

19th March 2022

2022 BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX - SATURDAY

Pierre Gasly (AT03-03, Car 10)**Third Practice Session - Best lap: 1:34.176, pos. 13th, 18 laps****Qualifying - Best lap: (Q1) 1:32.096, (Q2) 1:31.635, (Q3) 1:32.338, pos. 10th**

"I'm really happy with today. We knew we'd struggle in Qualifying, which is why we started with three sets in Q1 but then I had a really strong lap in Q2 and made it through with just one new tyre, there's no way heading into Quali that we would've believed that would happen. Obviously, we'd like to fight for more, but we know at the moment that we've got some work to do. Considering our performance in practice, particularly in these colder conditions, we should be really pleased with today. It's difficult to predict what's going to happen tomorrow, as it's the first race with these new cars, but I think there's going to be some good racing from what I felt in practice. We'll aim for some good points and hopefully we have a good one."

Yuki Tsunoda (AT03-02, Car 22)**Third Practice Session - Not Time Set****Qualifying - Best lap: (Q1) 1:32.750, pos. 16th**

"It's been quite a difficult day. We knew that the car hadn't been performing as well as we thought it might here in the colder conditions, then of course we missed FP3, but we'd still aimed to make it through to Q2 and sadly that didn't happen today. We don't know what other teams' race pace will be like here tomorrow, the aim of course is to make it to the points, but I think it's going to be hard."

Jody Egginton (Technical Director)

"The first Saturday of the season has highlighted how close the midfield is this year, as well as showing us the importance of having clean sessions and maximising track time. After a difficult Friday for both sides of the garage, there was a lot of work required overnight to understand some of the balance issues. It's fair to say that the steps taken for FP3 and Qualifying have resulted in some good improvements being made, however I don't feel we are yet extracting everything from the package we have. For sure there is lots of work ahead of us to improve our current performance, whilst also bringing updates to move us forward. Regarding the results today, Pierre has put in a very good Qualifying, getting the most out of the car to get into Q3, which is a fantastic result for everyone. Yuki unfortunately, through no fault of his own, did not run in FP3 due to a hydraulic issue, which meant he went into Qualifying with only limited running. We now look ahead to the race, where we will be focused on trying to get Yuki moving up the field, as well as seeing what opportunities we can generate for Pierre, to get him further into the points, in what we expect will be a very competitive battle tomorrow."