



RACING CV & RESUME



FOREWORD: CHRIS AMON M.B.E.

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 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 more than 50 years.

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

Richard 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 in Porsche Supercup and the FIA World Endurance Championship.



PERSONAL BIO

FIA RATING

Silver

FULL NAME

Jonathan Robert Lester

KNOWN AS

Jono

D.O.B.

8th December, 1989 (age 31)

BORN IN

Palmerston North, New Zealand

MEASUREMENTS 177cm/73kg

INTERESTS

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

RACE PEDIGREE

Circuit racing since age 12 - for 17 years and counting. Has competed in GT/GT3 since 2006.

WORLDWIDE

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

AMBASSADOR

SPCA NZ, Gulf Oil, CRC Lubricants, AA New Zealand, Sony Electronics





CAREER GALLERY



RACING CV

RACES

292

WINS

34

PODIUMS

101

POLES

35

FASTEST LAPS LAP RECORDS

35

5

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2021 | Test Driver for Ford Performance
- 2018 | Outright Lap Record - Bangsaen GP
- 2018 | Blancpain GT Asia (6 starts, 2 wins, 3 podiums)
- 2017 | SUPER GT podium on debut (Gulf Racing)
- 2016 | 2nd overall - 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

2020	NZ Endurance Series	Audi V8/TA1 Mustang	2nd overall w/ many poles, wins, podiums, FLs
2019	NZ Endurance Series	Hyundai V8ST	Winner
2019	Blancpain GT Series Asia	Porsche 991 GT3-R	1x podium (competed in one round)
2018	Blancpain GT Series Asia	Ferrari 488 GT3	2x wins, 3x podiums (6 races)
2018	Thailand Super Series	Lamborghini Gallardo FL2	2nd overall, 2x pole, 3x win, 4x podium, 3x FL
2018	Suzuka 10 Hours	Porsche 991 GT3-R	
2017	SUPER GT	Porsche 991 GT3-R	1x podium
2016	China GT	Porsche 991 GT3 Cup	1x win, 2x podiums
2016	Asian Le Mans Series	McLaren 650S	1x FL
2016	GT Asia Series	Porsche GT3-R	1x podium
2016	Lambo Super Trofeo Asia	Huracan ST	2nd overall, 4x pole, 1x win, 9x podium, 2x FL
2015	Australian GT	Ferrari 458 GT3	5x pole, 5x podiums, 2x FL, 2x LR
2015	NZ Endurance Series	Ferrari F430	1x pole, 1x podium
2015	Bathurst 12 Hour	Ferrari 458 GT3	
2014	NZ Endurance Series	Ferrari F430	1x win, 1x podium
2013	Super Taikyu Japan	Mercedes SLS AMG GT3	2nd overall, 2x pole, 1x win, 3x podium, 2x FL
2013	Sepang 12 Hour (Pro)	Mercedes SLS AMG GT3	Pole position
2013	NZ Endurance Series	Porsche 997 GT3 Cup	Champion , 2x pole, 2x win, 2x FL
2012	Super Taikyu Japan	Mercedes SLS AMG GT3	2nd overall, 3x pole, 1x win, 4x podium, 1x FL
2012	NZ Endurance Series	Porsche 997 GT3 Cup	2x pole, 1x win, 1x podium, 3x FL
2012	V8 SuperTourers	Ford Falcon FG	2x podiums
2012	Toyota Racing Series	Tatuus (Formula Renault)	1x podium, 6th New Zealand Grand Prix
2011	World Time Attack	Mitsubishi Evo VIII	Team NZ (4x NZ Champion 2008-2011)
2010	Porsche Junior Scholarship		Factory Junior Scholarship recipient
2010	Porsche Supercup	Porsche 997 GT3 Cup	Guest Car at Monza F1 GP (P13/34)
2009	Porsche Test Driver	Porsche 997 GT3 Cup	Factory Test Driver (Bahrain MY2008 Development)
2009	Porsche GT3 Cup NZ	Porsche 997 GT3 Cup	1x win, 5x podiums
2009	NZ Porsche Cup Trophy	Porsche 997 GT3 Cup	Champion , 2x, podiums
2009	NZ Porsche Endurance Cup	Porsche 997 GT3 Cup	Champion , 1x pole, 2x win, 3x podium, 1x FL
2008	NZ Sportscar Series	Juno SS-V CN Prototype	Champion , 1x pole, 2x wins, 3x FL
2008	Porsche GT3 Cup NZ	Porsche 997 GT3 Cup	1x pole, 1x win, 7x podiums, 2x FL
2007	Porsche GT3 Cup NZ	Porsche 996 GT3 Cup	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 Series	Formula Vee	9x podiums
2003	NZ Formula Vee Series	Formula Vee	1x pole, 7x podiums

RACING IN THE COVID-19 ERA

With COVID-19 hitting the motorsport world hard, Jono has been forcibly domiciled in his native New Zealand since the end of the 2019 season.

With strict border restrictions in force throughout the Asian region, coupled with New Zealand's equally strict re-entry rules for NZ citizens, Jono has been unable to take up contract offers to race in Japan's SUPER GT Series (Aston Martin, GT World Challenge Asia (Porsche) and the Thailand Super Series (Lamborghini and Ford) during both the 2020 and 2021 season.

Having been forced to adapt to the COVID-19 landscape for the meantime, Jono has thrown his focus behind events in the local New Zealand Endurance Racing scene competing with both the factory backed Ford Performance team (driving TA2/TA1 spec Ford Mustang and Dodge Challenger) and the world's first and only Audi-badged V8 Supercar with pioneering Kiwi team, DFM Racing.

Both opportunities have allowed Jono to keep race fit and enjoy racing close to home with numerous successes from poles to race wins, podiums and fastest laps around the country.





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