vital development tool. As Ross, Tom and now Valentin are proving, this initiative holds great value both to us and to the drivers who participate, as we seek to build on the talent that exists inside our network of customer teams. We intend to continue this tradition as we look to support our partners across the GT racing spectrum in every way that we can.”

2021 ASTON MARTIN RACING DRIVER ACADEMY CANDIDATES

Driver	Team	Series	Car
Hugo Conde (FR)	AGS Events	GT4 European Series	Vantage GT4
Roman De Angelis (CA)	Heart of Racing	IMSA GTD	Vantage GT3
Ruben Del Sarte (NL)	Mirage	GT4 European Series	Vantage GT4
Phil Dörr (DE)	Dörr Racing	ADAC GT4	Vantage GT4
César Gazeau (FR)	AGS Events	GT4 European Series	Vantage GT4
Tim Heinemann (DE)	PROsport	DTM Trophy	Vantage GT4
Nicolai Kjærgaard (DN)	Garage 59	GTWC Europe	Vantage GT3
Kenton Koch (US)	BSport Racing	GT4 America	Vantage GT4
Konstantin Lachenauer (CH)	AGS Events	GT4 European Series	Vantage GT4
Antonio Ledesma (MX)	Virage	Ultimate Cup Series	Vantage GT4
Romain Leroux (FR)	AGS Events	FFSA GT4	Vantage GT4
Matthew Lewis (GB)	Deranged	GT Cup	Vantage GT4
Akhil Rabindra (IN)	AGS Events	GT4 European Series	Vantage GT4
Paul Theysgens (BE)	Street Art	GT4 European Series	Vantage GT4
Tuomas Tujula (FI)	Garage 59	GTWC Europe	Vantage GT3

- ENDS -

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