

**For immediate release**

19 August 2011

**LOCAL WAR VETERANS NOT FORGOTTEN THANKS TO MAGNA
MAZDA AND RAF TYPHOON DISPLAY TEAM**

Amid the excitement of the Bournemouth Air Festival, Magna Mazda Poole hosted its very own exclusive aviation-themed open evening attended by local war veterans, giving visitors the chance to meet the RAF Typhoon Display Team. Joining the Typhoon Team was RAF Hawk Display Pilot Flight Lieutenant Juliette Fleming, 2004 Mazda RX-8 Formula Woman racing driver and Mazda racing driver Mike Wilds.

As well as members of the Wessex group Mazda MX-5 Owners Club, three local war veterans from the Team's chosen charity, *The Not Forgotten Association*, which provides leisure days out to wounded ex-servicemen and women with disabilities, visited the Haven Road dealership on Thursday 18 August.

Throughout the evening, members of the RAF Typhoon Display Team talked about the Typhoon jet fighter and the fundraising work they have been doing with Mazda this year to raise awareness for *The Not Forgotten Association*.

Mazda UK is the official sponsor of the RAF Typhoon Display Team and has provided three vehicles for transporting kit and personnel to air shows and events this season. One of the branded vehicles – a Mazda CX-7 – was laden with RAF Typhoon Display Team merchandise, offered to visitors in return for small donations. A unique framed Typhoon print, signed by each Team member, was sold in an open-bid auction, raising £150. All the money raised was presented to Rosie Thompson, Events Director for the *Not Forgotten Association*.

“The Not Forgotten Association is enormously grateful for the support we have been given by the RAF Typhoon Display Team and Mazda UK,” said Rosie Thompson. “Not only are they raising funds for us but they are also raising awareness of our work with service and ex-service personnel with injuries, disabilities or illness.”

Attending the event were Andy McErlean, REME, 3/2 Armoured Engineer Regiment discharged in 1991 following a road traffic accident; Bernard Ennis RAF Air Gunner who served from 1944 – 1945 and recently injured 2nd Royal Tank Regiment Trooper Will Maddern who will be on the Mazda MX-5 race team pit crew for the Britcar 24hr Endurance Race at Silverstone in October.

Mazda Motors UK LTD

Riverbridge House, Anchor Boulevard, Dartford, Kent, DA2 6SL

Tel: +44 (0) 01322 622 713 | Fax: +44 (0) 01322 622 701

info@mazda-press.co.uk | www.mazda-press.co.uk

WWII veteran Bernard Ennis commented: "It was an extremely well organised event and even the rain and local floods didn't dampen the evening. We were very grateful to the Typhoon Display Team and Mazda. I was delighted to meet two female RAF Flight Lieutenants, who were great hosts."

Sergeant Liam Whelan, Typhoon Display Team Engineering Manager, commented, "We are very proud to support *The Not Forgotten Association*. The Typhoon Display Team was honoured to be invited for the evening at Magna Mazda Poole, and it was a huge privilege to meet local veterans Bernard, Andy and Will who have benefited from the charity's good work. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening."

"It was our pleasure to welcome the RAF Typhoon Display Team to our showroom," said Barney Steele, Dealer Principal, Magna Mazda Poole. "The event was incredibly well supported, with over 50 members of the Mazda MX-5 Owners Club joining service veterans and representatives of *The Not Forgotten Association*. We wish the Team every success in its fundraising efforts for the remainder of the year."

For all the latest news and images from the RAF Typhoon Display Team please visit:

<http://www.raf.mod.uk/typhoondisplay/news/>

For further information on the Mazda MX-5 GT race programme go to www.mazdamx5racing.co.uk or download the free [app](#) from the iTunes store.

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For more press information on the RAF Typhoon Display Team please contact:

Jim Robinson, Dep Media Comms Officer, RAF Coningsby
T: 01526 347780 or E-mail: trobinson@coningsby.raf.mod.uk

For further press information on Mazda please visit: www.mazda-press.co.uk or contact:

Samantha Williams, PR Manager
T: 01322 622 637 or M: 07785 518 558 or via E-mail: sjanewil@mazdaeur.com

Ref: 110819A

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