



Starlight Becomes Charity Partner of ZOOM 2017

- **Starlight Children's Foundation** will be the Official Charity Partner of the 2017 **ZOOM** gala event.
- The gala will take place on Friday 3rd February at the InterContinental London Park Lane.
- The first three images from the auction have been released and are taken by Lewis Hamilton, Carlos Sainz and Felipe Massa.

Monday 7th November 2016

ZOOM, the annual auction of photographs taken by the stars of Formula 1, is pleased to announce **Starlight Children's Foundation** as the Official Charity Partner of the 2017 **ZOOM** gala event, which will take place on Friday 3rd February next year.

Starlight is national charity that provides entertainment in hospitals and hospices across the UK and grants wishes-of-a-lifetime for seriously and terminally ill children, restoring the magic and fun of childhood and giving the whole family happy memories to share, whatever the future holds. As **ZOOM's** charity partner they will be the beneficiary of the annual auction of the F1 stars' signed images, which will be sold at the gala event in early 2017.

ZOOM, which has raised almost £100,000 for charity since it was launched in late 2012, is the only auction of signed photos taken by the stars of any sport. It gives fans a glimpse behind the scenes at the track and reveals how F1's superstars enjoy themselves away from it. The photos are like personal postcards from the sport's biggest names and they come from all over the globe.

Throughout the current F1 season, F1's drivers and team principals have been busy each taking a snapshot of their world. This is the fifth occasion that **ZOOM** has taken place and the images include subjects as diverse as Lewis Hamilton's photo of the sun setting over the paradise islands of Turks and Caicos, to Felipe Massa's selfie with Jenson Button at Monza, to Carlos Sainz's cute snap of two playful meerkats.

The 2017 line-up will be auctioned by Coys in the ballroom of the InterContinental London Park Lane at a star-studded event.

Starlight is the perfect match for **ZOOM** as it has a long standing relationship with Formula 1 and every year the charity takes children to the Monaco Grand Prix to meet the drivers and soak up the atmosphere.

Bernie Ecclestone, chief executive of the Formula One Group, says: "**ZOOM** is a super project. We are proud to be supporting it again, helping to raise money for charity while showing what the stars of F1 get up to away from the TV cameras. We're also very pleased to welcome **ZOOM's** new charity partner, **Starlight Children's Foundation**. They do a fantastic job making sick children's dreams come true and it's great to see the kids every year at the Monaco Grand Prix. It's good to have them on board."

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Neil Swan, chief executive of **Starlight**, says: "We are delighted to be partnering with ZOOM and are very much looking forward to working together. Given the fabulous support Starlight receives from across the F1 community with our annual wish trip for seriously and terminally ill children to the Monaco Grand Prix, and in many other ways, this partnership seems like a natural fit. The money raised will be used to help brighten the lives of Starlight's very poorly children by granting them a 'wish-of-a-lifetime' and by providing a year-round in-hospital entertainment programme across the UK to distract them from the fear, pain and isolation often caused by their illness and giving both them and their families happy memories, whatever the future may hold for them."

Christian Sult, co-founder of **ZOOM**, says: "We look forward to a successful partnership with **Starlight Children's Foundation** and are delighted to be supporting such a worthy cause. **ZOOM** is about more than just the photographs and the money raised can make a real difference to children's lives. We would like to thank Bernie Ecclestone, the teams, drivers and the other participants, and all our partners for their support."

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Photo captions:

LEWIS HAMILTON "Powerful Beyond Measure. An image of a stunning sunset on the beautiful islands of Turks and Caicos. Shot during the 2016 Formula One Summer Break."

FELIPE MASSA "Me and Jenson during the drivers parade in Monza, where I announced my retirement from Formula One. We've been racing together for almost 15 years now! I will definitely miss going wheel-to-wheel with him."

CARLOS SAINZ "Meerkats, my favourite animal! It's a shame I travel so much, I'd love to have one as a pet!"

About ZOOM

Zoom is an initiative from Money Sport Media, the publisher of Formula 1 business data guide, Formula Money (www.formulamoney.com). The first event took place in September 2012 and the fifth event will be held early in 2017.

About Starlight Children's Foundation

Starlight grants once-in-a-lifetime wishes for seriously and terminally ill children, restoring the magic and fun of childhood and giving the whole family happy memories to share, whatever the future holds.

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Starlight also creates entertainment in every hospital and hospice throughout the UK. Sick children laugh their way through pantomimes, go out on Starlight Escapes, play games and watch films on the Starlight Fun Centre, and enjoy the toys and puzzles of the Starlight Distraction Box. Happy children respond better to treatment and Starlight helps children to forget about their illness and simply have a bit of fun.

To refer a child for a wish or to make a donation, please go online at www.starlight.org.uk. For every £1 you donate, 91p goes towards helping Starlight's very ill children.

N.B. Starlight should be referred to as 'Starlight Children's Foundation' or 'Starlight' never as 'the Starlight Children's Foundation', 'the foundation' or 'Starlight Foundation'.

To view videos of some of Starlight's work in Formula One, please click on the following links:

<http://www.starlight.org.uk/recent-wishes/starlight-wishes-come-true-at-monaco-grand-prix-2016/>

<http://www.starlight.org.uk/recent-wishes/starlight-grants-wishes-at-monaco-gp-thanks-to-bernie-ecclestone/>