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**WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMP DEREK BELL HONOREE FOR
2007 AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE**

"Ironman" Driver Five-Time Winner Of The Grueling 24 Hours of LeMans

JACKSONVILLE, FL; July 31, 2006 --- Derek Bell MBE, whose name is synonymous with endurance racing and the fabled 24 Hours of LeMans, has agreed to be the honoree for the 12th Annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance scheduled for March 9-11, 2007, at The Golf Club of Amelia Island at Summer Beach. The Sussex, England native took up racing in the mid-sixties and went on to become one of the world's premiere sports car pilots winning two world endurance titles and numerous races during his career.

"For the 2007 show, we will have one of the most successful endurance racers to ever put on a helmet," says Bill Warner, Concours founder and chairman. "From Formula 1 to touring cars and the world endurance series, Derek Bell has a lot of 'seat time' in many different cars on both sides of the Atlantic. Only two other drivers have more wins at LeMans, which puts him in some very rare company."

Career Includes Rare "Double-Double" At LeMans & Daytona Endurances Races

Encouraged by his stepfather to take up racing in 1964, Bell started in a Lotus Seven and quickly graduated to Formula 3 piloting a Lotus 31. He scored his very first race win in 1966 at Goodwood, England, driving a Lotus 41, and scored seven more wins the following season. In 1968, his skills caught the attention of Enzo Ferrari and he was signed to drive their Formula 2 entry. Later that year, Bell made his F1 debut at Monza in a Ferrari 312.

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But it was in endurance racing where Bell excelled and LeMans and Daytona were where fans saw him at the top of his game. This form of racing is one of the most demanding because it requires the driver to be both consistently fast and easy on the equipment the entire race, and Bell was a master. He scored his first of five overall wins at the French classic in 1975 in the Gulf-liveried, Cosworth/Ford-powered Mirage, and followed that up with first places in '81, '82, '86, and '87 all in the Porsche 936, 956 and 962 racers. He won back-to-back World Endurance Championships in 1985 and 1986.

Equally impressive were his victories at the 24 Hours of Daytona in 1986 and '87. This gave him a rare “double-double” – wins at both LeMans and Daytona in the same year in two different seasons. Bell added a third Daytona victory to his resume in 1989. Other accomplishments include the Gold Medal from the British Automobile Racing Club (BARC) in 1985 “for outstanding achievement in motor racing by a British subject,” which, according to the Club, “is not an annual award but is given only when the Council of the BARC considers it is merited.” And, in perhaps his most crowning moment as a British citizen, Queen Elizabeth awarded Bell the title M.B.E. (Member of the British Empire) in 1986 for his services to motor racing. As recently as 2002, Bell drove in the 10-race SPEED GT season in an Audi S4 and scored seven top-ten finishes. These days he is a consultant to high-end manufacturer Bentley Motors and makes his home in Boca Raton, Florida.

“Derek is one of the most entertaining and gracious personalities in all of motor sports,” says Warner. “He has an engaging way with people and that makes him a lot of fun to be around. I’m looking forward to hearing all of the anecdotes from his years in endurance racing, especially with the Porsche 956/962 program and the heyday of IMSA here in the U.S. and Group C in Europe.”

The 2007 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance will be held March 9-11 on the 10th and 18th fairways of The Golf Club of Amelia Island at Summer Beach adjacent to The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. The show’s foundation has donated nearly \$1.5 million to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, Inc. since 1996.

The Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance is one of the nation's most innovative vintage auto events featuring over 250 rare classics from seldom-seen private collections nationwide. The show is scheduled for March 9-11, 2007, at The Golf Club of Amelia Island at Summer Beach adjacent to The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. For more information, visit www.ameliaconcours.org or contact them at 904-636-0027.

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