



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



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**BENTLEY**

## Press Information

### **BENTLEY RACES INTO CENTENARY YEAR AT BATHURST**

- **Bathurst 12 Hour kicks off Bentley's 2019 race season**
- **Bentley Motorsport's fifth year in Australian endurance race**
- **Continental GT3 ready to deliver on potential in Centenary year**

**29 January 2019, Crewe** – Bentley Motorsport embarks on a landmark racing campaign as the world's most sought-after luxury car brand when it competes in the season-opening Bathurst 12 Hour for the fifth time.

The opening round of the Intercontinental GT Challenge (IGTC) signals the first competitive outing in Bentley's centenary year for the second-generation Continental GT3. The British squad returns to the challenging Mount Panorama circuit confident it can fight for victory in this year's blue riband GT events, following a strong season of development in 2018.

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Bentley's Director of Motorsport, Brian Gush: "Our founder Walter Owen Bentley's mission statement was 'to build a good car, a fast car, the best in class', and we're forging ahead in this spirit with the Continental GT3 after an encouraging debut year of development. Motor racing has been at the heart of Bentley since its inception 100 years ago. From the Le Mans-winning Speed 6 to the Continental GT3 of today, we have pushed our engineering expertise to the limit in the most



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challenging conditions to develop the world's leading luxury performance cars that you see in our showrooms.

“Bathurst 12 Hour is not only one of the most exciting motor races in the world but presents some of racing's most uncompromising tests. Everyone in the team is looking forward to the challenge again, and to seeing our loyal fanbase in Australia.”

The two Continental GT3s, resplendent in a new-for-2019 livery and making their Bathurst debut, normally carry the #7 and #8 race plates, but in honour of the centenary each will have an extra 100 added to their numbers.

Car #107 will be driven by Bentley's two-time Bathurst 12-Hour podium-finisher Steven Kane (GB) with team-mates Jordan Pepper (ZA) and Jules Gounon (FR). The sister #108 machine will carry long-standing Bentley racers Andy Soucek (ES), Maxime Soulet (BE) and Vince Abril (MC).

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Bentley Motorsport is mounting an expanded dual campaign in 2019 that comprises a full-season assault on the Blancpain GT Series Endurance Cup with Bentley Team M-Sport as well as the global IGTC, which features four further endurance races at the California 8 Hours of Laguna Seca, the 24 Hours of Spa, Suzuka 10 Hours and the new Kyalami 9 Hour race in South Africa.



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The dramatic 23-turn, 6.2 km Bathurst circuit in New South Wales is considered one of the world's toughest thanks to its high speeds, narrow mountain section, blind apexes and steep elevation changes. Total commitment is required at all times around a track that reverts to being a public road post-event, while the 1.9 km Conrod Straight – where the Continental GT3 can hit speeds of 170 mph (270 km/h) – is one of the longest to be sanctioned in world motorsport.

Fans can watch the race at [www.youtube.com/GTWorld](http://www.youtube.com/GTWorld) and follow on Instagram (@bentleyracingofficial) and Twitter (@bentleyracing) for live updates and behind-the-scenes content.

### **Driver quotes:**

Steven Kane, #107, said: "It's an honour to be able to represent Bentley in its centenary year, and after a season where we came so close to winning in 2018, it feels like this could be the season that we get to capitalise on all the hard work from last year. The Continental GT3 has taken another step forward over the winter, building on the progress we've made with the second-generation car. And coming into Bathurst, I've got a personal score to settle with this place, having finished third twice and led last year, I really want to take the win this weekend."

Andy Soucek, #108, said: "The second generation Bentley Continental GT3 has been on the brink of recording its first win for some time now.

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Our sister-car led the Paul Ricard 1000kms before finishing second, and then both cars led the Spa-Francorchamps 24 Hours, where we were dominant for much of the race before we hit some bad fortune. This sport has a habit of making famous stories, so let's hope that's true in Bentley's 100<sup>th</sup> year!"

### **Bathurst 12 Hour Schedule – all times local**

#### **Friday 1 February**

08:50 – 09:20: Practice 1

09:25 – 10:25: Practice 2

11:10 – 12:10: Practice 3

15:15 – 16:15: Practice 4

#### **Saturday 2 February**

08:35 – 09:35: Practice 5

11:20 – 12:05: Qualifying (Class A/GT3)

16:40 – 17:25: Qualifying Top 10 Shootout

#### **Sunday 3 February**

05:45 – 17:45: Bathurst 12 Hour

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### **Bentley Motorsport 2019 Race Calendar**

|                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 2-3 Feb         | Bathurst 12 Hour, Australia  |
| 29-30 March     | California 8 Hours, USA      |
| 13-14 April     | Monza, Italy                 |
| 11-12 May       | Silverstone, UK              |
| 1-2 June        | Paul Ricard 1000km, France   |
| 27-28 July      | Spa 24 Hours, Belgium        |
| 24-25 August    | Suzuka 10 Hours, Japan       |
| 28-29 September | Barcelona, Spain             |
| 22-23 Nov       | Kyalami 9 Hour, South Africa |



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### Notes to editors

Bentley Motors is the most sought after luxury car brand in the world. The company's 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, Flying Spur, Bentayga 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 such as Bentley. It is also an example of high-value British manufacturing at its best. Bentley employs around 4,000 people at Crewe.

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