



Motorsport CV



## 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



**2023 FIA Rating:**

**Silver**

**Full name:**

Jonathan Robert Lester

**Known as:**

Jono

**Date of birth:**

8th December 1989 (32)

**Born in:**

Palmerston North, New Zealand

**Measurements:**

177cm, 71kg

**Interests:**

Ultramarathon running, animal welfare, environmentalism, plant-based lifestyle

**Racing Pedigree:**

Started circuit racing at age 12  
2023 will be Jono's 20th year of driving GT/GT3 racing since 2006  
Other experience in V8, TCR, prototype

**Worldwide:**

Japan, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan  
Hungary, Italy, UAE, Australia, New Zealand

**Ambassador:**

New Zealand Automobile Association, Sony, Gulf Oil, CRC, SPCA New Zealand 🐾







## Career CV & Achievements

303

Races

39

Wins

109

Podiums

40

Poles

43

F. Laps

6

Records

3

Titles

- 2021** Ford Performance Racing Test Driver
- 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** Outright GT3 Lap Record - Fuji Speedway
- 2016** 2nd overall - Lamborghini Super Trofeo Asia
- 2015** Australian GT Pole Position Record (5 of 7)
- 2013** New Zealand Endurance Champion
- 2013** 2nd overall - Super Taikyu Series
- 2012** 2nd overall - Super Taikyu Series
- 2010** Porsche Junior Scholarship recipient
- 2007** World's Youngest Porsche Carrera Cup Winner
- 2007** Steel Trophy (NZ's Top Young Driver)
- 2007** Elite Motorsport Academy Graduate
- 2006** World's Youngest Porsche Carrera Cup driver

### Series:

GT World Challenge Asia 🏆🥈🥉  
SUPER GT 🥈  
Thailand Super Series 🏆🥈🥉🥇  
China GT 🏆🥈🥉  
Asian Le Mans Series 🥇  
GT Asia Series 🥈  
Super Taikyu 🏆🥈🥉🥇  
Super Trofeo Asia 🏆🥈🥉🥇  
Australian GT 🏆🥈🥉🥇  
Intercontinental GT Challenge  
Porsche Mobil 1 Supercup  
V8 SuperTourers 🥈  
Toyota Racing Series 🥈  
Porsche Carrera Cup (Aus & NZ) 🏆🥈🥉🥇  
NZ Endurance Championship 🏆🥈🥉🥇

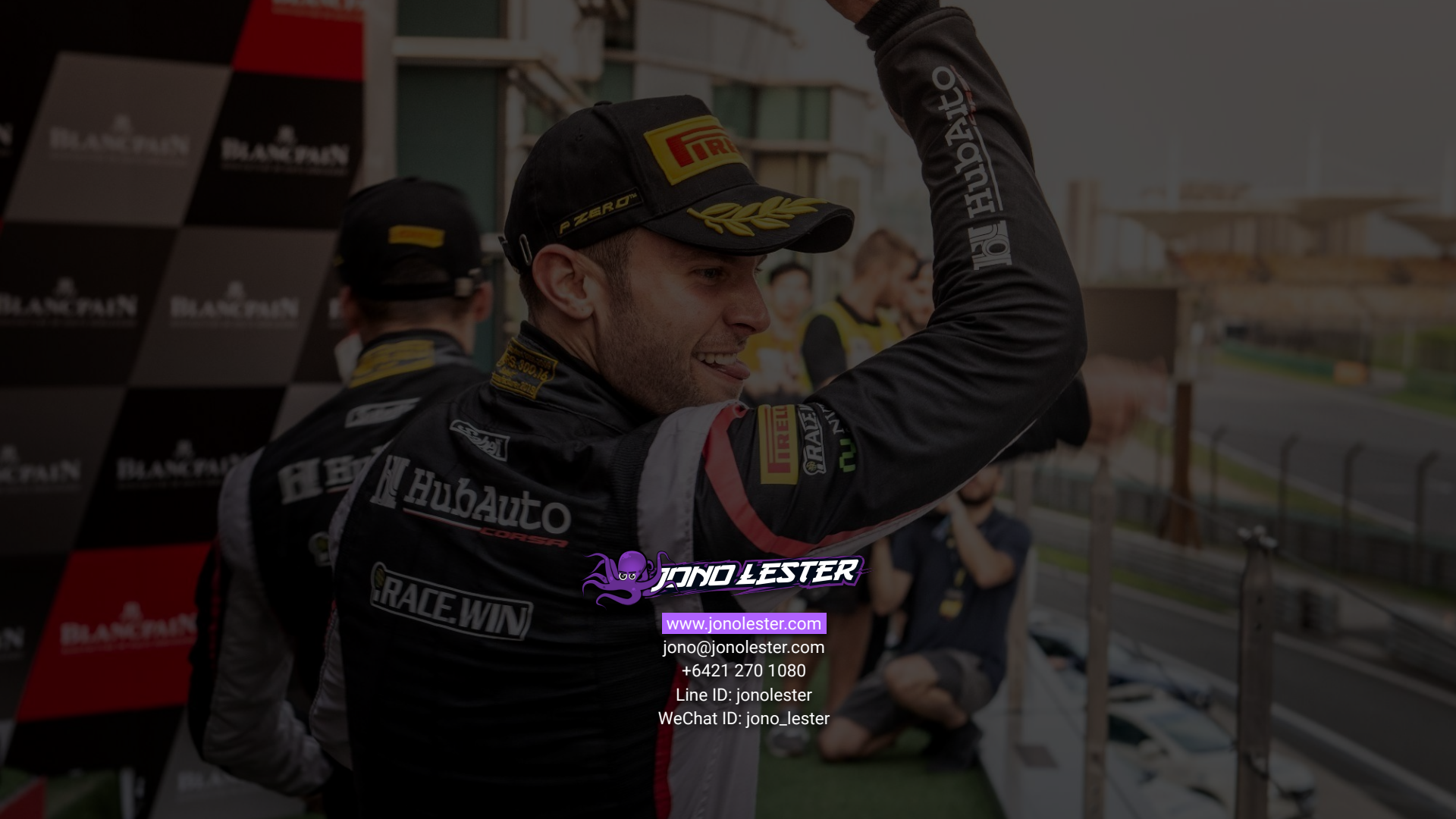
### Teams:

**Porsche Motorsport AG**  
Lechner Racing  
Absolute Racing  
Gulf Racing Japan  
GruppeM  
HubAuto Racing  
OD Racing  
D'station Racing  
PETRONAS Syntium Team  
Giltrap Motorsport (IMS)  
McElrea Racing









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