



## **For Immediate Release:**

### **Pink Floyd's Nick Mason makes cheque presentation to the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity on behalf of motorsport legend John Surtees CBE and the Henry Surtees Foundation**

Musician and composer Nick Mason, best known as the drummer of Pink Floyd, attended the Midlands Air Ambulance base at Strensham, near Worcester last Friday, to hand over a cheque for £18,000 on behalf of the Henry Surtees Foundation

As a keen supporter of the air ambulance and self-confessed petrol head, boasting a large collection of vintage and classic cars, Mr Mason was happy to support the cause.

The donation of £18,275 presented to Midlands Air Ambulance crews will be used to fund specialist equipment designed specifically for critical care transport, including a Zoll X Series Monitor, defibrillator and aircraft bracketry. The equipment developed for the military and air medical operations, enables the flight crew to continuously deliver the highest quality CPR and resuscitation capabilities, whilst patient data is automatically uploaded and streamed to remote displays in ambulances, hospitals and communication centres as the rescuer cares for the patient at the scene of incident and in transit.

Becky Steele, air operations manager for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity said: "As a pre-hospital emergency service that attends some of the most traumatic incidents in the region, it is vital Midlands Air Ambulance has the right equipment to give patients the best chance of survival and greater recovery outcomes. We are extremely grateful to the Henry Surtees Foundation for the grant for the monitors, which have become one of our greatest assets on board our three air ambulance helicopters and our rapid response vehicles."

Since 1991, Midlands Air Ambulance has responded to more than 43,000 missions, averaging 2,000 per year.

John Surtees CBE said, "I would like to thank Nick Mason for his enthusiastic support of the Foundation and being able to fit into his busy programme this visit to represent us. The Foundation is very pleased with the association it has been able to make in the assistance given to a number of Air Ambulance regions including that of the Midlands Air Ambulances and Great Western Air Ambulances. The service they provide is vital and something which is continuously developing with the introduction of new life-saving equipment".

The Henry Surtees Foundation have also actively supported and provided funding for the following Air Ambulances:

- Midlands Air Ambulance
- Great Western Air Ambulance
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance
- Great North Air Ambulance

Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance

Available for Interview:

John Surtees CBE, Founder of the Henry Surtees Foundation

Becky Steele, air operations manager, Midlands Air Ambulance Charity

Duty flight paramedics at Midlands Air Ambulance Charity's Strensham airbase

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Notes to editors:

**Henry Surtees Foundation:**

The Henry Surtees Foundation was inspired by motorsport legend John Surtees CBE, following the tragic death of his son Henry whilst competing in a 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.
- The Henry Surtees Foundation has a special relationship with Vauxhall and work in partnership to provide special lease terms for our support of transportation of blood between hospital and Air Ambulance.
- The Henry Surtees Foundation has also assisted with the funding of provisions to: Midlands Air Ambulance, Great Western Air Ambulance, Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance and Great North Air Ambulance.

For more information visit: [www.henrysurteesfoundation.com](http://www.henrysurteesfoundation.com)

**About John Surtees CBE:**

Motorsport legend John Surtees CBE needs little introduction. Between 1956 and 1960 Surtees won seven World Championships and six Isle of Man TT's on 350cc and 500cc MV Angusta Motorcycles. Moving from bikes to Formula One cars, he drove for Lotus, BRM, Cooper, Honda and Ferrari. After winning the Nürburgring and Monza 1000km races in Enzo's sports cars is a feat unmatched by any other racer.

Moving on again, he won the 1966 Can-Am Championship in the Lola T70 MkII - a car he helped develop. Between 1969 and 1978 he ran his own team - Team Surtees - designing and campaigning cars for Formula 5000, Formula Two and Formula One.

Last year, he celebrated the 50th anniversary of his Formula One World Championship with Ferrari, and also his 80th Birthday, but even those two milestones don't really do justice to his achievements. In January 2016 he was awarded a CBE in Britain's New Year's Honours in recognition of his services to motorsport and the charitable work of the Henry Surtees Foundation.

### **About Midlands Air Ambulance Charity:**

Midlands Air Ambulance is the charity responsible for funding and operating three air ambulances serving the communities of six Midlands counties: Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and the West Midlands. This constitutes the largest air ambulance operating region in the UK. Since 1991, the charity has responded to more than 43,000 missions, averaging 2,000 per year, making it one of the longest established and busiest air ambulance organisations in the UK.

The Midland Air Ambulance service receives no Government or National Lottery funding. Each Air Ambulance mission costs £2,500, and in excess of £7 million is needed each year to keep its three air ambulances operational, which is donated entirely by the public and local businesses.

The service is reliant on a brilliant team of pilots, paramedics, hazard response teams and volunteer doctors who specialise in pre-hospital care and trauma medicine. Most of the highly skilled team are volunteers who give up their precious time to help save people in their local community.

They don't simply fly people to the nearest hospital. They treat accidents at the scene and in the air, providing life saving expertise before they even reach the hospital. From emergency caesareans to roadside amputations to treating cardiac arrests – it is the skill and dedication of the team that means one patient in five – a patient otherwise expected to die – survives.

For more information visit: [www.midlandsairambulance.com](http://www.midlandsairambulance.com)