

# BMW JUNIOR TEAM.

## BMW MOTORSPORT MEDIA GUIDE.



**BMW  
GROUP**

THE NEXT  
100 YEARS 



Rolls-Royce  
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# BMW JUNIOR TEAM.

## THE IDEA.



2020 will see BMW Motorsport revive the idea of the BMW Junior Team that originated more than 40 years ago. In 1977, the head of BMW Motorsport GmbH at that time, Jochen Neerpasch, founded the first team under that name and with it made junior development a professional undertaking for the first time. Eddie Cheever, Manfred Winkelhock and Marc Surer caused a stir in the world of motorsport.

2020 will see a new generation of promising talents contest races under the name BMW Junior Team. Dan Harper, Max Hesse and

Neil Verhagen will complete a holistic, first-class, intensive training programme designed to span two seasons that will set new standards in the promotion of young talented drivers.

The objective of the totally restructured training programme is to further develop the Juniors jointly in many different areas, stimulate them individually and holistically, and thereby make them better and above all more mature racing drivers.

The focus is on a comprehensive race training programme at the

Nürburgring-Nordschleife, fitness and mental training camps at Formula Medicine over several months as well as team building through the Juniors living together in shared accommodation.

They will receive support from mentors, who will give them advice, train them and help them settle into the environment of a major company such as BMW. One of these mentors is Jochen Neerpasch, for whom this brings things full circle after more than 40 years.

# BMW JUNIOR TEAM.

## PILLARS OF TRAINING.



### RACING.

- The main focus of the Juniors training will be the Nürburgring-Nordschleife.
- The BMW Junior Team will compete in the 24h Nürburgring and the entire season of the Nürburgring endurance series.
- They will race in various BMW racing cars: the BMW M2 CS Racing, the BMW M4 GT4 and the BMW M6 GT3.



### SIM RACING.

- Sim racing will be a key part of the training.
- The Juniors will have their own simulators for training purposes and will take part in sim racing events on a regular basis.



### FORMULA MEDICINE.

- Several training camps for physical and mental fitness.
- Each of the training camps will last several weeks.



### HOLISTIC TRAINING.

- Training content away from racing in the environment of BMW Motorsport, BMW M GmbH and the BMW Group.
- Media and social media coaching



### TEAMBUILDING.

- The Juniors will live in a shared flat both at the Nürburgring and at the Formula Medicine training camp.

# BMW JUNIOR TEAM.

## JUNIORS.



**DAN HARPER.**

Great Britain (GBR)

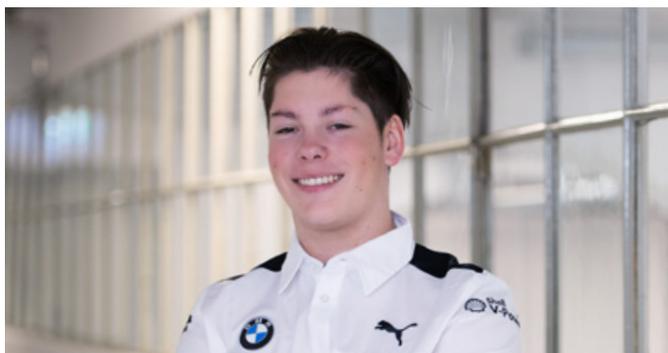
**Date of birth:** 8<sup>th</sup> December 2000

**Place of birth:** Belfast (GBR)

**Career:**

2019 1<sup>st</sup> place British Carrera Cup  
BRDC John Surtees Rising Stars Award  
2018 'Rookie of the Year' British Carrera Cup

"I feel honoured to be allowed to be part of this exciting programme and am really looking forward to the next two years. I hope to be able to build on the successful period that I have enjoyed in recent years. The fact that Neil, Max and I will be working together as a team is not standard for us as racing drivers, but we have already got to know each other and get on really well. I think that we will have a lot of fun and will hopefully be a very strong BMW Junior Team."



