

= Jules Bianchi =

Jules Lucien André Bianchi (3 August 1989 ? 17 July 2015) was a French motor racing driver who drove for the Marussia F1 Team in the FIA Formula One World Championship .

Bianchi had previously raced in Formula Renault 3 @.@ 5 , GP2 and Formula Three and was a Ferrari Driver Academy member . He entered Formula One as a practice driver in 2012 for Sahara Force India . In 2013 , he made his debut driving for Marussia , finishing 15th in his opening race in Australia and ended the season in 19th position without scoring any points . His best result that year was 13th at the Malaysian Grand Prix . In October 2013 , the team confirmed that he would drive for the team the following season . In the 2014 season , he scored both his and the Marussia 's first points in Formula One at the Monaco Grand Prix .

On 5 October 2014 , during the Japanese Grand Prix , Bianchi lost control of his Marussia in very wet conditions and collided with a recovery vehicle , suffering a diffuse axonal injury . He underwent emergency surgery and was placed into an induced coma , and remained comatose until his death on 17 July 2015 . Bianchi is the first Formula One driver killed as a result of an accident during a race event since Ayrton Senna at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix .

= = Personal life = =

Jules Bianchi was born in Nice , France , to Philippe and Christine Bianchi . He had two siblings , brother Tom and sister Mélanie , and had been in a long @-@ term relationship with French girlfriend , Camille Marchetti . In later times , media reports also referred to a German girlfriend , Gina , who had moved to Nice .

Bianchi was the grandson of Mauro Bianchi , who competed in GT racing during the 1960s and three non @-@ championship Formula One Grands Prix in 1961 . He was also the grandnephew of Lucien , who competed in 19 Formula One Grands Prix between 1959 and 1968 and won the 1968 24 Hours of Le Mans , before dying during Le Mans testing the following year .

His favourite racing driver was Michael Schumacher .

= = Early career = =

Bianchi 's exposure to motorsport started at around 3 years of age through karting and was facilitated by the fact that his father owned a kart track . Since age 17 , Bianchi was professionally managed by Nicolas Todt .

= = = Formula Renault 2 @.@ 0 = = =

In 2007 , Bianchi left karting and raced in French Formula Renault 2 @.@ 0 for SG Formula , where he finished as champion with five wins . He also competed in the Formula Renault Eurocup where he had one pole position and one fastest lap in three races .

= = = Formula 3 Euro = = =

In late 2007 , Bianchi signed with ART Grand Prix to compete in the Formula 3 Euro Series .

In 2008 Bianchi won the Masters of Formula 3 at Zolder , and also finished third in the 2008 Formula 3 Euro Series season .

Bianchi continued in the F3 Euroseries in 2009 , leading ART 's line @-@ up along with rookie team @-@ mates Valtteri Bottas , Esteban Gutiérrez and Adrien Tambay . With eight wins , Bianchi sealed the title with a round to spare , at Dijon @-@ Prenois . He then added a ninth win at the final round at Hockenheim . He also drove in the Formula Renault 3 @.@ 5 Series at Monaco , after SG Formula acquired the cars formerly run by Kurt Mollekens .

= = = GP2 = = =

Bianchi drove for ART in the subsequent GP2 Asia season and the 2010 GP2 season . He competed in three of the four rounds of the GP2 Asia championship . In the main series , Bianchi took two pole positions and a number of points positions before he was injured in a first @-@ lap crash at the Hungaroring . In the feature race , he spun into the path of the field exiting the first corner , and was struck head @-@ on by Ho @-@ Pin Tung , sustaining a fractured second lumbar vertebra in the process . Bianchi was fourth in the drivers ' championship at the time of his injury . Despite initial pessimistic assessments of the severity of his injury , he recovered to take part in the next round of the championship .

Bianchi remained with ART for 2011 , and was partnered by 2010 GP3 Series champion Esteban Gutiérrez . He starred in the first two rounds of the 2011 GP2 Asia Series , holding off Romain Grosjean for victory in the feature race and gaining fourth in the sprint race , but he was later penalised . He finished runner @-@ up to Grosjean in the drivers ' championship . In the main series , Bianchi finished third in the championship , behind Grosjean and Luca Filippi .

