



ASTON MARTIN

RACING LINE

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ANDREA PICCINI GUIDES THE PHOENIX RACING ASTON MARTIN DBR9 HE SHARED WITH JEAN-DENIS DELETRAZ TO VICTORY IN DUBAI

PHOENIX RACING ENDS FIA GT SEASON WITH VICTORY IN DUBAI

Phoenix Racing ended its 2006 FIA GT Championship campaign with victory at the final round in Dubai on November 18. Jean-Denis Deletraz and Andrea Piccini, driving an Aston Martin DBR9, crossed the line 49 seconds clear of their rivals to clinch second position in the drivers' championship, and third in the teams' table for Phoenix Racing behind Aston Martin Racing BMS. Their win also consolidated Aston Martin's victory in the manufacturers' cup. During qualifying, Piccini stopped after three laps with a broken prop shaft, though had set a time good enough to start eighth on the grid. The Italian rapidly made his way through the field to lead by lap 12 and held the lead until the first round of pit stops. Deletraz lost the lead

to the Corvette in the second hour, but then set the fastest lap of the race overall to remain in contention. Piccini re-joined for the third and final hour in the lead and defended from the Corvette, which made an extra pit stop for fuel nine minutes from the end of the race. "We knew that the circuit suited the Aston Martin and so we were confident before we even came here," said Piccini. Deletraz added: "For a first year with a new team, it's fantastic. In some races, we have been really close to winning. It was very important for us and the partners to do well in the race this weekend." Aston Martin Racing BMS finished fourth and sixth, while RaceAlliance's Aston Martin DBR9 finished in fifth position overall.

IN BRIEF...



KARL WENDLINGER (RIGHT) WITH HERMANN TILKE IN BUCHAREST

RaceAlliance Aston Martin driver Karl Wendlinger and circuit designer Hermann Tilke attended a presentation at the Bucharest circuit prior to its debut FIA GT Championship race on May 20, 2007. Around 20,000 Romanian spectators turned out for the ceremony and Wendlinger gave passenger rides around a specially constructed section of the 3.1km circuit.

Two Aston Martin DBRS9s took part in the final round of the FIA GT Championship in Dubai on November 18. Toni Seiler and Luca Pirri won the G3 class in their DBRS9 entered by BMS Scuderia Italia, while the second DBRS9, driven by Sergey Zlobin, Marcello Zani and Roberto Benucci, retired with a transmission problem. Pirri replaced Franco Groppi, who suffered a domestic accident and was unable to drive in the race.

FIA GT3 Championship organisers have dropped plans to open the season with a non-championship race in Melbourne, Australia after teams considered the travelling time too excessive.

Aston Martin's V8 Vantage Roadster will be launched at the Los Angeles Motorshow on November 28. It is the latest addition to the Vantage family which includes production models adapted for racing. The N24 racing car, which contested the Nurburgring 24-hours in June, is currently in transit to Bahrain to contest the Bahrain 24-hours on December 15-16.



ASTON MARTIN'S NEW V8 VANTAGE ROADSTER



TONY SEILER EN ROUTE TO CLASS VICTORY AT THE FINAL ROUND OF THE FIA GT CHAMPIONSHIP IN DUBAI, IN THE BMS SCUDERIA ITALIA ASTON MARTIN DBR9

VIEW FROM AMR



AMR TEAM PRINCIPAL GEORGE HOWARD-CHAPPELL

On the whole I am happy with the way the 2006 season has gone with our customer teams. I would have been happier if we had won more races, particularly at Spa where we came close with Phoenix Racing, but generally the teams have done a great job, run the cars well, and been competitive. Winning the manufacturers championship is a great achievement in the first year in customer hands. There are a few updates for the DBR9 next year, but the emphasis of performance balancing is cost reduction, not spending money making the car go faster.

It is very important to the whole programme that the customers are content and that they are successful. Really we weren't happy with the performance balancing in the ALMS and people say "why not, when you won five races," but when you look at the detail at what was done and how it was done, you can see why we weren't happy. By contrast in the FIA GT Championship, where we won two races, the rules and the way the performance balancing is applied doesn't leave much to complain about.

In GT3, after we made the revision to the DBRS9 following Silverstone, the car has been competitive, reliable, and we are selling more of them, so we are very happy.

FRONT ROW START FOR BMS IN DUBAI AS ASTON MARTIN ENDS SEASON ON A HIGH

Aston Martin Racing BMS showed that they had the speed to win the final round of the FIA GT Championship in Dubai on November 18 when Fabio Babini set pole position in qualifying, and Fabrizio Gollin set second fastest time to lock out the front row. A series of unfortunate events prevented the team from capitalising on such a performance, and the two Aston Martin DBR9s finished in fourth and sixth positions, split by the RaceAlliance Aston Martin DBR9 of Karl Wendlinger, Philipp Peter and Jarek Janis.

