

McLaren considers Whincup for F1 test spot ???



Test drive: Jenson Button and Jamie Whincup swapped cars before the Grand Prix. Picture: Alex Coppel *Source:* Herald Sun

CHAMPION V8 driver Jamie Whincup will be considered for a Formula One test drive after impressing McLaren bosses with his blast around Albert Park in Jenson Button's Mercedes on Tuesday.

McLaren's test team manager Indy Lall, who said Whincup's data was "impressive", said he would consider flying the TeamVodafone ace to Europe for a "proper" test later this year.

"Never says never," Lall told motorsport website Speedcafe.com.au.

"With what we saw with Jamie in such a short spell, if it was totally my call, I'd give him an opportunity, for sure. I'd like to bring him to Europe and give him a proper go.

"We've run some obscure drivers in the past because we've had to, but there's a genuine reason why we'd like to run Jamie."

Whincup is being considered for the McLaren three-day young driver program in Spain.

"We've currently got Oliver Turvey as our young driver who we are coaching and bringing up," Lall said.

"He would be the first guy that we'd run, but perhaps we could do two days with Oliver and Jamie could do one. But a lot of people need to talk to see if that's possible."

Lall said Whincup raised many eyebrows at McLaren in his four laps.

"Jamie did a very good job. For the level that he's at, it would be quite easy for him to jump into a car and ignore the instructions that we gave him, but he did everything to a tee and more," Lall said.

"His handling of the car was exceptional. You could tell that from the telemetry. I think overall, he did a very, very good job. He impressed everyone."

Whincup said he would jump at the chance to drive an F1 car again.

"I would do anything to get another drive," Whincup said.

"And I have always said I would like to go overseas at some point. This whole experience has just made me think about all that even more."