



PORSCHE

Press Release

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Race, Intercontinental GT Challenge, round 1, Bathurst 12 Hour/Australia

### **Best Porsche finishes fourth at Bathurst, victory in the Pro-Am class**

**Stuttgart.** At the season opening round of the Intercontinental GT Challenge at Bathurst, Absolute Racing finished on fourth place as the best Porsche customer team. The three Porsche works drivers Matt Campbell (Australia), Mathieu Jaminet and Patrick Pilet (both France) shared driving duties in the 500+hp Porsche 911 GT3 R with the starting number 911. Three more identical nine-eleven racers finished the 12-hour race in Australia in the top ten on Sunday. Porsche achieved a one-two in the Pro-Am class, with Grove Racing winning ahead of the NED Racing Team.

The many safety car phases turned the long-distance classic on the Mount Panorama Circuit into a turbulent race, with the interruptions causing the field to bunch up several times. Last year's winner Campbell took up the race on home turf from pole position. Over long stretches, the Porsche 911 GT3 R ran amongst the leading pack. However, tyre damage in lap 117 relegated the No. 911 entry down a lap. Thanks to a clever pit stop strategy, the team was able to make up lost ground during a safety car phase. In the end, the gap to the podium was just 1.529 seconds after 314 laps.

The second vehicle run by Absolute Racing with the starting number 912 took the chequered flag in seventh. The driver of the final stint and Porsche Young Professional Thomas Preining (Australia) shared the vehicle 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 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 on the 6.213-kilometre racetrack, however a time-consuming change of the brake pads prevented them from achieving a top result.

Grove Racing claimed first place 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 tenth overall. The NED Racing Team secured second 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 held at Spa in Belgium. From 23 to 26 July, the most important championship for GT3 sports cars will be contested at the legendary 24-hour race in Belgium's Ardennes region.

### **Comments on the race**

**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 tyres 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 punctures, brake problems and penalties we couldn't make the most of the potential that was available to us."

**Mathieu Jaminet (Porsche 911 GT3 R #911):** "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 chequered flag came out."

**Earl Bamber (Porsche 911 GT3 R #1):** "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 (Porsche 911 GT3 R #912):** "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 (Porsche 911 GT3 R #4):** "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."

**Jaxon Evans (Porsche 911 GT3 R #12):** "We started from a little further down the grid than we'd originally planned. The name of the game early on was to get through the dark hours of the race without any damage. After that we were able to manoeuvre ourselves further up the order. I'm really pleased with second place and

eleventh overall in the Pro-Am class for the NED Racing Team.”

### Race result

1. Gounon/Soulet/Pepper (F/B/ZA), Bentley Continental GT3, 314 laps
2. Parente/Barnicoat/Blomqvist (P/GB/GB), McLaren 720S GT3, 314 laps
3. Van Gisbergen/Whincup/Götz (NZ/AUS/D), Mercedes AMG GT3, 314 laps
4. Jaminet/Pilet/Campbell (F/F/AUS), Porsche 911 GT3 R, 314 laps
7. Werner/Preining/Cairolì (D/A/I), Porsche 911 GT3 R, 314 laps
9. Bamber/Vanthoor/Lowndes (NZ/B/AUS), Porsche 911 GT3 R, 312 laps
10. S. Grove/B. Grove/Barker (AUS/AUS/GB), Porsche 911 GT3 R, 312 laps
11. Calvert-Jones/Dumas/Evans (USA/F/NZ), Porsche 911 GT3 R, 311 laps

Full results at: <http://www.intercontinentalgtchallenge.com/>

Further information, film and photo material in the Porsche Newsroom: [newsroom.porsche.com](https://newsroom.porsche.com). The Twitter channel @PorscheRaces provides live updates from Porsche Motorsport with the latest information and photos from racetracks around the world.



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