== Formula Renault 3 @.@ 5 ==

Bianchi opted to switch to the Formula Renault 3 @.@ 5 Series for 2012 , following his one @-@ off appearance in the category in 2009 . He signed for the Tech 1 Racing team , and was partnered with Kevin Korjus , and later with Daniel Abt . He finished second in the title race , narrowly losing out to Robin Frijns at the final round .

== Formula One career ==

== Ferrari and Sahara Force India (test roles) ==

In August 2009 , Bianchi was linked by the BBC and various other media sources to the second Ferrari Formula One seat occupied by Luca Badoer during Felipe Massa 's absence . Bianchi tested for Ferrari at the young drivers test at Circuito de Jerez for two of the three days , over 1 ? 2 December 2009 . The other drivers tested on 3 December included Daniel Zampieri , Marco Zipoli and Pablo Sánchez López as the top three finishers in the 2009 Italian Formula Three Championship . Bianchi 's performance in this test led to him becoming the first recruit of the Ferrari Driver Academy and signing up to a long @-@ term deal to remain at the team 's disposal .

On 11 November 2010 he was confirmed by Ferrari as the team 's test and reserve driver for the 2011 season , replacing Luca Badoer , Giancarlo Fisichella and Marc Gené , as well as confirming he would test for the team during the young driver test in Abu Dhabi over 16 ? 17 November . Bianchi carried on his GP2 racing , as Formula 1 allows test and reserve drivers to race in parallel in other competitions . On 13 September 2011 , Bianchi tested for Ferrari at Fiorano , as part of the Ferrari Driver Academy , with fellow academy member and Sauber F1 driver Sergio Pérez . Bianchi completed 70 laps and recorded a quickest lap time of 1 : 00 @.@ 213 . For the 2012 season , Ferrari loaned him to the Sahara Force India team , for whom he drove in nine Friday free practice sessions over the course of the year as the outfit 's test and reserve driver .

== Marussia F1 ==

=== 2013 ===

On 1 March 2013 , Marussia announced that Bianchi was to replace Luiz Razia as a race driver after Razia 's contract was terminated , due to sponsorship issues . Bianchi qualified 19th for the Australian Grand Prix , out @-@ qualifying team @-@ mate Max Chilton by three @-@ quarters of a second . Bianchi overtook Pastor Maldonado , and Daniel Ricciardo on the first lap and he

eventually finished 15th on his debut . He was 19th on the grid again in Malaysia , 0 @. @ 3 seconds away from Q2 . Bianchi fell behind the Caterhams at the start of the race , but moved up the order after the pit stops , eventually going on to finish 13th , ahead of his teammate , and both Caterhams . As of the Hungarian Grand Prix , Bianchi had beaten his teammate in all qualifying sessions and all races that both of them had finished . In the Japanese Grand Prix he and Charles Pic of Caterham were given ten @-@ place grid penalties for receiving three reprimands over the season , and at the race , his race ended early after a collision with Giedo van der Garde .

= = = = 2014 = = = =

In October 2013 , Marussia confirmed that Bianchi would stay at the team for the following season . After starting off the season with struggles in Australia , in which he was not classified , Bianchi overcame the odds to score his ? and his team 's ? first World Championship points by finishing ninth at the Monaco Grand Prix .

Out of the nine races which Bianchi and Chilton completed without retiring , during the 2014 season , he was the quicker driver in eight of them , establishing his status as the first driver . Chilton retired twice , and Bianchi five times , with three of Bianchi 's retirements being mechanical failures .

Days before his fatal accident , Bianchi declared himself " ready " to step into the Scuderia Ferrari race seat should the team need him amid the looming departure of Fernando Alonso .

= = 2014 Suzuka accident = =

The 2014 Japanese Grand Prix was held on 5 October , under intermittent heavy rainfall caused by the approaching Typhoon Phanfone and in fading daylight .

