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**CONCOURS OF ELEGANCE WRAPS UP ITS FESTIVAL OF MOTORING ROYALTY IN EDINBURGH WITH ‘BEST OF SHOW’ AWARDED TO STUNNING 1903 MERCEDES**

***Concours of Elegance 2015, Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, 4-6 September***

* **‘Best in Show’ award presented by HRH Prince Michael of Kent to 1903 Mercedes Simplex 60HP owned by Anke Ruckwarth**
* **‘The Spirit of the Tour’ award given to the Mercedes-Benz S Rennsport owned by Klaus Schildbach, while John Shirley’s Ferrari 275 GTS/4 NART Spyder received the Spirit of Motoring award**
* **A gorgeous Jaguar SS1 won two awards: the RAC Club Trophy and the inaugural Jaguar Trophy**
* **Bentley ‘Trophy of Elegance’ presented to Robert Lightbody and his 1996 Bentley Continental R**
* **Concours of Elegance on target to reach over £150,000 raised for this year’s charities, including Action on Addiction and Walking with the Wounded**

The Concours of Elegance 2015, held at the Palace of the Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, has rounded off another first-class event with many thousands of visitors, sublime weather, a selection of the world’s rarest cars and some £150,000 raised for charity.

Sixty incredible cars – some never seen before in the UK – partook in the main Concours event, converging on the Palace of Holyroodhouse from all corners of the globe, including America, Australia and Europe. All cars are personally invited by the Concours of Elegance’s prestigious Steering Committee, so a place at the Palace is considered a victory in itself. For that reason, uniquely, the Best in Show award is voted for by the owners of the sixty invited cars.

The 2015 prize went to the 1903 Mercedes Simplex 60HP of Anke Ruckwarth, as owners praised the incredible engineering in this 112-year-old car, powered by a 9.2-litre four-cylinder engine and capable of nearly 80mph. Only four are known to exist.

Meanwhile, the 1927 Mercedes-Benz S Rennsport owned by Klaus Schildbach won the Spirit of the Tour award, chosen by the organisers as the driver and car pairing that was considered to enter most in to the spirit of the 200-mile Highland Tour that the ran ahead of the Concours. The Ferrari 275 GTS/4 NART Spyder of John Shirley was awarded the RAC Spirit of Motoring Award.

An impeccable Jaguar SS1 took home two prizes this year, winning both the RAC Club Trophy and the inaugural Jaguar Trophy. Two independent panels of judges, which included HRH Prince Michael of Kent, Jaguar director of design Ian Callum and Aston Martin head of design Marek Reichman, were unanimous in their decisions. As winner of the RAC Club Trophy the SS1, belonging to Michael and Linda Jewell, will be invited to take part in the main Concours in 2016.

With perfect weather for all three days of the Concours – Owners’ Day, Jaguar Land Rover Saturday and Bentley Sunday – thousands came out to enjoy the exquisite gardens of the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Among them were some very special guests, including Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Sir Jackie Stewart and Dario Franchitti.

As ever with the Concours of Elegance, this year’s event successfully raised huge amounts of money for it’s charities for 2015 Action on Addiction, Walking With the Wounded and Springfield Motor Racing’s Club for Young People.

Concours of Elegance is already planning for 2016. To celebrate Her Majesty The Queen’s 90th birthday next year, the event will have the biggest and most incredible selection of cars ever seen at the Concours of Elegance.

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**About the Concours of Elegance:**

Established in 2012, the inaugural Concours of Elegance was held within Windsor Castle to mark the diamond jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen’s reign. Organised by Thorough Events, the first Concours of Elegance set a new global benchmark for a classic car concours; winning prestigious awards in the process; unheard of for a ‘start-up’ event in its first year. The second Concours of Elegance was held in 2013 to equal fanfare at the historic Royal Palace of St James in London, with the widely acclaimed and biggest yet third Concours set in the stunning grounds of Hampton Court Palace in September 2014. Only 60 cars of the highest calibre are invited to the Concours of Elegance (60 being a reference to The Queen’s diamond jubilee which saw the event established in 2012), with the rarest cars in the world, from all over the world, painstakingly selected by the Concours Steering Committee; a respected team of authoritative historic car experts. A key objective of the annual Concours of Elegance is to raise significant sums for charity.

www.concoursofelegance.co.uk

**Enquiries:**

Media:

Luke Madden, Account Manager, Influence Associates

Tel: +44 (0)207 287 9610

Email: luke@influenceassociates.com

General:   
Iain Campbell, Thorough Events Ltd  
Tel: 020 3142 8542  
Email: [iain@thoroughevents.co.uk](mailto:iain@thoroughevents.co.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/concoursofelegance](http://www.facebook.com/concoursofelegance)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ConcoursUK](http://www.twitter.com/ConcoursUK)