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Stories from this week's paper

TROPHY FOR TEAM: Winning green mean machine



Weald edition Friday 27 June 2008

A SPECIAL racing car was put through its paces in a new series aimed at helping youngsters design and build their own green cars.

The Greenpower Formula 24 Race, held in Sittingbourne, saw a team from Cranbrook School pick up the best newcomers' trophy out of seven new teams competing.

The 11-man team, comprising girls and boys aged 14 and 15, were given a standard 24-volt electric wheelchair motor and four 12-volt batteries, two for the car and two for the pits, and told to build their own cars.

Once constructed, six drivers competed against other teams in endurance races. At the end of the contest, Cranbrook's car covered about 80 miles over a total of 240 laps. The average speed was 20mph and the top speeds in excess of 40mp. The team finished sixth out of 20 runners and will face the Greater London regional heat at Dunsfold Park, Surrey, on September 29.

They are aiming for the finals at Goodwood, on October 19.

FIRMS are being urged to sign up to a trailblazing scheme designed to help Olympic and Paralympic teams train in Kent ahead of the London games in 2012.

Kent County Council has proposed an "adopt a squad" scheme that would forge links between local firms and overseas teams.

Marsland and Company of Edenbridge is the first name on a database of willing companies that the council can approach for financial or practical support. Now it hopes to attract more firms from across the county.

Thirty-seven sites in Kent have been identified as potential training camps by London 2012 - more than any other county. In recent months, national teams from the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Iceland and France have trained in Kent. Saudi Arabia's volleyball players are scheduled to train in the county this summer.

Representatives from the Slovenian gymnastics squad recently took part in an open gymnastics championship in Maidstone.

Chris Hespe, KCC's head of sport, leisure and Olympics, and chairman of the Kent Coordinating Group for the 2012 Games, welcomed Marsland and Company's decision and hoped other firms would follow its example and share in the excitement of the Games build-up. "We want to achieve sporting, educational and cultural links between nations that would also lead to economic links," he said.

Opportunity

"I see this as a huge opportunity for Kent companies. It is firmly believed that firms will be able to forge commercial links on the back of sporting deals.

"There's no reason why firms could not adopt nations or squads and follow them all the way through to 2012.

"There would also be photo opportunities for the firms and their staff.

"They would be contributing to these nations' visits and by doing so enhancing the international profile and standing of those firms."

The council is looking for offers of sponsorship or help in kind, for example by providing a minibus to take teams around, paying for a team's accommodation, or funding visits to attractions.

Details available at www.kent.sport.org/london2012 or email chris.hespe@kent.gov.uk
DOCTORS' surgeries across Maidstone and west Kent are ahead of the game nationally for opening outside working hours.

Almost 90 per cent of GP practices in west Kent have agreed to extend their opening hours. West Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT), which contracts GPs locally, reached extended hours agreements with 90 of the area's 104 practices.

Of the 90, 78 surgeries (75 per cent of the total in west Kent), have already started offering the new hours, compared with a national average of 18 per cent.

So far, 62 practices are providing evening surgeries, 30 offer early morning sessions and 21 are offering the opportunity to see a GP on a Saturday. Some offer a combination.

Bill Millar, the PCT's assistant director of primary care, said: "It is a tribute to the enthusiasm of GPs in west Kent and their willingness to take swift action to improve patient care."

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- Wedding in hospice for cancer sufferer
- High kerbs could solve bank erosion
- TROPHY FOR TEAM: Winning green mean machine
- Man jailed for not paying his council tax bill

Next...

More sport from this week's paper

- May's effort fails to save strugglers
- Paddock Wood double up
- Mote Park wants county cricket back
- Shepherd boost for Yalding
- Get to grip with the laws of the game
- Dramatic win puts Wells into top three

Next...

More Environment Issues news

- Found sssnoozing in a compost bin
- Week to save the planet
- Found sssnoozing in a compost bin
- Battle lines drawn over concrete plant
- Emission levels lead to fines for company

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 2. In pictures: Kent battered by fierce storms
 3. Let the judging begin
 4. Mill closure puts 130 jobs on the line
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 tickets to
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