



STAR DRIVER

Name: Jon Williams
Date of birth: 24.11.1982
Nationality: South African
Started rallying: 2003
Co-driver: George Gwynn

On circuits he started...

Like many of his fellow rally drivers, Jon's motorsport career began on the circuits of his native South Africa. He competed in both karts and production car formulae, before switching to rallying. Co-driven by his father, Jon's first season in the sport, 2003, brought him second in class on the Klipdale Regional Rally Championship, where he drove a Toyota Conquest.

Turning national

A year later and Jon understood the necessity to make his name on the national rally stage with a 1600cc, front-wheel-drive Group N Toyota. With that in mind, he entered the highly competitive 2004 South African Rally Championship for his first full domestic campaign. He began the season in fine form, posting a second place on the Tour Natal Rally. Building from those solid foundations, he collected two wins – on the Volkswagen Rally and Subaru Cape Rally – and ended the year second in class. From the seven rallies he started, he only failed to finish in the top two on the final round, where he retired from the Tzaneen Rally.

Moving on up

For 2005, Jon returned to the South African Rally Championship with a more powerful, 2000cc, but still front-wheel-drive, Group N Toyota. He finished third in class on the nation-wide series, but won the Western Province Rally Championship. In 2005, he upped his number of class wins from two to three.

Stepping outside of the Group N regulations for 2006, Jon tackled the South African Rally Championship in a Group A (more modified) Volkswagen Polo. The change of car delivered the

same result as the previous season: he finished third in class, completing his third class podium at a national level in succession.

The 2007 season was the year when he stepped-up to four-wheel-drive rallying. He drove an official Volkswagen South Africa Polo Super 2000 car and finished fourth overall in the South African Rally Championship, against a fierce field of competitive machinery. Jon's finest hour came on the final round of the series in Gauteng, where he was leading with just a handful of stages to run. He slipped back but still collected third spot at the finish.

In 2008, Jon widened his horizons and competed across Africa, taking three straight wins in the FIA African Championship qualification process for Pirelli Star Driver. He belied his lack of Africa-wide rally experience to finish fourth overall on the first qualification event, the Pearl of Africa Uganda Rally; third on the Zimbabwe Challenge Rally and sixth on the Zambia International Rally.

Away from the stages

Jon works as a manager of a finishing company in the printing industry and still lives in Cape Town, where he was born and brought up. When he's not competing at the highest level of rallying, courtesy of the Pirelli Star Driver programme, Jon is constantly on the go in one sporting arena or another.

It's all about the adrenaline for Jon, who's big into downhill mountain biking and quad-biking. Being from Cape Town, he spends a fair amount of his time on the water, too. Jet-skiing and wakeboarding are his favourites. On the odd occasion that he wants to escape the flat-out lifestyle, he plays golf.

Career highlights

2008 won the FIA African Rally Championship Pirelli Star Driver place

2005 Western Province Regional Rally Champion

2004 Second in class in the South African National Rally Championship