

For Immediate Release:

Edenbridge, Kent came to a standstill to honour Motor sport legend John Surtees OBE



Edenbridge, Kent, came to a standstill on Monday 26 May 2014. Undeterred by the weather, thousands of spectators lined the streets to watch motor sport legend, John Surtees OBE, ex Formula Renault and British Formula Ford Champion Scott Malvern and ex Formula 3 British Champion and A1 Grand Prix racer Robbie Kerr, roar through the streets of the town in Team Surtees race vehicles. The special event in John's home town helped commemorate the 50th anniversary of his Formula 1 World Championship title, as well as his 80th birthday.

The parade of John's rarely seen F1 race cars and bikes ran twice through Edenbridge High Street, before returning to the site that was the Surtees team factory and business base for the past 56 years. John Surtees led the parade in the Ferrari 158 which he won the 1964 Formula One Driver's World Championship driving kindly loaned by George Barber of Birmingham, Alabama, USA and was followed by Team Surtees Formula One cars of the Seventies, and a procession of over 200 classic bikes and cars all drawn to Edenbridge by the town's festivities.

'Papa Smurf' even made a debut appearance to Edenbridge, straight from the Monaco F1 Grand Prix. Papa Smurf is rapidly becoming a social media phenomenon, as his F1 adventures this year pays tribute to the late John Button, aka 'Papa Smurf' and, at the request of the Button family, is raising funds for the Henry Surtees Foundation.

The event was organized by the Eden Valley Chamber of Commerce, as part of Edenbridge Fun Day and featured non-stop entertainment throughout the day including live bands, pram races, dog show, trade stalls, and a classic car and motorcycle display. The event also raised awareness and funds for the Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance and The Henry Surtees Foundation, a foundation established by John Surtees following the tragic death of his son Henry while competing in Formula 2 race in 2009 aged just 18.

Speaking at the parade John Surtees said: "it's fantastic to have the High Street closed on a busy Bank Holiday weekend so that we could give all the visitors the sight and sound of Formula One and times gone by. It's not often that people get to hear and watch Formula 1 cars up close, and judging by the response of the crowds who cheered us through, they must've enjoyed it as much as I did."

Racing driver Scott Malvern said "it was an absolute honour to drive the TS7, the first Formula 1 car built by Team Surtees here in Edenbridge. I can't thank John Surtees enough for such an amazing opportunity; truly a day to remember".

Peter Kingham, Chairman of The Eden Valley Chamber of Commerce said: "it has always been our intention to make this an annual event centering on the town's racing construction heritage and to help put Edenbridge on the map. The rain certainly did not dampen the spirits of the event; the streets were packed with visitors, many of which had made a long journey specifically to watch the Team Surtees parade. Personally, I would like to thank John Surtees for all the help and effort he, his staff and friends put into making it such a great day and to the Ferrari Owners Club for their support."

The Team Surtees and John Surtees related vehicles that took part in the parade were displayed throughout the day outside the Bradford shop, Station Road, where they were built and designed by predominantly local residents, the display included:

- Ferrari 158 - The actual car that John Surtees won his 1964 Formula One Driver's World Championship racing title driving
- The TS7 - The first Formula 1 car built by Team Surtees at its Edenbridge base, which John Surtees raced at the British Grand Prix in Brands Hatch in 1970. The vehicle was driven in the parade by Formula Renault Champion, and British Formula Ford & Eurocup Champion Scott Malvern
- The TS14 Formula 1 car - The first car to be introduced to the new safety regulations in 1972 and was driven by Mike Hailwood and Carlos Pace setting lap records in the German and Austrian Grand Prix. The vehicle was driven in the parade by past Formula 3 British Champion and A1 Grand Prix runner-up Robbie Kerr.

