

RACING LINE
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ASTON MARTIN
RACING



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ASTON MARTIN WINS SIX HOURS OF SHANGHAI TO FINISH SECOND IN THE WEC

Aston Martin Racing won the final round of the 2012 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC), the Six Hours of Shanghai, scoring enough points to finish the inaugural season second in the championship standings.

Going into the final race, just one point divided the #97 Vantage GTE and its closest rival, the #51 Porsche, proving just how hotly-contested the championship had been.

A faultless performance saw the Gulf-liveried Vantage GTE win the season finale by more than a minute to conclude a strong return year to GT racing for Aston Martin. The launch of the

FIA WEC coincided with Aston Martin's return to production-derived motorsport, a discipline in which the marque has enjoyed considerable success; its back-to-back GT1 class victories at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 2007 and 2008 count among Aston Martin's crowning motorsport achievements.

Across the eight rounds of the inaugural season, the V8-powered racer performed reliably and competitively to rack up an impressive tally of seven podiums. It has covered more than 11,000 km of near trouble-free racing during more than 62 hours of highly competitive action.

Team principal John Gaw said: "Our objectives for our return year to GT racing were to be competitive and score podiums and we have achieved and exceeded these – we've finished seven out of the eight races and scored podiums on all of those. Everyone involved in the team this year should be very proud and we thank them all for their hard work and commitment."

THE GULF-LIVERIED VANTAGE GTE WON THE SEASON FINALE BY MORE THAN A MINUTE





The team celebrates victory in Shanghai

GT3 HITS THE TRACK RUNNING

Twelve months since it was launched, Aston Martin Racing's Vantage GT3 has scored a number of race wins during a very successful maiden season.

Currently competing in the hands of 13 customer teams across Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas the V12-powered race car has achieved 18 race wins and 30 podium finishes – many in top international race series – and has challenged for multiple championship wins.

It's no surprise that the Vantage GT3 has been such an instant success; the car is a culmination of Aston Martin Racing running its own successful works

GT team for a number of years alongside multiple customer GT programmes. This, alongside a year of intensive development and testing, has resulted in the Vantage GT3 being competitive against its class rivals, reliable in the most demanding conditions and accessible for professional and amateur drivers alike.

Aston Martin Racing's chief GT engineer, Dan Sayers, explains that his team developed a car that is not only proving a success now, but will see customers winning races long into the future: "The Vantage GT3 has a lot of built in performance, which is currently restricted through Balance Of Performance

(BOP). Other manufacturers will sell yearly upgrade packages but, with our car, we won't need to. We just work with the FIA to have our BOP adjusted to unlock some of the built-in performance that we took more than a year to develop before launching the car."

THE V12-POWERED RACE CAR HAS ACHIEVED 18 RACE WINS AND 30 PODIUM FINISHES

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CRAFT RACING AMR TO TAKE TWO CAR TEAM TO ASIAN LE MANS

Craft Racing AMR, has announced its plans to enter the 2013 Asian Le Mans Series, in which it plans to enter two Aston Martin Vantage GT3s into the GTC category, with the aim of taking the class title and winning a coveted entry into the 2014 24 Hours of Le Mans.

Craft Racing AMR is an exciting new partnership between team owner Frank Yu, team principal Mark Goddard, and commercial director Darryl O'Young.

Team principal Frank Yu said: "This partnership is a big step forward for my aspirations to build an international motorsport team from Asia, and there is

no better platform than Le Mans to do so. The Asian Le Mans Series provides a crucial step for teams and drivers from Asia to gain experience and further reach out to compete on the world stage at Le Mans. Mark and Darryl are the perfect partners to work with on this and they will be the pillars of this organisation. Both of them know how to win, and that is exactly what we will aim to do."

Craft Racing AMR will have a close working relationship with Aston Martin Racing throughout the campaign to ensure the Vantage GT3 will be running in top form. The support from the factory will be an added bonus to the team and further underlines

the importance of the Asian market for Aston Martin Racing.

"THIS PARTNERSHIP IS A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR MY ASPIRATIONS TO BUILD AN INTERNATIONAL MOTORSPORT TEAM FROM ASIA"



GT3 HEADS DOWN UNDER

Australian race team, VIP Pet Foods, will soon be taking delivery of a Vantage GT3, which it will race in the highly-competitive Australian GT Championship next year.

The endurance racing team, which has contested the Australian GT Championship alongside major international races – most notably winning Dubai 24 Hours in 2008 – will first run the Vantage GT3 in the GT Championship support event at Bathurst February 8 - 10 2013. It will then begin its Australian GT Championship campaign at the Adelaide Street Circuit on the 1-4 March.

Pictured right is the VIP Pet Foods Racing Aston Martin DBRS9.





