



 **JONO LESTER**

RACING CV

FOREWORD: CHRIS AMON

Jono's successes in many forms of motorsport prove that he is a driver with bundles of talent, determination and promise.

Drivers in this day and age must be tenacious, well rounded with unfathomable focus. These are all ingredients that I have seen Jono demonstrate as I've watched his career develop.

It is also very important to note that Jono takes an extremely pragmatic approach to his racing. GT drivers typically enjoy long careers with a far greater number of options available for them to realise career success compared to other niches in the motorsport, such as open wheel racing in Formula One.

Jono recognises this and thus he has chosen to focus right from the start of his career in GT racing.

That focus is now rewarding Jono with the accolades and reputation he so richly deserves at the top of world motorsport.

I am proud to be a part of Jono's career.



Chris Amon M.B.E.: 1943-2016

1966 Le Mans 24 Hours Winner

Ferrari F1 Driver 1967-1969



LESTER FAMILY HERITAGE

Jono is a third generation racing driver from New Zealand, and one of five family members to win National driving titles alongside grandfather Rob, father Richard, aunt Debbie and cousin Jaxon (Evans).

Since Jono's grandparents, Rob and Wendy, originally set up the Manfeild circuit in Feilding in 1973, motorsport has been the family business for nearly 50 years and counting.

As a driver, Rob was awarded the prestigious Jim Clark Trophy in 1979.

Richard and Debbie were respective Steel Trophy recipients in 1983 and 1986, representing New Zealand's top driver under 21 years of age.

Richard founded the Shell Formula Ford Scholarship in the early 1990s, which launched the career of many drivers including Bathurst winner Greg Murphy, and Prost/Jaguar F1 driver Luciano Burti.

He also oversaw the PETRONAS driver development programme from 2000-2012, and led *Le Kiwi Comeback* at Le Mans 1996, where an all-Kiwi team finished 2nd in the GT2 class with a Porsche 993 GT2.

Jono's cousin Jaxon Evans is a current Porsche Junior, competing with Lechner Racing in the Porsche Mobil1 Supercup.



PERSONAL BIO

FIA RATING

Silver

FULL NAME

Jonathan Robert Lester

KNOWN AS

Jono

D.O.B.

8th December, 1989 (age 30)

BORN IN

Palmerston North, New Zealand

MEASUREMENTS

177cm/74kg

INTERESTS

Animal welfare, plant-based lifestyle,
trail running, environmental protection

RACE PEDIGREE

15 years of driving (13 in GT)

WORLDWIDE

Japan, China, Thailand, Malaysia,
Hungary, Italy, Middle East,
Australia, New Zealand

AMBASSADOR

SPCA New Zealand, Gulf Oil,
CRC Lubricants, Sony





CAREER GALLERY



RACING CV

RACES

284

WINS

32

PODIUMS

98

POLES

32

FASTEST LAPS

32

LAP RECORDS

5

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2018 | Bangsaen Grand Prix Outright Lap Record
- 2018 | Blancpain GT Asia (6 starts, 2 wins, 4 podiums)
- 2017 | 3rd SUPER GT Podium on Debut
- 2016 | 2nd Lamborghini Super Trofeo Asia
- 2015 | Australian GT Pole Position Record (5 of 7)
- 2013 | New Zealand Endurance Champion
- 2013 | 2nd Japanese Super Taikyu (GT3 class)
- 2012 | 2nd Japanese Super Taikyu (GT3 class)
- 2010 | Porsche Junior Scholarship
- 2009 | NZ Porsche Carrera Cup Trophy Winner
- 2008 | President's Scholarship
- 2007 | World's Youngest Porsche Cups Winner
- 2007 | Steel Trophy (NZ's Top Young Driver)
- 2007 | Elite Motorsport Academy Graduate