Babini started from pole position, and led the opening laps before dropping to fifth at the end of the first hour. The team had opted for a hard-compound Pirelli tyre but the temperatures on race day were cooler than expected and that affected the performance. Matteo Malucelli took over the wheel of the number 23 Aston Martin DBR9, but two collisions meant the stewards awarded the car a drive-through penalty.

The sister car of Fabrizio Gollin and Miguel Ramos finished fourth, one minute and 48 seconds behind the winning Phoenix Racing Aston Martin after a pair of punctures lost them time. With their eight points, the team confirmed its second place in the Teams' Championship.

RaceAlliance ran Czech driver Jarek Janis alongside Peter and Wendlinger as the Czech fought for fifth place in the drivers' championship. Peter was delayed by two collisions, the second of which resulted in a puncture and an extra pit stop. "We can see a clear upward trend, and we will take that to next season," said team owner Lucas Lichtner-Hoyer.

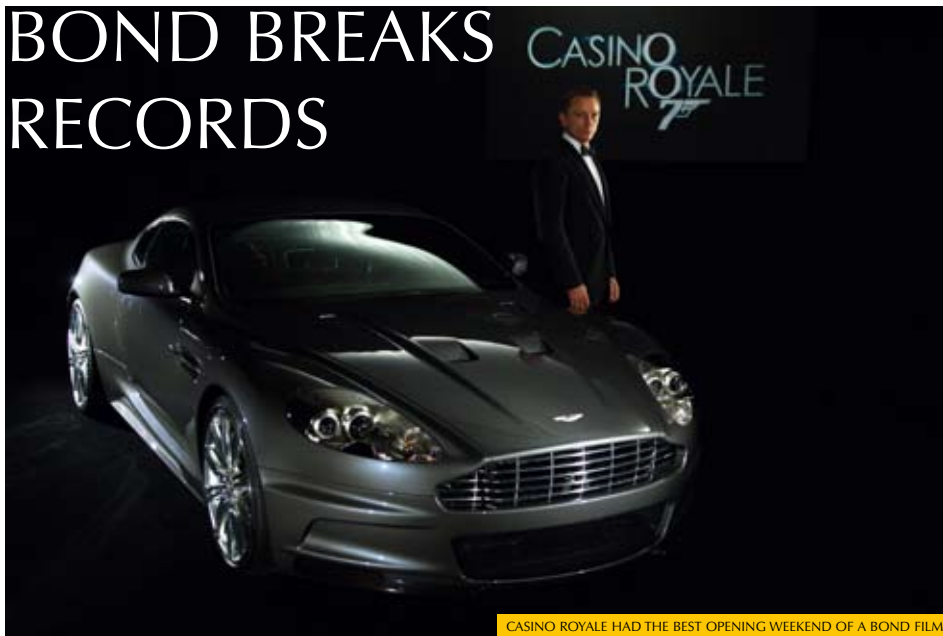


DRIVER OF THE YEAR JAREK JANIS JOINED RACEALLIANCE IN DUBAI



FABIO BABINI SET POLE POSITION TIME IN THE NUMBER 23 DBR9

BOND BREAKS RECORDS



CASINO ROYALE HAD THE BEST OPENING WEEKEND OF A BOND FILM

"Casino Royale", the 21st James Bond film and the first to star Daniel Craig, has broken British Box Office records on its opening weekend. The film took £1.7m on its opening day, a new record for a Bond film, and grossed £13.4m over the weekend, breaking the previous Bond record of £9.1m, set by "Die Another Day" in 2002.

On July 15 at the Millbrook proving ground in Milton Keynes, the film and Aston Martin entered the Guinness Book of Records as stunt man Adam Kirley rolled an Aston Martin DBS seven times in a single stunt, beating the previous record of six set by a stunt man on BBC's Top Gear programme last year.

Gary Powell, "Casino Royale" stunt coordinator, said: "We rehearsed the stunt several times driving test cars, which were a similar weight to

the Aston Martin, at 80mph towards a ten inch ramp which worked very well. The cars flipped over at least 5 3/4 times in rehearsal. But we knew, due to the design and suspension of the Aston Martin DBS, it would probably level itself out in mid-air.

"When we came to filming the stunt on the night, as suspected, the Aston Martin DBS levelled itself out, refusing to flip over. Adam had to drive the cannon fitted Aston at high speed and hit the release at exactly the right moment."

The DBS was one of five supplied to the film makers, following a list of eight models which have appeared in Bond films, starting with the 1964 film "Goldfinger" in which Sean Connery drove a DB5.

