



NEWS RELEASE

Life in the engineering fastlane beckons youngsters

17 July 2008

IMechE Greenpower invites you to get in the fastlane and with the next generation of Lewis Hamiltons

IMechE Greenpower is inviting you along to an exciting array of events across the weekend, promoting the eco cars of the future.

IMechE Greenpower is a competition where youngsters from primary right through to secondary build green (electric) powered cars from scratch. Bristol's Airbus Airfield will be hosting its Kit Kar Kapers race day on Saturday (19 July), and the Gathering of Goblins event at Goodwood Motor Circuit, West Sussex will be held on Sunday (20 July).

As the world looks to cut carbon dioxide emissions in half before 2050, these future engineers will be taking to the track in cars powered by electric motors as part of a new partnership that offers schools an exciting insight into sustainable transport and careers in engineering as they design, build and race their own eco-race cars.

The Gathering of Goblins event at Goodwood begins at 9am and is open to all schools from Hertfordshire, West Sussex and Kent that have participated in the Goblin races this year. The students build their 'Goblin' electric car from kit form and customise it to their own designs, giving them a fun vehicle capable of 15mph to work on and strong ideas of what challenges an engineer faces.

Pupils will converge from 9am on Saturday for the Kit Kar Kapers (sic) event at Filton, North Bristol, to test out their eco cars in a series of races. The cars are designed for endurance racing, and are capable of covering 300 miles on just two sets of car batteries, charged for less than £2! The day takes place in partnership with Bristol City Council and Airbus.

John Ling, IMechE Transport Programme Manager, hopes the competitions will get pupils hooked on engineering. He said: "Building and racing an electric car is not only an exciting way for young people to gain an insight into engineering, but it also makes them aware of the energy issues that we all face."

Meanwhile, the North East IMechE Greenpower heat on July 16 was won by the all-girl team from Sandbach High School. The team travelled all the way from Cheshire to see off the competition at the Croft Circuit, Darlington. Their low-carbon wonder car 'Brian' covered an incredible 101.2 miles over the four-hour endurance race.

The teams of 11 – 16 year-olds get involved in every stage of the concept and manufacture of the cars, giving them the chance to work with a variety of materials in order to understand what makes the most economical car.

'Zebedee' also from Sandbach High School, and 'Carbon Comet' from Ripon Grammar School, North Yorkshire, finished second and third respectively.

The next step up for schools entering the event is the IMechE's hugely successful Formula Student event, Europe's largest student motorsport event, which is open to universities across the world. This year's final took place at Silverstone, where students fought it out on the world famous track only days after the giants of Formula 1 had lined up on the starting grid. This year's competition saw the premiere of the new low carbon Class 1A ('A' stands for alternative fuels), showcasing the world's first hydrogen racing car, built by pupils at Hertfordshire University. It is hoped that some of this weekend's young competitors will go on to feature in this high-octane event in the near future, taking the skills they've learned here with them.



Lift-off: Winner of the North East ImechE Greenpower heat, 'Brian' (Available in HiRes)

IMechE Greenpower North East Heat Results:

- 1 **Brian**, Sandbach High School, 88 laps over 101.2 miles;
- 2 **Zebedee**, Sandbach High School, 82 laps over 94.3 miles
- 3 **Carbon Comet**, Ripon Grammar School, 72 laps over 82.8 miles

Notes to Editor

- The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) is one of the world's leading engineering institutions. Established in 1847 it has some of the world's greatest engineers in its history books. It currently has around 80,000 members in 120 countries representing mechanical engineers working in groundbreaking areas such as automotive, rail, aerospace, medical, power and construction industries to name a few. Visit www.imeche.org for more information.
- Greenpower is a company dedicated to promoting engineering and technology as careers to pupils throughout their school life, through an exciting hands-on project to design, build and race an electric racing car. For more information visit www.greenpower.co.uk