On lap 43 of the race , Bianchi lost control of his car and veered right towards the run @-@ off area on the outside of the Dunlop Curve (turn seven) of the Suzuka Circuit . He collided with the rear of a tractor crane tending to the removal of Adrian Sutil 's Sauber after Sutil had spun out of control and crashed in the same area a lap before . Spectators ' video footage and photographs of the accident revealed that the left side of Bianchi 's Marussia car was extensively damaged and the roll bar destroyed as it slid under the tractor crane . The impact was such that the tractor crane was partially jolted off the ground causing Sutil 's Sauber , which was suspended in the air by the crane , to fall back to the ground . The race was stopped and Lewis Hamilton was declared the winner .

Bianchi was reported as being unconscious after not responding to either a team radio call or marshals . He was treated at the crash site before being taken by ambulance to the circuit 's medical centre . Since transport by helicopter was not possible due to the specific injuries sustained , Bianchi was further transported by ambulance , for 32 minutes under police escort . The destination was the nearest hospital , Mie Prefectural General Medical Center in Yokkaichi , which was some 15 km (9 @. @ 3 mi) away from the Suzuka circuit . Initial reports by his father , Philippe , to television channel France 3 , were that Bianchi was in critical condition with a head injury and was undergoing an operation to reduce severe bruising to his head . The FIA subsequently said that CT scans showed Bianchi suffered a " severe head injury " in the crash , and that he would be admitted to intensive care following surgery .

Among his first hospital visitors immediately after the Grand Prix were Marussia 's CEO Graeme Lowdon and team principal John Booth (the latter staying by Bianchi 's side even after the inaugural Russian Grand Prix) , as well as Ferrari 's team principal Marco Mattiacci and Formula One driver , Felipe Massa .

On 6 October , Pastor Maldonado and the manager and assistant manager he shared with Bianchi ? namely , Nicolas Todt and Alessandro Alunni Bravi , respectively ? also visited the hospital . Bianchi 's parents arrived later that day and were joined , three days later , by their other children , Mélanie and Tom , as well as Jules ' best friend , Lorenz Leclerc . The family released a statement the next day , expressing appreciation for the outpouring of support from the public and for the presence of professor Gerard Saillant , president of the FIA Medical Commission , and professor Alessandro Frati , neurosurgeon of the Sapienza University of Rome , who travelled to Japan at the

request of Scuderia Ferrari . They also provided a medical update , confirming that the injury suffered was a diffuse axonal injury and that Bianchi was in a critical but stable condition .

Initial media reports in October 2014 ? said to be based on information obtained from Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) documents ? claimed that the speed at the moment of loss of control was recorded at 212 km / h (132 mph) and that the impact generated 92 g0 (900 m / s²) . This data had been sourced from Bianchi 's g @-@ sensors in his earplugs , however , it was understood that these slipped out at a crucial moment .

Subsequent calculations in July 2015 indicated a peak of 254 g0 (2 @,@ 490 m / s²) and data from the FIA 's World Accident Database (WADB) ? which sources information from racing accidents worldwide ? also indicate Bianchi impact occurred 2 @.@ 61 seconds after the loss of control , at a speed of 123 km / h (76 mph) and at an angle of 55 degrees . According to Andy Mellor , Vice President of the FIA Safety Commission , this is the equivalent of dropping a " car 48 meters to the ground without a crumple zone " .

= = = Team and driver reactions = = =

At the inaugural Russian Grand Prix , one week after the accident , Marussia originally registered Alexander Rossi in place of the hospitalised Bianchi , before finally deciding to field only a single car driven by Chilton .

There were several tributes at the race to show support for Bianchi :

Marussia adopted a " # JB17 " livery on the cockpit sides of its MR03 car (which continued to be used in the subsequent year) .

Every driver wore a sticker on his helmet saying " Tous avec Jules # 17 " (" We 're all with Jules # 17 ") , being an idea championed by fellow French driver , Jean @-@ Éric Vergne .

The drivers held a one @-@ minute silence in honour of Bianchi just before the race .

The race winner , Lewis Hamilton , dedicated his win to Bianchi .

The day after the Japanese Grand Prix , then @-@ outgoing Ferrari president , Luca di Montezemolo , disclosed to the media that Bianchi had been poised to become the third Ferrari driver in 2015 in the event that the championship moved to three car teams , as had widely been speculated at the time .

