



# NEWS RELEASE

## **Pupils' eco-car carries team to the final, displaying a bright future for engineering solutions**

14 July 2008

### ***Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Greenpower Essex heats Saturday 12 July***

As the world's most powerful countries decide on cutting greenhouse emissions by 2050, the next generation of engineers from the Business Academy Bexley, Erith, have built a low-carbon wonder car that covered an incredible 78 miles on nothing more than two sets of car batteries to win the Essex heat of the IMechE Greenpower school electric car races.

The event took place at the Ford Dunton Technical Centre, Basildon, Essex, on 12 July, with 16 schools racing their eco-cars over furthest distance possible in this four-hour endurance heat. The teams, comprising of six drivers and six pit crew, have spent the last six months designing and building their cars from scratch as part of extra curricular programmes in order to reach the final to be held at the famous Goodwood track on 19 October.

As the international community fight to halve greenhouse gas emissions before 2050, this approach to educating and promoting cleaner transport and engineering solutions could not come at a more relevant time.

Pupils aged 9 -16 get involved in every stage of the concept and manufacture of the cars, helping to create initial designs and concepts, before rolling up their sleeves and tackling the hands-on engineering challenges that give them the chance to work with a variety of materials in order to understand what makes the most economical car.

The eventual winner 'Jewson' managed an incredible 71 laps of the track. 'Franc n Stein' from the Philip Morant School and College, and 'Hot Prospect' from the Basildon Young Engineers Club/Prospect College finished second and third respectively.

Kerrie Espin, team leader at the Business Academy Bexley, speaking about the school's two entries, said: "The Jewson Team are thrilled with the results they have achieved this season, especially having beat the AON team at the Dunton race on Saturday.

"The AON team were left disappointed, coming in fifth. However, AON suffered two major breakdowns during the 4hours of racing and coming in fifth, an amazing achievement. The AON team also had a run of setting the fastest lap."

The new IMechE Greenpower partnership offer schools an exciting insight into careers in engineering. At the event, 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."

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 is a proven way of not only motivating and exciting pupils about engineering as a career option, but also encouraging innovative, green thinking. The huge enthusiasm shown by pupils in designing, building and racing their own electric vehicle as part of a large team is a delight to see and shows great promise for the future of British 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.

#### **IMechE Greenpower EssexHeat Results:**

1	<b>Jewson</b> Business Academy Bexley	71 laps	78.1 miles
2	<b>Franc n Stein</b> The Philip Morant School and College	64 laps	70.4 miles
3	<b>Hot Prospect</b> Basildon Young Engineers Club/Prospect College	64 laps	70.4 miles

#### **IMechE Greenpower Essex Schools:**

Business Academy Bexley, Erith;  
Belhus Chase School, Aveley, Essex;  
Westcliff High School for Girls, Westcliff on Sea, Essex;  
The Stanway School, Colchester, Essex;  
The Philip Morant School and College, Colchester, Essex;  
Hylands School, Chelmsford, Essex;  
Tendring Technology College, Thorpe-Le-Soken, Essex;  
Air Compressor Centre, Flitwick, Bedfordshire;  
Tabor Science College, Braintree, Essex;  
Colchester Royal Grammar School, Colchester, Essex;  
The Plume School, Maldon, Essex;  
St. Mary's School for Girls, Colchester, Essex;  
Claydon High School, Ipswich, Suffolk;  
The Leigh Technology Academy, Dartford, Kent;  
Thomas Lord Audley School, Colchester, Essex;  
St. Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill, Sussex.



**On the right track:** The winner of the fastest lap, AON, from the Business Academy Bexley  
[Image available in hi-res]

## 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)