

Who will be the next Lewis Hamilton?

Following in the footsteps of seven-time World Champion Lewis Hamilton, the next generation of young British drivers are rising through the ranks.

After an almost two-decade-long Formula One career, Hamilton is preparing to pass the mantle to upcoming talent in motorsport. Prospects such as Callum Voisin and John Bennett who are among members of the British Racing Drivers' Club's (BRDC) Rising Stars and SuperStars development programmes.

Rising Stars introduces promising young drivers to the club, while the SuperStars is a more selective process where drivers are required to meet criteria based on performance and results.



Callum, a 19-year-old Formula 3 driver and BRDC SuperStar, who is preparing for a title charge in the championship this season, said: "One of the main benefits of this club is that you get to piggyback off of so many successful drivers."

He added: "Knowing you can just pick up the phone and ask anything that you would like or need advice with is great."

Image taken by James Gasperotti Photography

Andy Meyrick, the director of the BRDC SuperStars programme, founded in 2008 when Damon Hill was Club President, oversees the development of over a dozen talented young British drivers.

The 39-year-old understands the feelings of the drivers, as he was a SuperStar himself between 2009 and 2011, competing in the Le Mans Series, while coming fourth in the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 2010.

When asked about Callum, he said: "If he continues on the trajectory he's looking at, then F2 should be on the horizon."

Callum joined Rodin Motorsport in 2024, after winning the GB3 championship, a single-seater competition partnered with the BRDC, in 2023.

He beat Alex Dunne, who is now competing in Formula 2 in the other Rodin Motorsport team. Callum said he has “no issue” with the move and would “welcome him very much as a teammate for next year”, but has his eyes fixed on winning this year’s championship.

“The ultimate goal for next year is to be in Formula 2, also to join an F1 Academy,” said Callum. “There are ongoing discussions every day that happen. For the moment, I’m solely focused on performing well and winning in Formula 3.”

The British-Swiss driver is preparing for a triple header in Europe, starting this weekend in Emilia Romagna, Imola. After an impressive performance in Sakhir, Callum propelled himself to third in the Formula 3 Championship.

Following a collision with Nikola Tsolov this year in Melbourne, he recovered at the Bahrain International Circuit in April, finishing second in the feature race.

During the break between Bahrain and Imola, he said: “Sometimes it’s nice to get your mind away from racing for a little bit, just to almost be a normal kid.”

He added: “It’s just keeping focus, making sure you’re eating well, sleeping well, training well, you’re focusing and working on all the notes that we made in Bahrain.”

Sebastian Priaulx (centre), is a BRDC SuperStar racing for Ford Multimatic Motorsports in the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship. He has advised Callum: “Keep working hard, and if you have the money to get there and you’re at the right team, that’s the best thing you need.”

In January, alongside Mike Rockenfeller and Austin Cindric, Sebastian came third in the GTD Pro classification at the 24 Hours at Daytona.



Image courtesy of Ford Multimatic Motorsports

The 24-year-old from Guernsey has followed in the footsteps of his father, Andy, a triple FIA World Touring Car Champion, and his grandfather, Graham, to become a third-generation motorsporting talent in the Priaulx family.

He said his father has “done a lot, and I’ve learned a lot from him, but he’s fully given the baton to me now, and it’s my time to do what I can do”.

He also praised the BRDC, saying: “Having that sort of support, it's the British Racing Drivers Club, it's a very big club to be a part of.”

In 2019, he moved the British GT Championship due to the “ridiculous” amount of money needed for Formula 3. “As a family, we didn't have enough,” said Priaulx. “You need a lot of backing, a lot of sponsorship.”

Luke Evans, Club Operations Executive at the BRDC, who administers the Rising Stars programme, said: “There isn't any financial support that the club can give because of the commercial pressures on the business,” as financial pressures have been the biggest obstacle to drivers' participation in junior formulas.

However, young driver patrons, such as A.C. Entertainment Technologies, Tysers Insurance Brokers & Reinsurance Brokers, and Sloane Helicopters, provide financial support to the SuperStars programme in return for hospitality benefits.

Through their financial commitment, money can be spent on delivering support to drivers by funding simulator work, marketing, media training, fitness and nutritional advice.

John Bennett, a BRDC Rising Star competing in FIA Formula 2, is rising through the ranks of junior formulas.

The 21-year-old Brit skipped Formula 3 from GB3, where he finished second in the championship behind Callum's current teammate, Louis Sharp. He competes for Van Amersfoort Racing, replacing Enzo Fittipaldi after Baku last year.



Image taken by James Gasperotti Photography

He said: “I was relatively unknown going into Formula 2, I hadn't followed the usual path that drivers take to get to F2, so there were no expectations of me.”

Bennett said the BRDC “helped me talk to F3 and F2 teams at the [British] Grand Prix because they can give you exclusive access”, adding, “you can talk to some influential figures by being a member of the club, which will certainly help with opportunities.”

Founder of the BRDC, Dr. Joseph Dudley Benjafield's legacy has extended into modern history, with new, upcoming British talent rising through the junior formulas.

The BRDC young driver programmes give rising talent the opportunity of careers not just in single-seat championships, but in a wider motorsport landscape.

With these programmes fuelling the tanks for the future, fans can look forward to a new era of racing heroes, ready to carry the legacy of F1 into uncharted territory.