



NEWS RELEASE

Grampian Transport Museum, Alford are victorious at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Greenpower Scottish heats

24 June 2008

The GTM Young Engineers from the Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, raced to victory in the IMechE Greenpower schools electric car race at the Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, Aberdeenshire, 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 13 schools from across Scotland, who designed and built their electric-powered cars from scratch, raced them over four hours to cover the greatest distance possible. The GTM Young Engineers covered an incredible 245 laps of the track 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

1. GTM Young Engineers Club	245 laps	61.25 mls
Grampian Transport Museum/Alford Academy		
2. Original BART	245 laps	61.25 mls
Banff Academy		
3. Bankhead Blazers	170 laps	42.50 mls
Bankhead Academy		

IMechE Greenpower Scottish Schools:

Arbroath Academy, Arbroath;
Banchory Academy, Banchory;
Banff Academy, Banff;
Bankhead Academy, Bucksburn;
Carnoustie High School, Carnoustie;
Cordyce School, Aberdeen;
Dollar Academy, Dollar;
Elgin Academy, Elgin;
Forfar Academy, Forfar;
Grampian Transport Museum Young Engineers Club, Alford;
St John's RC High School, Dundee;
The Gordon Schools, Aberdeen;
Thurso High School, Thurso;
Wick High School, Wick.

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