**MAX HESSE.**

Germany (GER)

**Date of birth:** 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2001

**Place of birth:** Wernau (GER)

**Career:**

2019 1<sup>st</sup> place TCR Germany  
ADAC sponsored candidate  
2018 'Rookie of the Year' TCR Germany

"I think we will have a really cool time together. Since there are three of us, we can push each other and learn from each other. I think that's great. To be able to represent the colours of a major manufacturer like BMW in the process and drive all these fantastic racing cars on the Nordschleife will be totally amazing. I'm really looking forward to it."



**NEIL VERHAGEN.**

United States of America (USA)

**Date of birth:** 18<sup>th</sup> February 2001

**Place of birth:** Mt. Kisco (USA)

**Career:**

2019 6<sup>th</sup> place British Formula 3 Championship  
2017 Red Bull Junior Team  
2016 1<sup>st</sup> place F1600 Championship Series

"It will be the first time that I have driven GT and touring cars. It's going to be a really exciting challenge for me. I'm sure that I will learn a great deal in the team with Dan and Max. I'm looking forward to the Nordschleife in particular, because I've only been in action there as a co-driver so far. The track has so much prestige and history – I would really love to be able to say that I have driven on it myself and maybe after my training even say that I do well on that track. I'm also really looking forward to the sim racing as I'm already active in that area."

# BMW JUNIOR TEAM.

## MENTORS.



**JENS MARQUARDT.**

BMW Group Motorsport Director

Will head up the BMW Junior Team in his function as chief.

“With the new BMW Junior Team, tradition and future meet in what is a perfect configuration from our perspective. Our new concept is based on multiple pillars: racing at the Nürburgring-Nordschleife, sim racing as a new, future-oriented area, mental and fitness training at Formula Medicine, training content within the BMW Group, as well as team building through living together in shared accommodation.”



**JOCHEN NEERPASCH.**

Founder of BMW Junior Team in 1977  
Founder of BMW Motorsport GmbH

Not only builds a bridge between tradition and the present, but also provides valuable ideas for the programme strategy thanks to his wealth of experience.

“I know from experience that young drivers learn a lot more quickly when they act as a team rather than just battling for themselves. It was on this basis that, in collaboration with those in charge at BMW Motorsport, the idea of reviving the BMW Junior Team came into being.”



**DIRK ADORF.**

BMW works driver  
BMW Juniors mentor since 2011

Direct contact person for the Juniors and, thanks to his wealth of experience at the Nordschleife, provides valuable, practical tips for the races.

“I am very familiar with the Nürburgring and am always available there for the Juniors as a primary advisor. With my track knowledge, but also with my knowledge of the region.”



**RICCARDO CECCARELLI.**

Founder of Formula Medicine

As head of Formula Medicine, along with this team, develops detailed plans for the intensive fitness and mental training programme.

“Fitness and mental training are steadily growing in importance in motorsport. We have already been working with BMW Motorsport drivers for several years in this direction, but to have the new Junior team at Formula Medicine for such a long time adds another new dimension to our approach.”



**PHILIPP ENG.**

BMW works driver

Took the path from BMW Junior to successful BMW works driver himself and can offer advice to the new juniors from his own experience.

“The journey from a Junior to a works driver can be a hard battle at times. I experienced the challenges that you need to master to make it to the top. I'm delighted to pass on these experiences to the next generation.”

# BMW JUNIOR TEAM.

## PIONEERS IN THE PROMOTION OF YOUNG DRIVERS.



Four decades ago, in 1977, initiated by the managing director Jochen Neerpasch, BMW Motorsport GmbH founded the BMW Junior Team. It was the first time in German car racing that a works team introduced a team entirely consisting of juniors. The first generation of BMW Juniors in 1977 were Marc Surer, Manfred Winkelhock and Eddie Cheever. With their race car, a BMW 320i modified for group 5, they contested the German Racing Championship to prepare the BMW Junior Team for entering the one-make world championship in the future.

