



By appointment
to HM The Queen
motor car manufacturers
Bentley Motors Limited
Crewe Cheshire



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BENTLEY

Press Information

BENTLEY MOTORSPORT WINS A TRANS-ATLANTIC DOUBLE

- **Bentley Motorsport took victory at 2017 Blancpain GT Series Paul Ricard 1,000 km following a “perfect race” by the #8 Continental GT3**
- **Hours later, Bentley Team Absolute stood atop the podium at Pirelli World Challenge at Road America with the #88 Continental GT3**
- **Double victory capped with a second podium place for Bentley Team Absolute the next day**
- **Bentley Team M-Sport drivers now lead the Blancpain Endurance Series Cup**

26 June 2017 - Bentley Motorsport took victory at the Blancpain GT Series Paul Ricard 1,000 km with its #8 Continental GT3 and drivers Andy Soucek (ES), Maxime Soulet (BE) and Vince Abril (MC), as Bentley Team Absolute took a win and second place in the USA.

The six-hour Blancpain GT Series race took place from 18:00 until midnight on the world-famous track in the south of France and Bentley Team M-Sport once again ran its pair of Continental GT3s.

Mike Sayer

Product and Motorsport
Communications Manager
mike.sayer@bentley.co.uk
+44(0)7507 846782

Rebecca Jones

Motorsport Communications
Officer
rebecca@viprmedia.com
+44(0)7866 701161

Bentley Motors Ltd

Pyms Lane
Crewe
CW1 3PL

www.bentleymedia.com
communications@bentley.co.uk
@BentleyComms

After qualifying in eighth position on a grid of more than 50 GT3 cars, the #8 Continental GT3 climbed steadily to the lead, where it ran for most of the race. With consistently quick lap times, impeccable pit stops and a reliable car, the team had what Bentley's Director of Motorsport, Brian Gush has called a “perfect race”.



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“It’s always great to take a race win but when you do it so cleanly it makes it all the more rewarding,” commented Gush. “It was a perfect race for the number eight crew, after many months of extremely hard work by the whole team. In the last two weeks, Bentleys have won both races in the UK, Europe and the USA, which is a testament to the car and the people behind it. We must now retain our focus as we look ahead to the next race, which is the most challenging of the Blancpain season – the Spa 24 Hours.”

The sister #7 Continental GT3, however, fell foul of bad luck. Guy Smith (GB) ran as high as third before a technical gremlin prevented the result that he, Oliver Jarvis (GB) and Steven Kane (GB) deserved, and after five and a half hours the British trio was forced to retire.

The race win, which carries 33 championship points, catapults Soucek, Soulet and Abril in to the lead of the Blancpain GT Endurance Cup going into the most important GT3 race of the series at Spa-Francorchamps on 29th July.

Victory and Double Podium in the USA

As Soulet, Soucek and Abril sprayed the Champagne on the top step of the podium, across the Atlantic ocean Adderly Fong (HK) crossed the line of race one in Pirelli World Challenge at Road America in first place in his #88 Bentley Team Absolute Continental GT3. Fong put in a dominant performance after starting on pole and fighting off challengers to retain the lead throughout the race, scoring his first victory of the year for the team and his first win in the American series.

On Sunday afternoon, Fong took second place in race two, having battled for the lead for the duration of the 50-minute sprint, and ultimately finishing just

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0.239 seconds behind the winner. Fong's double podium means the most successful American race weekend yet for Bentley Team Absolute.

-ENDS-

Driver quotes:

Vince Abril, car #8: "That was incredible! It's my first endurance race win and it's at my home track. We'll carry this on to the next one. The team deserves this win so much, and I can't wait to see what we can do at Spa."

Maxime Soulet, car #8: "With eight laps to go we had a 30-second lead so I was able to take some of the pressure off but, until then, we had been pushing like crazy. It was a tough race with the heat but the win feels amazing!"

Andy Soucek, car #8: "It was perfect! The car was perfect, the strategy was perfect, the pit crew was perfect and my team-mates were perfect. All the elements that we know we have all came together and we achieved what I always knew we were capable of."

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Adderly Fong, car #88: "I'm delighted to finally get my first win, after coming so close so many times last year. I'm glad I'm able to repay the team for all their hard work. The Continental GT3 was awesome to drive here and the next tracks really suit the car too – hopefully we can be just as strong at the next round."

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- Bentley Motorsport is based at the Bentley Motors headquarters in Crewe. From there, the operation runs Bentley Team M-Sport, and oversees three Works-supported teams around the world.
- The Continental GT3 is built by the Bentley motorsport team in conjunction with M-Sport. The Bentley GT3 team is led by Bentley Director of Motorsport, Brian Gush supported by M-Sport's Chief Engineer, Christian Loriaux.
- Bentley Motors' headquarters in Crewe is home to all of its operations including design, R&D, engineering and production of the company's four model lines, Continental, Bentayga, Flying Spur and Mulsanne. The combination of fine craftsmanship, using skills that have been handed down through generations, alongside engineering expertise and cutting-edge technology is unique to UK luxury car brands.

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