

Media release

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## McLaren Driver Development Programme to resume with Team Rocket RJN in the 2021 British GT Championship

- McLaren Driver Development Programme (DDP) to resume this season
- Katie Milner, Michael Benyahia, Harry Hayek and Alain Valente retained for new season
- DDP drivers will contest British GT Championship with 570S GT4s run by Team Rocket RJN

The McLaren Automotive Driver Development Programme (DDP) will resume this year, with all four of the drivers originally selected in late 2019 now set to contest the Intelligent Money British GT Championship in 570S GT4 cars run by Team Rocket RJN.

The DDP was suspended last year because it was not possible to carry out the programme with the social distancing requirements and compressed racing season resulting from the COVID pandemic. With the UK coming out of lockdown shortly and a full calendar of British GT races set to commence in May, Katie Milner (GBR), Michael Benyahia (MAR), Harry Hayek (AUS) and Alain Valente (SUI) are now looking forward to benefiting from the full programme this year.

All four drivers will contest the highly-competitive GT4 class in 570S GT4 cars prepared by Team Rocket RJN, a McLaren Customer Racing team. The outfit has proven experience in nurturing driver talent, having starred in British GT last year with McLaren GT Driver Michael O'Brien and World's Fastest Gamer James Baldwin - the latter in his debut season of racing. The McLaren 720S GT3 pairing won the opening race of the season at Oulton Park and were title contenders throughout the campaign, eventually finishing in fourth place overall and third in the Silver Cup standings. The DDP driver pairings will be confirmed in the coming weeks as McLaren works with the team and drivers to prepare for the new season.

*"We are delighted to finally have the opportunity to deliver the McLaren Driver Development Programme to the four highly promising young drivers that we selected a year ago during a rigorous assessment process. Following an excellent season in the Intelligent Money British GT Championship, we are also delighted to confirm Team Rocket RJN as the team that will be running our four drivers. This exciting new partnership should see them fulfil their potential by achieving great results in the GT4 title race."*

Ian Morgan, Director, McLaren Customer Racing



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*“Announcing our involvement with the McLaren Driver Development Programme is a fantastic way to begin our second season as a McLaren Customer Racing team. We’re also looking forward to expanding into the Intelligent Money British GT Championship’s GT4 class following a hugely successful debut campaign with the McLaren 720S GT3, which powered James Baldwin and Michael O’Brien to third place in the Silver Cup standings. With the 2021 season on track to get underway in late spring we’re confident that our highly talented young drivers will be a force to be reckoned with in the McLaren 570S GT4.”*

Chris Buncombe, team co-owner Team Rocket RJN

After being launched by McLaren Automotive in 2018, the Driver Development Programme saw a milestone victory during the 2019 Snetterton 300 race with a first victory, as Jordan Collard and Lewis Proctor took top honours. This result was one of two victories and five further podium finishes for the two 570S GT4 entries run in partnership with Tolman Motorsport. These results saw McLaren secure second place in the GT4 Teams championship standings. Collard and Proctor claimed fourth spot in both the GT4 Drivers and GT4 Silver championships and have since graduated to McLaren Academy Driver status.

The McLaren Automotive Driver Development Programme is partnered with Prosource, Richard Mille and Pirelli once again for the 2021 season.

#### Intelligent Money British GT Championship 2021 calendar

Round 1	Brands Hatch	May 22/23
Round 2	Silverstone	June 26-27
Round 3	Donington Park	July 10-11
Round 4	Spa-Francorchamps	July 24-25
Rounds 5 & 6	Snetterton	August 7-8
Rounds 7 & 8	Oulton Park	September 11-12
Round 9	Donington Park	October 16-17

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Notes to editors:

A selection of high resolution images accompanying this release is available to download from the McLaren Automotive media site - [cars.mclaren.press](https://cars.mclaren.press)

#### About McLaren Automotive:

McLaren Automotive is a creator of luxury, high-performance supercars.



Every vehicle is hand-assembled at the McLaren Production Centre (MPC) in Woking, Surrey, England.

Launched in 2010, the company is now the largest part of the McLaren Group.

The company's product portfolio of GT, supercar, Motorsport and Ultimate models are retailed through over 85 retailers in 40 markets around the world.

McLaren is a pioneer that continuously pushes the boundaries. In 1981, it introduced lightweight and strong carbon fibre chassis into Formula 1 with the McLaren MP4/1.

Then in 1993 it designed and built the McLaren F1 road car - the company has not built a car without a carbon fibre chassis since. As part of the Ultimate Series, McLaren was the first to deliver a hybrid hypercar, the McLaren P1™. In 2016, it announced a new hybrid hyper-GT would be engineering, confirming this next Ultimate Series car as the Speedtail in 2018.

2019 saw McLaren launch the 600LT Spider, the new GT and the track-only McLaren Senna GTR. It also unveiled the 620R and McLaren Elva before launching the 765LT the following year.

Most recently, the company unveiled its all-new high-performance hybrid supercar, the McLaren Artura.

The Artura is the first McLaren to benefit from the McLaren Carbon Lightweight Architecture (MCLA). The MCLA is designed, developed and manufactured at the McLaren Composites Technology Centre in the Sheffield region of England using world-first process and will spearhead the brand's electrified future.

McLaren Automotive also chooses to partner with like-minded world-leading companies and organisations who push the boundaries in their respective fields. These include AkzoNobel, Ashurst, Dell Technologies, Gulf, Pirelli, Richard Mille and Tumi.

#### **McLaren Group:**

The McLaren Group is a global leader in luxury automotive and technology and comprises three businesses: Automotive, Racing and Applied.

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