Following the Russian Grand Prix , Marussia 's CEO Graeme Lowdon confirmed that the team would return to a two @-@ car operation for the remainder of the season , however , the team entered administration prior to the next race , the United States Grand Prix . The team 's financial backer , Andrei Cheglakov , later revealed that Bianchi 's crash was a key factor in the Russian 's decision to end his financial support of the team and quit Formula One .

After the 2015 Australian Grand Prix in March , John Booth , now team principal of the newly established Manor Marussia F1 team , paid tribute to Bianchi 's point performance at the 2014 Monaco Grand Prix since the prize money won enabled the team to stay in Formula One . In addition , coinciding with the 2015 Monaco Grand Prix , Manor Marussia continued to show support for Bianchi with special red wristbands inscribed with " Monaco 2014 P8 JB17 " .

= = = FIA reaction and investigation = = =

Following Bianchi 's accident , the FIA began an investigation and also considered appropriate changes to safety procedures , such as those at the Brazilian Grand Prix , where the location of a tractor crane serving the Senna S chicane was altered .

The FIA released its initial findings at a special conference held during the inaugural Russian Grand Prix on the Saturday after the Japanese Grand Prix weekend . Among other things , it was revealed that Bianchi had slowed down at Suzuka 's Turn 7 but without disclosing by what margin or the speed of impact , and that the journey to the hospital by ambulance took only an extra 37 minutes relative to the helicopter , without any adverse effects on Bianchi 's condition .

Further , the FIA confirmed ongoing research into closed cockpits for Formula One cars , the possibility of fitting protective skirting to all recovery vehicles as well as ways to slow down cars in

crash zones more effectively than double yellow flags . With respect to the latter , the FIA moved to quickly consider the introduction of a virtual safety car ? or VSC system ? which was then tested during the season 's final three Grands Prix in the United States , Brazil and Abu Dhabi ? based on a Le Mans racing " slow zone " arrangement that does not neutralise race proceedings as much as safety car periods .

The following week , the FIA reportedly emailed all teams to request that they retain any information related to Bianchi 's Suzuka accident , for exclusive use by an accident panel established by the FIA to investigate Bianchi 's accident .

One week later the FIA announced a review panel to investigate the cause of the accident , which was made up of former drivers and team principals , and published its findings four weeks later . The report found that there was no single cause of Bianchi 's accident . Instead , the contributing factors were found to include track conditions , car speed and the presence of a recovery vehicle on the circuit . The report also made several suggestions to improve safety when recovering stricken vehicles ? which were subsequently introduced for the 2015 season ? before concluding that it would not have been possible to mitigate Bianchi 's injuries through changes to the cockpit design . The report also revealed that the fail @-@ safe for the car 's brake @-@ by @-@ wire system had failed . Despite this , Marussia was not found to be responsible for the accident .

For the 2015 season , on safety grounds , the FIA also implemented measures to alter the start time of certain Grands Prix by requiring that it is not less than four hours before either sunset or dusk , except in the case of official night races .

In July 2015 , Peter Wright , the Chairman of the FIA Safety Commission was quoted as saying that a closed cockpit would not have averted Bianchi 's head injuries , while the Vice President , Andy Mellow , also confirmed that attaching impact protection to recovery vehicles was not a feasible solution .

= = = Medical treatment and updates = = =

The first family update following Bianchi 's emergency surgery was made by his father in the week beginning 13 October 2014 . Bianchi was reported to be in a " desperate " condition , with doctors describing his survival as a miracle . Even so , the father openly stated that he drew hope from Michael Schumacher waking from his coma . Marussia also issued regular updates on Bianchi 's condition while rejecting initial speculation about their role in the accident .

While hospitalised in Yokkaichi , Bianchi remained in a critical but stable condition , and required a medical ventilator . He was taken out of his artificial coma in November 2014 and began breathing unaided , making his relocation to France for admission at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Nice (CHU) , possible . There , Bianchi remained unconscious and in a critical condition but more accessible to his family for their daily vigil . On 13 July 2015 , Bianchi 's father publicly conceded becoming " less optimistic " as a consequence of no significant progress and the lapse of time since the accident .