„The BMW Junior Team was a novelty back then,“ said Neerpasch. „Never before had a manufacturer so consistently backed the comprehensive and extensive support of young racing drivers. We were pioneers and no doubt took a certain risk back then. I can still remember 1977 well, and the hype that our young guns created. But we had good instincts since all three of them made it into Formula 1. Looking back, I am very proud of the BMW junior promotion that we brought about back then. After all, it has produced many fantastic, successful racing drivers since then.“

Cheever, Surer and Winkelhock were as infamous for their immense talent as they were for their aggressive driving style. The fans loved them, their rivals ranted about them. „We were wild dogs on the race track back then, but BMW trusted us anyway, and, despite some criticism, allowed us to gain valuable race experience,“ said Surer. „For me and my colleagues, the BMW Junior Team was the crucial stepping stone on the way to Formula 1.“

# BMW JUNIOR TEAM.

## FROM BMW TALENT TO THE TOP LEAGUES OF MOTORSPORT.

### 1977 - THE FIRST GENERATION.

#### Eddie Cheever (USA).

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- Driver in F1 world championship 1978-1989, 9 podium positions
- Win at Indy 500 in 1998

#### Marc Surer (SUI).

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- Driver in F1 world championship 1979-1986
- Formula 2 European champion 1979
- Overall win at 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps in 1985

#### Manfred Winkelhock (GER).

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- Driver in F1 world championship 1982-1985
- 6<sup>th</sup> place at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1979

### FROM THE BMW MOTORSPORT TALENT PROMOTION TO FORMULA 1.

#### Timo Glock (GER).

1<sup>st</sup> place 2001 BMW ADAC Formula Junior Cup

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- Driver in F1 world championship in 2004 and 2008-2012, 3 podium positions
- 2007 GP2 champion
- DTM with BMW Motorsport since 2013, 5 wins\*

#### Nico Rosberg (GER).

1<sup>st</sup> place 2002 Formula BMW ADAC Championship

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- Formula 1 world champion in 2016, 23 wins

#### Sebastian Vettel (GER).

1<sup>st</sup> place 2004 Formula BMW ADAC Championship

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- Formula 1 world champion in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, 53 wins\*

#### Nico Hülkenberg (GER).

1<sup>st</sup> place 2005 Formula BMW ADAC Championship

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- Driver in F1 world championship since 2010
- Overall winner at 24 Hours of Le Mans in 2015
- Driver in Formula 1 World Championship 2010-2019

#### Daniel Ricciardo (AUS).

3<sup>rd</sup> place 2006 Formula BMW Asia

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> place 2014 F1 world championship, 7 wins\*

### FROM BMW JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT TO BMW WORKS DRIVER.

#### Martin Tomczyk (GER).

1<sup>st</sup> place in the 1999 Portuguese Formula BMW championship

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- DTM champion in 2011

#### Marco Wittmann (GER).

2<sup>nd</sup> place 2008 Formula BMW Europe

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- 2014 and 2016 DTM champion with BMW Motorsport, 15 wins\*

#### Philipp Eng (AUT).

1<sup>st</sup> place Formula BMW World Final in 2007

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- Winner of 24h Spa-Francorchamps in 2016 and 2018
- Winner of GTLM class at 24h Daytona in 2019
- DTM with BMW Motorsport since 2018, 1 win

#### Maximilian Günther (GER).

2<sup>nd</sup> place Formula BMW Talent Cup in 2011

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- Formula E for BMW i Andretti Motorsport since 2019
- 1<sup>st</sup> place Formula 3 Grand Prix de Pau in 2017

#### Jesse Krohn (FIN).

BMW Motorsport Junior of the Year 2014

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place GT class Asian Le Mans Series in 2018
- 1<sup>st</sup> place GTLM class IMSA series, Road America in 2018

#### Mikkel Jensen (DEN).

BMW Motorsport Junior 2017-2018

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- BMW works driver in 2019
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place 9h Kyalami in 2019

#### Joel Eriksson (SWE).

BMW Motorsport Junior 2016-2017

##### Greatest successes in motorsport:

- DTM with BMW Motorsport 2018-2019, 1 win
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix in 2018

\*As at: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020



# BMW JUNIOR TEAM.

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