

## Lawrence Tomlinson Biography



Lawrence Tomlinson is the founding Chairman of the LNT Group which employs 1500 people across its five core businesses covering sectors as diverse as construction, computing, chemicals, care homes and cars.

The 47 year old, philanthropic entrepreneur was announced as the 151<sup>st</sup> richest person in the UK in the annual Sunday Times Rich List in May 2011 with an estimated wealth of £500m.

Lawrence grew up in Batley, West Yorkshire, where he attended the local grammar school before going on to pursue his love of engineering culminating in an engineering degree from Bradford University and employment at Holset Engineering as part of their graduate programme.

Following the acquisition of an established care home Lawrence saw a gap in the market for a developer who could build quality, turn-of-key care homes and he subsequently established LNT Construction to meet this demand. In the years that followed, Lawrence continued to establish other businesses including LNT Software which develops and sells bespoke software for the care home industry, LNT Solutions which provides climate protection systems for worldwide transport network and Orchard Care Homes which was bought by its management in 2007 for £180m.

Lawrence re-entered the care sector in 2009 when he set up Ideal Care Homes - this new operator is revolutionising the sector with its affordable fee structure and no 'top-ups' policy. With over 20 homes across England, Ideal Care Homes is the UK's fastest growing care home operator and offers the highest quality care to over 1200 people requiring dementia and residential care.

With a background in engineering, it is no surprise that Lawrence has a real passion for car design and motor-racing - hence in 2005 he acquired the British car marque Ginetta. An accomplished racing driver, in 2006 he won the Le Mans 24 hour race at only his second attempt. He has significantly grown the Ginetta business and the 53 year old marque now employs over 70 people from its state-of-the-art factory in Leeds and exports GT winning race cars all over the globe.

Although one of the wealthiest men in the UK, Lawrence's passion for business is undiluted, and he continues to invest his wealth back into the group and its people where, unusually, each and every employee is also a shareholder. He firmly believes that rewards associated with success need to be re-invested in people and he does just that, whether it is providing apprenticeships or creating driving scholarships for young people. Lawrence is dedicated to building a bright future for the LNT Group, its staff and its customers.

Lawrence's business, entrepreneurial and engineering achievements were recognised in 2011 when he was awarded two separate honorary doctorates by Yorkshire universities.

Away from the office Lawrence enjoys spending time with his wife and their four children at their home in Harrogate. He is also a keen sportsman and as well as motorsport also enjoys golf and a variety of water-sports.