



## Stars turn out for Royal Automobile Club Charity Cup

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### IMG wins clubs charity golf challenge

**Woodcote Park, 29 April 2014:** High profile names from the worlds of motorsport and media turned out on Tuesday at the Royal Automobile Club's Woodcote Park for the third annual Charity Cup competition. In a good-natured but keenly contested match, sports and media management company IMG lifted the cup. The group's long experience of organising both golf professionals and events must have taught them a lot about the game, helping them score 96 points over the second place Nicky Grist Motorsport team (86 points). The News UK Team came a close third with 87 points.

Many well-known personalities swapped a gear stick or a microphone for a nine iron. As a former 'Golf Night' presenter, Sky TV's Di Dougherty proved she could play the game as well as talk about it by winning the 'nearest the pin' award, while GT racer Ollie Millroy (Nicky Grist Motorsport) made the longest drive.

Many bottles of champagne were awarded on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole 'Beat the Professional' challenge, including one to former F1 racer Damon Hill who exhibited the same cool competitiveness that brought him a World Championship.

Some took a more casual approach; former motorcycle racer and MotoGP presenter Steve Parrish turned up on his motorbike with his clubs strapped to it. Whilst his team didn't win, Steve entertained his fellow team mates with his antics, ensuring even the down pour of rain didn't dampen the spirits and camaraderie.

'It was great to see such a diversity of teams supporting the event,' said guest of honour and former motorcycle and F1 World Champion John Surtees presenting the trophies. 'Competition for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place was close, but it's all been in great spirit.'

'We're delighted that our team won,' grinned James Dale, Sales Executive with IMG. 'It's been an amazing day. 2014 marks the first year that IMG Motor Sport has entered into the FIA Rallycross Championship, so it's only fitting that we entered our first team into the Royal Automobile Clubs Charity Golf Cup. And it supports two very worthy charities.'

David Main, Chief Executive of one of those charities; BEN, was very thankful for the support. 'We're incredibly grateful to the Royal Automobile Club for hosting this event, he said. 'The money raised will give tremendous help to to thousands of people that work in the automotive industry as well as their families.'

In keeping with the RAC's heritage, the British Racing Drivers' Club fielded a team which included former British Touring Car champion Tim Harvey alongside single-seater formula racers Duncan Tappy and Sam Bird. The youngest member of the team was 22 year old Formula Renault 3.5 championship driver, Will Stevens.

Other significant names in the spheres of sports cars and sports media fielded teams including the Motorsport Association and Bonham's Auctions.

The Charity Cup guest of honour was John Surtees OBE, who remains the only person to have won World Championships on both two and four wheels. The day concluded with a raffle to raise money for the chosen charities; the Henry Surtees Foundation and BEN the UK's only charity for those who work, or have worked, in the automotive and related industries, as well as their dependents. Surtees presented the winning team with the Charity Cup as well as awards for Nearest-the-Pin and the Longest Drive hit by. Both awards were kindly donated by Sky Sports.

**Tom Purves, Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club:** “Our third Charity Cup was another great success, many well-known names from motoring and motor sports took part plus, more importantly, we raised money for two charities, BEN and the Henry Surtees Foundation. We are particularly indebted to John Surtees for his support and presenting the awards, and also Sky Sports for their continued support.’

**Notes to Editors:**

**The Royal Automobile Club:**

The Royal Automobile Club was founded in 1897 and its distinguished history mirrors that of motoring itself. In 1907, the Club was awarded its Royal title by King Edward VII, sealing the Club’s status as Britain’s oldest and most influential motoring organisation.

The Club’s early years were focused on promoting the motor car and its place in society, which developed into motoring events such as the 1000 Mile Trial, first held in 1900. In 1905, the Club held the first Tourist Trophy, which remains the oldest continuously competed for motor sports event. The Club promoted the first pre-war and post-war Grands Prix at Brooklands in 1926 and Silverstone in 1948 respectively, whilst continuing to campaign for the rights of the motorist, including introducing the first driving licences.

Today, the Club continues to develop and support automobilism through representation on the Motor Sport Association (MSA), Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA) and RAC Foundation, while continuing to promote its own motoring events, such as the free-to-attend Regent Street Motor Show and the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run.

The Royal Automobile Club also awards a series of historic trophies and medals celebrating motoring achievements. These include the Segrave Trophy, the Tourist Trophy, the Simms Medal, the Dewar Trophy and the Torrens Trophy.

**BEN:** The UK’s only charity for those who work, or have worked, in the automotive and related industries, as well as their dependents.

**Henry Surtees Foundation:** The Foundation assists people with brain and physical injuries, provides education, and helps young people by developing their skills so they can participate in society.



A Royal Automobile Club Event

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