- The TS15 2-litre Formula 2 car built in 1973 which finished 2nd in that Championship, this car is the prototype that won the prestigious Interlagos race in Brazil driven by Carlos Pace
- A 1960 MV Agusta four-cylinder GP motorcycle – John Surtees won seven motorcycle championships riding for MV Agusta and 6 Isle of Man TT's
- 1957 BMW 507 this is possibly BMW's most prestigious car and was produced in limited numbers. John Surtees acquired this part as a prize on winning his first motorcycle World Championship with MV Agusta.
- 500cc 1949 Vincent Grey Flash motorcycle built by John in 1979 using a large number of parts from the original machine that he built in 1950 whilst working as an apprentice at the Vincent Company. John won his first ever race on a Grey Flash at Aberdare Park in Wales that he had built whilst working as an apprentice at the Vincent Company. It was the first of many wins before he transferred to a Norton to compete in International events.
- 350cc Works Norton this is one of the last works machines built by the original Norton company in the early Sixties and featured an ultra-short-stroke engine of 86mm x 60mm and outside flywheel

Notes for editors

John Surtees OBE claimed the 500cc World Championship GP title on two wheels four times and the 350cc category three times before winning the 1964 Formula One World Championship. He started competing as a sidecar passenger for his father – although in their debut race together the duo were disqualified after crossing the finish line first because John was too young to compete within the rules. He was not put off and after a spell riding Vincent, Norton and NSU machines winning British titles and his first GP he moved to MV Augusta winning the 500cc World Championship in 1956 – the first of seven world titles he secured in just five years and which resulted in the award of an MBE. By 1960 Surtees was competing on two and four wheels – winning two World Championships on two wheels and finishing second in the Formula 1 British Grand Prix and setting pole position and record lap in the Portuguese Grand Prix on four wheels. He moved to Ferrari for 1963 winning prestigious Sportscar events and his first Grand Prix on four wheels. In 1964 he won the World Championship Driver Award driving for Ferrari. He survived a terrible crash at the Canadian GP for sports cars in 1965 returning to winning the Can-Am Championship in his Lola T70 that he helped develop. Drives for Honda and BRM followed, and then in 1970 Team Surtees entered its own cars in F2, F5000 and F1 events. He won the non-championship Oulton Park Gold Cup in two consecutive years and the Japanese GP in the Surtees TS10 Formula 2 car, then retired from the cockpit in 1972 with a third place in the F1 International Trophy Race at Silverstone and two wins in F2 – driving Surtees cars, all of which he designed and built. Surtees continued to manage Team Surtees until 1978 with drivers Carlos Pace, Mike Hailwood, John Watson, Alan Jones and René Arnoux, before having to close the team due to the failure of a sponsor

Surtees is a Vice President of the British Racing Drivers' Club and supports initiatives to encourage young drivers. In 2008 he was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for 'services to motorsport and charity'.

The Henry Surtees Foundation:

The Henry Surtees Foundation was inspired by motor sport legend John Surtees OBE, following the tragic death of his son Henry whilst competing in Formula 2 race in 2009 aged just 18 years old.

The aim of the Henry Surtees Foundation is: to:

- Assist people with brain or physical injuries caused by accident to return to community living by the provision of equipment and facilities
- Provide education and training associated with motorsport-related programmes in technology, engineering, and road safety instruction
- A resource for young people (up to 18 years old) providing advice, assistance and organising physical and educational activities to develop personal skills so that they can participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals

Last year the foundation donated monies raised to purchase equipment for the Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance to enable them to introduce blood transfusions. Working in conjunction with Honda, they supplied two Honda CR-V vehicles to transport blood to the Air Ambulance service. For further details, please visit: www.henrysurteesfoundation.com

On June 19 2014, John will also be launching his book: **John Surtees: *My Incredible Life on Two and Four Wheels***. Its 304 pages contain over 250 photographs from Surtees' own collection as well as the world's finest motorsport picture libraries. The standard edition costs £50 and the leather-bound limited edition – 80 copies signed by John Surtees in his 80th birthday year – costs £175. Royalties from sales of the book will go to the Henry Surtees Foundation. www.evropublishing.com

For further information regarding the Edenbridge Fun Day, or to request an interview John Surtees OBE

Please contact Rebecca at Eventageous PR Ltd on Tel: 01452 260063, email: rebecca@eventspr.co.uk

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