

Motorsport Feb 3, 2020

# Pro Podiums and Pro-Am Win at Bathurst 12 Hour for 911 GT3 R

Porsche Motorsport Weekly Event Notes



## This Week.

- Porsche at Panorama. Pro Podiums and Pro-Am Win at Bathurst 12 Hour for 911 GT3 R.
- New Model. Porsche Manager Höllwarth Becomes Father.
- Long Board. Patrick Long Named to Monterey Reunion Selection Committee.
- Andretti Remembered. Veteran Porsche Driver John Andretti Passes Away.

Porsche Profile. Event Story Lines.

## Porsche at Panorama. Pro Podiums and Pro-Am Win at Bathurst 12 Hour for 911 GT3 R.

The second GT3-spec race car run by Absolute Racing, No. 912, took the checkered flag in seventh-place. Porsche Young Professional Thomas Preining (Australia) shared the rear-engine racer with Porsche "works" driver Dirk Werner (Germany) and Matteo Cairoli (Italy). Porsche works driver Laurens Vanthoor crossed the finish line two positions behind them. The Belgian was joined in the cockpit of the No. 1 car fielded by EBM (Earl Bamber Motorsport) by his IMSA works driver teammate Earl Bamber (New Zealand) and the Australian motor racing legend Craig Lowndes. At the start of the race, the squad fought for the front spots, however a time-consuming change of the brake pads prevented them from achieving a top result.

Grove Racing claimed victory in the Pro-Am class with drivers Stephen Grove, Brenton Grove (both Australia) and Ben Barker (Great Britain). The class win for the Australian squad (No. 4) represented a tenth-place overall finish. The NED Racing Team secured second-place in the Pro-Am category and position eleven overall. Porsche works driver Romain Dumas (France), Porsche Junior Jaxon Evans (New Zealand) and David Calvert-Jones (Australia) shared the cockpit of the No. 12 vehicle.

Round two of the Intercontinental GT Challenge is scheduled for the Spa-Francorchamps Circuit in Belgium. The legendary 24-hour race in the Ardennes region will take place July 25 – 26.

Fritz Enzinger, Vice President Porsche Motorsport and Group Motorsport Volkswagen AG.

"Grove Racing's victory in the Pro-Am class is really great. All five of our Porsche 911 GT3 R finished in the top eleven. After claiming pole position, we thought we could possibly win. But the field was very evenly matched. As the group representative for Volkswagen Motorsport, I'm of course delighted with Bentley's win."

Pascal Zurlinden, Director Factory Motorsport.

"It wasn't a great race in the pro-category. We had problems with the tires and brakes. But the drivers and teams fought their way through and made the best of the situation. As such, everyone can go home with their heads held high. For our long-standing customer team Grove Racing, I'm absolutely thrilled about their huge success in the Pro-Am class."

Sebastian Golz, Project Manager Porsche 911 GT3 R.

"We have five cars in the top eleven, a class win and a second-place in the Pro-Am category. All in all, that result doesn't sound too bad, but we just didn't quite pull it all together against the competition today. Because of the (tire) punctures, brake problems and penalties we couldn't make the most of the potential that was available to us."

Mathieu Jaminet, Driver, No. 911 Absolute Racing Porsche 911 GT3 R.

"All things considered, it was a tough race for us. We had two punctures that threw us back. We lost a lap but we battled hard to get back up into the action. Towards the end we hoped for the predicted rain, but unfortunately it arrived only after the checkered flag came out."

Earl Bamber, Driver, No. 1 Earl Bamber Motorsports Porsche 911 GT3 R.

"We had a good car with an ideal setup, but unfortunately there was a problem with the brake pads in the middle of the race. We had to pit and that cost us two laps. We couldn't recover from that. Afterwards we had one of the fastest cars, which showed our potential, but after our win here last year we had simply expected more."

Dirk Werner, Driver, No. 912 Absolute Racing Porsche 911 GT3 R.

"Starting in the night at Bathurst is something special. However, starting from twelfth on the grid surrounded by so many vehicles makes it difficult to gain any positions at the start. We managed to work our way up the field and were in the top group for the last two hours. At the end we hoped for rain, perhaps then we might have achieved an even better result."

Stephen Grove, Driver, No. 4 Grove Racing Porsche 911 GT3 R.

"First place in the Pro-Am class is fantastic. Ben's first stint was very important because it put us in a good position. We then fought our way through the field bit by bit. The secret here is that you have to be able to read the traffic on the track correctly. We tried to stay out of trouble and are grateful for a perfect car."

## **New Model. Porsche Manager Höllwarth Becomes Father.**

## **Long Board. Patrick Long Named to Monterey Reunion Selection Committee.**

The position is not honorary as Long, who is celebrating his 17th year as a Porsche factory driver, has become an authority on historic race cars. The two-time 24 Hours of Le Mans-winner co-founded Luftgekühlt, a “car culture event” focused on air-cooled Porsche road and race cars that has expanded from his native California to events on both coasts of the United States and sites around the world. Long’s attention to detail as a driver and collector has expanded the knowledge base of Porsche cars to the industry as a whole. The current lead driver for Wright Motorsports in the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, where he races the No. 16 Porsche 911 GT3 R, has held a similar position to this new role for the last two Porsche Rennsport Reunions – each held at WeatherTech Raceway. Additionally, he is a “go-to” driver for historic race teams who seek his expertise to compete in multiple classes at similar events around the world behind the wheel of legendary Porsche machines.

Patrick Long, Porsche Factory Driver.

“It’s a big honor for me to be asked to sit on the selection committee for the Monterey Motorsports Reunion. Just looking at who else is on the committee is sobering enough but when you consider the quality and range of cars we will be asked to choose from it becomes pretty overwhelming. I am very humbled and take this job very seriously. There is lots to learn and soak up, but I am very dedicated to the future of historic motorsport.”

## **Andretti Remembered. Veteran Porsche Driver John Andretti Passes Away.**



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