= = Death = =

Bianchi died on 17 July 2015 , aged 25 , from injuries sustained at the time of his accident in Suzuka nine months prior . His death made him the first Formula One driver to be killed by injuries sustained during a Grand Prix since Ayrton Senna in 1994 .

In their official statement , Bianchi 's family said :

It is with deep sadness that the parents of Jules Bianchi , Philippe and Christine , his brother Tom and sister Mélanie , wish to make it known that Jules passed away last night at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire in Nice . Jules fought to the end , as he has always done , but yesterday his battle ended . We feel an immense and indescribable pain .

The funeral service was held at the Nice Cathedral , on 21 July 2015 . He lies at rest in his native city . Many prominent driver figures attended Bianchi 's funeral , such as Alexander Wurz , Esteban Gutiérrez , Allan McNish , Alexander Rossi , Lewis Hamilton , Nico Rosberg , Jenson Button ,

Sebastian Vettel , Jean @-@ Éric Vergne , Marcus Ericsson , Roberto Merhi , Adrian Sutil , Valtteri Bottas , Pastor Maldonado , Pedro de la Rosa , Romain Grosjean , Daniel Ricciardo , Felipe Massa , Alain Prost , Nico Hülkenberg , Olivier Panis , Daniil Kvyat and Max Chilton .

In May 2016 it was announced that Bianchi 's family plans to take legal action against the FIA , Bianchi 's Marussia team and Bernie Ecclestone 's Formula One Group .

= = = Tributes = = =

Widespread tributes followed from fellow past and present drivers , Bernie Ecclestone , French president François Hollande , and other sport personalities . The Manor Marussia team also published a statement on their Facebook page describing Bianchi as , among other things , " a magnificent human being " and a " shining talent " .

The Grand Prix Drivers ' Association announced that it felt a responsibility " to never relent in improving safety " . FIA President Jean Todt also announced that race number 17 would be retired from the list of those available for Formula One drivers , as a mark of respect .

In paying his respects , di Montezemolo also stated that , thanks to GP2 experience and fine performance with Marussia and in test sessions , Bianchi was the racing driver that Scuderia Ferrari had chosen for the future even being described as a would @-@ be replacement for Kimi Räikkönen .

Chilton dedicated his maiden Indy Lights pole position and race win , which he scored on the same weekend as Bianchi 's death , to his former Marussia teammate .

A minute 's silence was observed on the grid before the start of the 2015 Hungarian Grand Prix in Bianchi 's honour and in the presence of his family surrounded by current drivers . Commemorative stickers on helmets and cars were other tributes at that race . Race winner , Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari , dedicated his maiden Hungarian win to Bianchi and his family , acknowledging that the Frenchman would have been part of the team in future . Daniil Kvyat too dedicated his maiden podium finish as did third @-@ placed finisher , Daniel Ricciardo .

= = = Foundation = = =

In December 2015 , Bianchi 's father announced plans to create a foundation in his son 's honour to uncover and nurture young drivers throughout their career . The initiative involves exhibiting Jules Bianchi 's memorabilia (from go @-@ karts and single @-@ seaters to personal pictures and videos) and merchandising with JB17 branding , sponsoring opportunities and events . Among the supporters is Prince Albert of Monaco , where the foundation is based .

= = Racing record = =

= = = Career summary = = =

? Bianchi was a guest driver , therefore ineligible to score points .

= = = Complete Formula 3 Euro Series results = = =

(key) (Races in bold indicate pole position ; races in italics indicate fastest lap)

= = = Complete Formula Renault 3 @. @ 5 Series results = = =

(key) (Races in bold indicate pole position ; races in italics indicate fastest lap)

= = = Complete GP2 results = = =

(key) (Races in bold indicate pole position ; races in italics indicate fastest lap)

== == Complete GP2 Asia Series results == ==

(key) (Races in bold indicate pole position ; races in italics indicate fastest lap)

== == Complete Formula One results == ==

(key) (Races in bold indicate pole position ; races in italics indicates fastest lap)

? Driver did not finish the Grand Prix , but was classified as he completed over 90 % of the race distance .