



NEWS RELEASE

Goodwood hosts IMechE Greenpower heats this weekend

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Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Greenpower Central South heats Sunday 29 June

This Sunday, 21 schools will be racing their electric-powered cars designed and built from scratch at the Goodwood Motor Circuit, Chichester, West Sussex. The youngsters will be competing in the IMechE Greenpower school electric car races.

Teams of 12 children aged 11 - 16, including six drivers and six pit crew, are hoping to cover the greatest distance over four hours, starting 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 Cornwall will be competing on Sunday at the historic 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 two 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.

David Shaw team leader at Seaford College, Petworth, Sussex, said: "We've been building a new car for this year, to add to our three entries. The kids thoroughly enjoy it, and being last year's champions helps to encourage them. They've been fibre-glassing, increasing the size of one of the vehicles to meet regulations, and making all-round tweaks to the vehicles, they can't wait to get out there on the track."

IMechE Greenpower Central South England Schools:

Wisbech Grammar School, Wisbech, Cambs;
Trinity School, Croydon, Surrey;
Steyning Grammar School, Steyning, Sussex;
Slindon College, Arundel, Sussex;
Park Community School, Havant, Hants;
Slindon College, Havant, Hants;
Eltham College, London;
Chichester High School for Boys, Chichester, Sussex;
Kingston Grammar School, Kingston, Surrey;
Chipping Sodbury School, Bristol;
Chatham House Grammar School, Ramsgate, Kent;
Churcher's College, Petersfield, Hants;
St. Swithun's School, Winchester, Hants;
St. Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill, Sussex;
Portsmouth Grammar School, Portsmouth, Hants;
Lampton School, Hounslow;
West Somerset Community College, Minehead, Somerset;
Seaford College, Petworth, Sussex;
Catford High School, Catford, London;
City of London Freeman's School, Ashted, Surrey.



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- 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 or contact the IMechE press office on 0207 6871 6888 for more information. Available on the day will be John Ling, IMechE Transport programme manager, who can be contacted through the press office, or on the day on: 07771797784.
- 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