2019	NZ North Island Endurance Series	Hyundai V8ST	Winner
2019	Blancpain GT Series Asia	Porsche 991	1x podium (competed in one round)
2018	Blancpain GT Series Asia	Ferrari 488	2x wins, 4x podiums
2018	Thailand Super Series	Lambo FL2	2nd overall, 2x pole, 3x win, 4x podium, 3x FL
2018	Suzuka 10 Hours (Pro-Am)	Porsche GT3-R	
2017	SUPER GT	Porsche GT3-R	1x podium
2016	China GT	Porsche 991	1x win, 2x podiums
2016	Asian Le Mans Series	McLaren 650S	1x FL
2016	GT Asia Series	Porsche GT3-R	1x podium
2016	Lamborghini Super Trofeo Asia	Huracan ST	4x pole, 1x win, 9x podium, 2x FL
2015	Australian GT	Ferrari 458	5x pole, 5x podiums, 2x FL, 2x LR
2015	NZ Endurance Championship	Ferrari F430	1x pole, 1x podium
2015	Bathurst 12 Hour (Pro-Am)	Ferrari 458	
2014	NZ Endurance Series	Ferrari F430	1x win, 1x podium
2013	Super Taikyu Japan	SLS AMG GT3	2x pole, 1x win, 3x podium, 2x FL, 1x LR
2013	Sepang 12 Hour (Pro)	SLS AMG GT3	
2013	NZ Endurance Championship	Porsche 997	Champion , 2x pole, 2x win, 2x FL
2012	Super Taikyu Japan	SLS AMG GT3	3x pole, 1x win, 4x podium, 1x FL, 1x LR
2012	NZ Endurance Championship	Porsche 997	2x pole, 1x win, 1x podium, 3x FL
2012	V8 SuperTourers	Ford Falcon FG	2x podiums
2012	Toyota Racing Series	Tatuus	1x podium, 6th New Zealand Grand Prix
2011	World Time Attack Challenge	Evo VIII	Team NZ (4x NZ Champion 2008-2011)
2010	Porsche Junior Scholarship		
2010	Porsche Supercup (Guest Car)	Porsche 997	
2009	Porsche Factory Test Driver	Porsche 997	Bahrain, MY2008 Development
2009	Porsche GT3 Cup New Zealand	Porsche 997	1x win, 5x podiums
2009	NZ Porsche Carrera Cup Trophy	Porsche 997	Champion , 2x, podiums
2009	NZ Porsche Endurance Trophy	Porsche 997	Champion , 1x pole, 2x win, 3x podium, 1x FL
2008	NZ Sportscar Championship	Juno SS-V CN	Champion , 1x pole, 2x wins, 3x FL
2008	Porsche GT3 Cup New Zealand	Porsche 997	1x pole, 1x win, 7x podiums, 2x FL
2007	Porsche GT3 Cup New Zealand	Porsche 996	1x win (World's Youngest) , 2x podiums
2007	Steel Trophy (NZ's Top Young Driver Under 21)		Winner
2007	Elite Motorsport Academy	Graduate	2nd overall
2006	Formula Challenge	F. Challenge	3x win, 5x podium, 1x FL Academy
2005	Formula Challenge	F. Challenge	Champion , 4x pole, 4x win, 6x podium, 4x FL
2004	NZ Formula Vee Championship	Formula Vee	9x podiums
2003	NZ Formula Vee Championship	Formula Vee	1x pole, 7x podiums

DRIVING INSTRUCTOR CV

EXPERIENCE

16 years (since age 14)

Jono began instructing and coaching drivers in race/road car situations from the age of 14, at his father's motorsport driving school at the Manfeild circuit.

Since then he has gained experience in one-on-one and group instruction for manufacturers including AMG-Mercedes, BMW and Mazda in road car, race car and ice/snow conditions.

Jono has also become a Master Instructor at the National Advanced Driving School in early 2020, working with corporate groups on defensive & safe driving techniques on the open road to reduce insurance premiums and follow modern day health & safety measures imposed by the New Zealand government.

More recently, Jono has begun mentoring a handful of up-and-coming New Zealand racing stars, helping them navigate the tricky landscape on their road to a career as a Pro Racing Driver, including on-track coaching, data analysis, fitness & nutrition advice & career management.





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