



NEWS RELEASE

Chipping Sodbury School are victorious at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Greenpower Western heats

24 June 2008

'Rotary Racer' from Chipping Sodbury School, Gloucestershire, raced to victory in the IMechE Greenpower schools electric car race at the Castle Combe Circuit, Chippenham, Wiltshire, on Sunday 22 June. This earns them a place at the national final to be held at the famous Goodwood circuit in October.

The pupils, aged nine to 16, were competing against 20 schools from across western England, who designed and built their electric-powered cars from scratch, raced them over four hours to cover the greatest distance possible. 'Rotary Racer' covered an incredible 105.4 miles as the team of 12 children, including six drivers and six pit crew, steered it to the chequered flag.

IMechE Greenpower is a new partnership established to offer schools an exciting insight into careers in engineering as they design, build and race their own eco-race cars.

John Ling, IMechE Transport programme manager 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."

By getting pupils hooked on engineering while they're still at school the Institution hopes that it will inspire the next generation to develop solutions.

As part of the partnership, the IMechE is working with its members acting as 'mentors' to assist pupils in the event and pass on their expertise. The next step up for schools entering the event is the IMechE's hugely successful Formula Student event which is Europe's largest student motorsport event.

Barry Shears, who founded Greenpower in 1999, said: "IMechE Greenpower inspires young people to take up engineering by designing, building and then racing full-scale electric cars. The teams will experience a wide range of challenges giving them a solid introduction to the exciting variety available from a career in engineering."

The thrilling final endurance race around the Goodwood track lasts for four hours, testing student's design and driving capabilities to their highest. With almost 100 finalists last year, this year's teams are thrilled to secure their place on the grid.

Results

Rotary Racer Chipping Sodbury School	57 laps	105.45 mls
Turbo Tortoise Furze Platt School	55 laps	101.75 mls
Brian Sandbach High School	55 laps	101.7 5mls

IMechE Greenpower Western Schools:

Sandbach High School, Sandbach, Cheshire;
Malvern College, Malvern, Worcs;
Patchway Community College, Bristol;
Bristol Brunel Academy, Bristol;
King Arthur's Community School, Wincaton, Somerset;
Park Community School, Havant, Hants;
Chipping Sodbury School, Chipping Sodbury, Gloucs;
Abbotsholme School, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire;
Furze Platt Senior School, Maidenhead, Berkshire;
Mangotsfield School, Bristol;
Southgate Motors, Sparkford, Somerset;
Marlwood School, Bristol;
Wyvern Community School, Weston-super-Mare;
Daniel James Community School, Treboeth, Wales;
Chosen Hill School, Churchdown, Glos;
St Laurence School, Bradford on Avon, Wilts;
Altwood Business & Enterprise College, Maidenhead, Berks;
Axtan Chase School, Longfield, Kent;
West Somerset Community College, Minehead, Somerset;
King Edmund Community School, Yate, Gloucs.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- 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