

Verstappen Race Engineer: Who Is Red Bullâ??s Tom Hart?

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The **Verstappen race engineer** role is about to change. Tom Hart, the quiet Warwick graduate who has spent over a decade at Red Bull, took the radio at the Las Vegas Grand Prix and celebrated a win. He is set to replace Gianpiero Lambiase, who heads for McLaren in due course.



Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

Why the Verstappen race engineer role matters

For a decade, one voice has guided Verstappen. Lambiase has been his race engineer since the Dutchmanâ??s promotion to Red Bull in 2016, and together they won four straight Driversâ?? Championships between 2021 and 2024. Every strategy call, every calm instruction on a safety car restart, travelled down that line.

Lambiase is set to join McLaren as Chief Racing Officer no later than 2028, so Red Bull had to plan. The team has quietly been easing in a successor, and that successor is Tom Hart. The 2026 seasonâ??s closing races have effectively been his audition.

Who is Tom Hart? From placement student to the hot seat

Hart is a British mechanical engineering graduate from the University of Warwick. He joined Red Bull in July 2012 as an industrial placement student in the race engineering department, and he never really left. In late 2014 he moved to the simulator department, where he spent more than five years as a simulator performance engineer, helping translate lab findings into real lap time.

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In January 2020 he stepped trackside as a performance engineer on Verstappenâ??s side of the garage, working alongside Lambiase through the title-winning years. In 2026 he took on an expanded senior performance engineering role covering both Red Bull cars. Fans may recall him on the podium at the 2024 Bahrain Grand Prix, collecting the Constructorsâ?? trophy after Verstappenâ??s victory.



Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

His future briefly looked uncertain. Reports, citing Autosport, said he was set to join Williams, and Red Bull moved to reverse the transfer. In July the team confirmed that Hart would succeed Lambiase instead, though the exact timing of the handover was left open.

Three races, one victory: Hartâ??s audition

The handover has been gradual, and each weekend has been a bigger test than the last.

- **United States Grand Prix, Austin:** Hart handled Verstappenâ??s radio for a full weekend for the first time. The four-time champion finished third behind Kimi Antonelli and Charles Leclerc. Team principal Laurent Mekies called it an excellent job, noting Hart had picked a fairly complicated race for his debut.
- **Sao Paulo Grand Prix:** Verstappen produced a fine recovery drive, finishing second after starting 21st.
- **Las Vegas Grand Prix:** the clincher. Verstappen won his fourth race of 2026 and the 75th of his career, ahead of McLarenâ??s Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri, in a contest featuring 35 lead changes.

Hart therefore has a first win under his belt. If you missed the drama, we covered the whole thing in our Las Vegas Grand Prix race report, and the build-up in our Las Vegas qualifying report.

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Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

What happens next at Red Bull

Lambiase has not gone yet. He oversaw the Mexico City Grand Prix, and he is scheduled to return for the final two rounds in Qatar and Abu Dhabi. Meanwhile he continues as Red Bullâ??s Head of Racing, a role that will pass to former technical figure Tom McCullough in 2027. Hart is widely expected to take over race engineering on a permanent basis at the start of 2027, depending on when Lambiaseâ??s exit is confirmed.

That timing matters. Qatar is Verstappenâ??s next stop, and we previewed it in our Qatar Grand Prix preview. With Lambiase back on the radio, the team gets one more chapter of a famous partnership before a new one begins.

Why the transition is smart

Red Bull have done this the sensible way. Hart has worked with Verstappen since 2020, so he already understands how the driver likes information delivered: short, direct, and without waffle. That familiarity is worth more than any CV line. A long handover also means any teething problems arrive in races with less at stake than a title decider.

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Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

For Singapore fans, the story has a local flavour. Verstappen and his crew have been a fixture at the Marina Bay Street Circuit, and by the time F1 returns to Singapore, the voice on that radio may well be Hartâ??s. Keep up with all our racing coverage in the Little Big Red Dot sports section.

Date Created

25/11/2026
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