



# NEWS RELEASE

## **Rockingham hosts IMechE Greenpower this weekend**

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### ***Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Greenpower Midlands heats 1 July 2008***

Next Tuesday, 29 schools will be racing their electric-powered cars designed and built from scratch at the Rockingham Motor Speedway, Corby, Northants. The youngsters will be competing in the IMechE Greenpower school electric car races.

Teams of up to 12 children aged 11 - 16, including six drivers and six pit crew, are hoping to cover the greatest distance over four hours, beginning at 1pm, using their battery-powered vehicles as they vie for a place at the final, to be held at the famous Goodwood circuit in October.

Schools from as far afield as Essex will be coming to compete on Tuesday at the renowned motorsport venue. All the cars have been designed and built from scratch using customised kits. (Schools taking part are listed below). The day begins at 11am with a short race from round three of the Formula 24+ Championship for 16-21 year olds, before the main event at 1pm.

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 will be looking to secure their place on the grid. Teams featuring this year include 'Twin Cambs' from Wisbech Grammar School, Wisbech, Cambs; 'Henry V8' from King Henry VIII School, Coventry, West Midlands; and 'Boston Bullet' from Boston Grammar School, Boston, Lincs.

Doug Drane, team leader at King Henry VIII School, Coventry, said: "It's our first year competing. We have a team of 12 kids who started building the car six months ago. They've taken a lot of weight off the car by using carbon fibre, and aluminium with a canvas body on top.

"It's giving the kids the freedom of design and freedom to work on a project that's not school set – it's their vehicle. They're chomping at the bit, and the trial runs have gone well. They all want to drive it!"

#### **IMechE Greenpower Midlands Schools:**

Wisbech Grammar School, Wisbech, Cambs;  
Foremarke Hall Milton, Derbyshire;  
Sir Graham Balfour School, Stafford;  
The Voyager School Peterborough, Cambs;  
Sandbach High School, Sandbach, Cheshire;  
Frank F. Harrison Engineering College, Walsall, West Midlands;  
Uppingham Community College, Uppingham, Rutland;  
Brownhills Community Technology College, Walsall, West Midlands;  
West Haddon Village West Haddon, Northants;  
Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School, Keresley, Coventry;  
Murray Park School Mickleover, Derbyshire;  
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Alford, Lincolnshire;  
Longton High School Longton, Staffordshire;  
Abbey College Ramsey, Cambs;  
Abbotsholme School, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire;  
King Henry VIII School, Coventry, West Midlands;  
The Streetly School, Streetly, West Midlands;  
Shrewsbury School, Shrewsbury, Shropshire;  
Two Rivers High School, Tamworth, Staffordshire;  
Madeley High School, Madeley, Staffordshire;  
Deferrers Specialist Technology College, Burton U Trent, Staffs;  
Holden Lane High School, Stoke on Trent, Staffs;  
Boston Grammar School, Boston, Lincs;  
The Philip Morant School and College, Colchester, Essex;  
Hamond's High School Swaffham, Norfolk;  
Blythe Bridge High School, Blythe Bridge, Staffs;  
City of London Freeman's School, Ashted, Surrey;  
The Plume School Maldon, Essex;  
Foremarke Hall Maldon, Essex.



## ENDS

- 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](http://www.imeche.org) or contact the press office on [media@imeche.org](mailto:media@imeche.org) or call 0207 304 6888 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](http://www.greenpower.co.uk)