

John Surtees

Tributes

Ferrari

Aside from his outstanding Formula 1 performance, Surtees contributed several victories to Ferrari's success in the 1963 and '65 World Sportscar Championships. All at Ferrari send their heartfelt condolences to his family at this sad time.

Damon Hill

In *The Telegraph*

John was certainly his own man; a committed member of the British Racing Drivers' Club and an independent one. He would speak his mind even if it was not a fashionable view. I think he was wary of group-thinking. That independence of thought earned him the respect of everyone he met, though, from Enzo Ferrari to Bernie Ecclestone.

His death has come as a real shock. Another bridge to those halcyon days gone. Although he was 83, I thought he would go on forever. He looked so well when I last saw him. I will miss that grin.

Takahiro Hachigo

President, CEO and representative director, Honda Motor Co Ltd

All at Honda would like to offer their deepest condolences to the family and friends of John Surtees.

John was a person who helped to lay the foundations of Honda's Formula 1 journey.

He also contributed greatly to other Honda motorsport activities, driving in events such as 50 years of Honda and the Goodwood Festival of Speed.

He had a long and illustrious career in the world of motorsport and will be greatly missed.

Dan Gurney

Right after I got the sad and unexpected news of John's death, a friend wrote an email saying: 'John has taken flight.' And I wrote back: 'Yes, and in all likelihood he flew faster than anybody else.'

John and I became friends very early on due to our mutual passion for motorcycle racing. John was happy to find somebody in Formula 1 with whom he could discuss his two-wheel career and who understood and openly admired the talent and sheer guts it took to reach the pinnacle of that sport in that era.

He was a fierce competitor of mine in F1 and we had some memorable battles in the 1960s, especially in the 1964 season, which ended with him winning the F1 World Championship with Ferrari and me winning the Mexican Grand Prix. Both of us also raced on the sportscar and Can-Am circuit in the United States.

Like me, he enjoyed the engineering part of our business and it was not surprising that he too built his own car carrying his name.

John was never afraid to speak his mind and publicly voice his frustrations, which sometimes got him into hot water. I rather enjoyed his frankness.

After we both retired we stayed in contact

over the years, and it was a joy to reconnect with him and Jane at Goodwood during the last decades. The loss of his son Henry was tragic, yet he and his family bravely soldiered on.

I will miss John as a friend and will remember him forever as a unique man who reached the pinnacle of motor racing on two wheels and four. God's speed, John!

Murray Walker

On BBC Radio 5 Live

It's a hammerblow for me and for British motorsport in general. I used to race with John Surtees at Brands Hatch in the grass-track days in the 1940s, and I've been privileged to commentate on him, and to know him as a friend ever since then, and he is undoubtedly one of the greatest people who has ever lived in the history of motorsport.

And he was a lovely man, he was very much his own man – John knew what he wanted and intended to get it, and he did – but he's a terrible loss and I'm very, very sad about it.

It is to me a shocking indictment of our honours system that John hasn't been given a knighthood, because when you think of the things that he's done, not just in terms of his achievements in motorsport, but he did an enormous amount for charity.

Sadly and tragically his son Henry – who was a very promising car driver – was killed, and John started the Henry Surtees Foundation, and I hope people will subscribe to that in honour of John now.



Lewis Hamilton

He was a legend of the sport, a lovely guy who did so much. It's a shock to everyone.

Jenson Button

Today we lost one of the all-time greats on two and four wheels. We will miss you John... #ripjohnsurtees

Martin Brundle

Rest in peace John Surtees, a great champion in every respect. Sadly he'll never get the knighthood he deserved. Condolences to the family.

Jonathan Palmer

John's energy was always amazing, particularly for a man of his age. Following Henry's death others might have turned their back on motor racing, but not John. It was understandable that John would immerse himself in developing the Henry Surtees Foundation, a very successful charity to mainly help head-injury victims that will undoubtedly continue to flourish in memory of

SURTEES: HELPING THE YOUNGSTERS

Graham Sharp

Racing Steps Foundation founder

I think it's fair to say few, if any, matched the passion and energy he displayed in encouraging young people to take part, be it at their local karting circuit, in junior formula single-seater racing or on bikes in the UK and abroad.

His wisdom and experience were invaluable in helping us to set up the foundation and for that we will always be truly grateful. He was a man with enormous and unmatched talent, which was complemented by a seemingly inexhaustible and rare generosity of spirit when it came to sharing his time and knowledge with the stars of tomorrow or the many charities he supported over the years.

He will be sorely missed in so many quarters.

Jake Dennis

Absolutely shocked to hear John Surtees has passed away. True legend in the sport and has been a great ambassador for the RSF for many years!

Ben Barnicoat

Devastated to hear about the passing of John Surtees today... a true inspiration and influential person to my career. Rest in peace John.

Jack Harvey

John Surtees. Genuine legend whose achievement will never be surpassed. Truly great ambassador to our sport. RIP John.

Carlin

Rest in peace John. We were proud to have known you and called you a friend. A true legend. Our thoughts go out to the Surtees family.

Henry. What is perhaps more remarkable is John's continued interest in young-driver series, racing cars and the career path for young drivers. He would often call me to either let me know his views – or ask for mine – on such matters.

Karting was always a sport dear to John's heart, and his purchase two years ago of Buckmore Park circuit was great news that has resulted in a major upgrade of the popular local kart track and an exciting future for it with major involvement from Leonora Surtees.

Emerson Fittipaldi

A friend and a true gentleman. We will miss him. God bless you, my friend.

Valteri Bottas

Sad news today. It was great to meet you. RIP John Surtees.

Nico Rosberg

Very sad, can't believe it John. You had been so supportive of me all along! My thoughts are with your family.