The third season of the ever popular Aston Martin GT4 Challenge of Great Britain concluded at the Zandvoort circuit in the Netherlands with the #22 Stratton Motorsport car - driven by Pierre Mantello and Olivier Bouche - clinching the title.

With 16 cars competing across eight rounds – as well as the Aston Martin Festival of Le Mans, a support race to the prestigious 24 Hours of Le Mans – the season produced plenty of memorable racing action as it visited numerous iconic motorsport venues across Great Britain and Europe.

As a result of the GT4 Challenge of Great Britain's

success this year, the 2013 calendar has been announced and includes a special round at Brands Hatch to celebrate the marque's centenary, in which all Aston Martin GT race car owners will be invited to compete.

The calendar incorporates several of the UK's most celebrated circuits alongside an overseas visit to Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium.

Aston Martin Racing is currently offering an early bird discount. Entrants booking before 10 January 2013 will pay £13,950 + VAT. Entries received after this date will pay the full price of £15,450 +VAT.

2013 provisional calendar

6 April	Silverstone
11 May	Oulton Park
1 June	Donington
6-7 July	Brands Hatch - Centenary Festival
26-28 July	Spa-Francorchamps
28 Sept	Snetterton

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ASTON MARTIN RACING RUNS IMPROVED 2013 VANTAGE GTE

Aston Martin Racing is testing the new 2013 Vantage GTE. While visually similar, significant enhancements under the skin mean nearly a third of the car is new.

According to Dan Sayers, Aston Martin Racing chief engineer, developments for 2013 focussed on three key areas: reducing the centre of gravity; improving rear stability; and increasing torsional rigidity. "We looked at specific areas where we could take significant weight out of the car in order to move that weight lower, in the form of a new aluminium floor," said Dan Sayers. "The revised suspension has not only improved the handling and overall stiffness, but has brought

significant weight savings too."

Both the front and rear suspension have been revised and the geometry optimised. New purpose-designed uprights and wishbones have replaced the original parts carried over from the Vantage road car, while the upper damper pick-up points have been relocated to increase the installation stiffness. The changes have also saved eight kg per corner.

Further weight has been saved by the removal of the torque tube surrounding the prop shaft. The engine now mounts directly to the chassis, while the clutch and starter motor have been integrated

to the rear mounted gearbox, improving weight distribution and reducing the driveline inertia, making it more responsive. This design also reduces the time to replace the engine and gearbox.

Visually, the only changes to the car are the openings in the front fenders to allow air to escape from under the wheel arches reducing lift, and the wider ventilated sills, allowing the exhaust to be fully insulated and moved away from the car to reduce cockpit temperatures. Further aero work is planned on the rear wing and it will be mounted directly to the chassis, rather than the boot lid, allowing weight to be taken out of this body panel.

"LAST YEAR WE PROVED HOW FAST AND RELIABLE THE CAR WAS, THIS MEANT WE COULD FOCUS ON IMPROVING THE CHASSIS AND OTHER ASPECTS, WHICH, WHEN COMBINED, MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE"





ASTON MARTIN RACING

The new Vantage GTE shook down at Silverstone in December



The 2012 Global Challenge is now complete and the awards ceremony held at Aston Martin's headquarters. In the teams' challenge Mathol Racing were first with Veloso Motorsport in second and Stratton Motorsport in third.

In the drivers' challenge first place went to Norbert Bermes and Marcel Belka, who received their award from Aston Martin Chairman David Richards and chief executive Ulrich Bez, with Wolfgang Weber second and Pierre Mantello in third.

Congratulations to all teams who have competed in 2012

10 wins	Portuguese GT	Veloso Motorsport
7 wins	GT4 Challenge	Pierre Mantello/Olivier Bouche Stratton Motorsport
7 wins	Nurburgring VLN	Mathol Racing
5 wins	International GT Open	Villois Racing
5 wins	Belgian GT & International GT Open	GPR Racing
4 wins	Dutch Supercar	DDG Motorsport
3 wins	Japanese Super GT	Triple A
2 wins	Malaysian Super Series	Craft Eurasia Racing
2 wins	Brazilian GT Endurance	Matthias Racing
1st	Nurburgring British GT	Beechdean AMR
1st (class)	Britcar 24 Hour	MB Racing





2013: PERFORMANCE UPGRADES, PARTS AND COMMUNICATION

After a great year with race wins around the globe, we will be releasing a number of new parts for 2013 and current car owners will receive all technical updates and upgrade bulletins by email.

Aston Martin Centenary Festival

2013 is a huge year for Aston Martin as it celebrates 100 years of sports car production. We will be holding a Centenary Festival at Brands Hatch on the GP circuit in July which all Aston Martin Racing car owners will be invited to join. Details will be released soon.

Customer PR & marketing

2013 will see an increased level of promotion for all customer teams. After each event please send your race reports, press releases and photographs to:

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and

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CONTACT

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