



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Goblins and Kit Kar Kapers provide thrills for wannabe engineers and Lewis Hamiltons**

22 July 2008

Last weekend saw the Kit Kar Kapers (sic) race at Bristol's Airbus Airfield on Saturday 19 July, and the Gathering of Goblins event at Goodwood Motor Circuit, West Sussex on Sunday 20 July being visited by car crazy youngsters wanting to become the next generation of Formula 1 engineers and drivers.

They were taking part in events organised by IMechE Greenpower, a competition that lets youngsters from primary right through to secondary schools build eco friendly electric cars from scratch.

The cars involved began life in kit form, with all vehicles having to run on the same standard car batteries and 24v electrical motor. To build a car entirely would cost in the region of £3,000, but with clever use of recycled parts, sponsorship from local companies and ingenious use of materials, the cars can be put together for under £1,000. Many of the teams change their car's dynamics as part of the learning curve, resulting in cars capable of travelling 300 miles on a single £2 charge of their batteries, with little cost to the environment.

The Gathering of Goblins event at Goodwood was open to all schools from Hertfordshire, West Sussex and Kent that had participated in Goblin races this year. On the day, the winner was 'Summerlea Speed' from the Summerlea CofE School, Rustington, West Sussex. The students' 'Goblin' electric cars are built from kit form and customised to the pupils own designs, giving them a fun vehicle capable of 15mph to work on and a chance to see what kind of challenges an engineer faces.

Summerlea team leader, teacher Phillip Craig, was extremely proud of the amount of effort the pupils had shown to win. He said: "This is only our third year, and we've always come last till now. So we replaced everything on the car and worked hard on getting everything right – we spent a lot of time out on the playground practising. They were ecstatic to win against 57 other teams, especially in the final big race where we shot out into the lead!"

The Kit Kar Kapers event at Filton, North Bristol, saw another Goblin race take place, eventually being won by the pupils from Staple Hill Primary school, Bristol. Meanwhile a Formula 24 (endurance competition) for secondary school pupils was won by Monks Park Secondary School in their more advanced electric car, designed and built from scratch to travel the furthest possible distance over the four-hour race.

Pupils from Marlwood School, Bristol, were excited to be taking part in the Formula 24 event. Teacher David Clay, said: "It was different to see the cars out in a sprint race – only 3 laps around the track and they were really close, giving the kids a chance to beat some of the flashier cars. It was great and the pupils were really excited, and it was a whole new style of driving for them – They were like young Lewis Hamiltons!"

John Ling, IMechE Transport Programme Manager, hopes the competitions will get pupils hooked on engineering. He 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."

The next step up for schools entering the event is the IMechE's hugely successful Formula Student event, Europe's largest student motorsport event, which is open to universities across the world. This year's final took place at Silverstone, where students fought it out on the world famous track only days after the giants of Formula 1 had lined up on the starting grid. This year's competition saw the premiere of the new low carbon Class 1A ('A' stands for alternative fuels), showcasing the world's first hydrogen racing car, built by pupils at Hertfordshire University. It is hoped that some of this weekend's young competitors will go on to feature in this high-octane event in the near future, taking the skills they've learned here with them.



**On Starters Orders:** The Formula 24 finalists line up in Bristol (l-r: Chipping Sodbury School, Marlwood School, Monk's Park Secondary School, Chipping Sodbury School - This and other images available in HiRes)

### **IMechE Greenpower Results:**

**Kit Kar Kapers**, Airbus Airfield, Bristol, Saturday 19 July

### **Goblin Event**

1st Place - Rock Racers from Staple Hill Primary School; 2nd Place - The Red Legends from Parkwall Primary School; 3rd Place - Wild Cats from Staple Hill Primary School

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## Formula 24

1st Place - Monk Park Flyers from Monks Park Secondary School; 2nd Place - R-Pods from Chipping Sodbury School; 3rd Place - Rodary Racer from Chipping Sodbury School

## Gathering of Goblins, Goodwood, Sunday 20 July

1st Place - Summerlea Speed from Summerlea Cof E School, Rustington, West Sussex;  
2nd Place - Byron School, from Kent; 3rd Place - St Margaret's CofE School from Kent



Goblin Gathering Winners from Summerlea School, West Sussex

## Notes to Editor

- 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) 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)