DR ULRICH BEZ



ASTON MARTIN CHAIRMAN AND CEO DR ULRICH BEZ

In 2006 Aston Martin has enjoyed one of its most successful years. On the road, sales are up; on the track our DBR9 and DBRS9 models have been successful with race wins and championship titles; the four-door Rapide concept attracted an incredible amount of interest when it was unveiled at the North American Auto Show in January; and on the big screen James Bond has returned to our company with the new Aston Martin DBS featured in the film "Casino Royale", which was released on November 16.

Through the pages of Racing Line, we have updated you with the fantastic performances of our Aston Martin teams racing in the various championships around the world.

From the five Aston Martin Racing wins in the American Le Mans Series to the championship success of Larbre Competition in the Le Mans Series, the RaceAlliance and Phoenix victories in the FIA GT Championship, the success of our DBRS9 teams running in the FIA GT3 Championships the Speed GT World Challenge and the national series, I would like to offer my congratulations to all the teams and the drivers for their efforts this year.

PIRELLI ENJOYS ITS MOST SUCCESSFUL SEASON WITH WINS AND POLES WITH ASTON MARTIN

Pirelli has enjoyed its most successful racing season to date following its five wins and seven pole positions in the American Le Mans Series with Aston Martin Racing, and pole positions in the FIA GT Championship with Aston Martin Racing BMS.

The relationship with Aston Martin was new at the start of the season and it took time to develop into a race-winning package.



PIRELLI-SHOD ASTON MARTIN RACING BMS STARTED FROM THE FRONT ROW IN DUBAI

"It was a very nice co-operation, and we learned a lot" said Pierluigi de Cancellis, On Track Product Manager at Pirelli. "We collected a lot of data, better engineered our tyres to the circuits in the US, and we learned a lot about the tracks, which are generally a lot more bumpy than in Europe.

"We learned how to tune the cars to the different circuits, so we are very happy with our season with Aston Martin Racing in America. We learned a lot in Europe, where we started with more experience, and so it has been a way to improve our background. There was a lot of transfer of information from the USA to BMS in Europe, and when we managed to exploit that knowledge to go faster. In qualifying in

Dubai we were first and second with BMS who we have found to be a very professional team. The tyres have changed a lot from the start of the season to the end, and we are very happy.



"We are not a general tyre manufacturer; we are really focused on high performance tyres, and so the association with Aston Martin is very important. Working in GT is a very good link to the production cars of the top manufacturers, and so there is both an image and a technology return. We are building up an image and philosophy of GT tyre manufacturers both on the road and on the racing circuit. It has been successful for us, it is growing year by year, and it is a good image for the company."

POINTS AND RESULTS

FIA GT CHAMPIONSHIP, DUBAI

POS	DRIVERS	CAR	CLASS	LAPS
1	Deletraz/Piccini	Aston Martin DBR9	GT1	89
2	Longin/Kumpen/Hezemans	Corvette C6R	GT1	89
3	Davies/Biagi/Vosse	Maserati MC12	GT1	89
4	Malucelli/Babini	Aston Martin DBR9	GT1	89
5	Wendlinger/Peter/Janis	Aston Martin DBR9	GT1	88
6	Gollin/Ramos	Aston Martin DBR9	GT1	88
7	Gardel/Zacchia/Makowiecki	Ferrari 550 Maranello	G3	86
8	Niarchos/Mullen	Ferrari 430 GT	GT2	85
9	Vilander/Melo	Ferrari 430 GT	GT2	85
10	Salo/Aguas	Ferrari 430 GT	GT2	85



FIA GT CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

POS	DRIVERS	CAR	TEAM	POINTS
1	Bertolini/Bartels	Maserati MC12	Vitaphone Racing	71
3	Deletraz/Piccini	Aston Martin DBR9	Phoenix Racing	62
5	Janis	Saleen S7R/AM DBR9*	Zakspeed Racing	58
6	Bert	Saleen S7R	Zakspeed Racing	56
7	Davies/Biagi	Maserati MC12	Vitaphone Racing	54
9	Babini	Aston Martin DBR9	AMR BMS	51
10	Hezemans/Longin/Kumpen	Corvette C6R	GL PK	48

POS	MANUFACTURERS	CAR	POINTS
1	Aston Martin	Aston Martin DBR9	173
2	Maserati	Maserati MC12	125
3	Corvette	Corvette C6R	65

* Janis drove the Saleen for eight of the ten races, and secured third in the drivers' championship after driving for RaceAlliance in Dubai

For further information, please contact:

Janette Green, Director Brand Communications, jgree159@astonmartin.com

Sarah Durose, Motorsport Business Manager, sdurose@astonmartin.com

Barbara Prince, Corporate Affairs Manager, bprince1@astonmartin.com

Matthew Clarke, Product Press Officer, mclark89@astonmartin.com

Kevin Watters, Corporate Press Officer, kwatter2@astonmartin.com



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www.astonmartin.com
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