



NEWS RELEASE

Future Lewis Hamiltons and engineers test out their horsepower at Aintree circuit

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The Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Greenpower electric car races head to Aintree on September 10 for the first heat to be held at historic Aintree

Future engineers from schools across the North West are busy preparing their electric-powered cars designed and built from scratch for the next heat of the IMechE Greenpower car races, to be held at Aintree motor racing circuit, Liverpool, on 10 September.

The youngsters will be competing in teams of up to 12 children aged 9 - 16, including six drivers and six pit crew, are hoping to cover the greatest distance over four hours using their battery-powered vehicles as they vie for a place at the final, to be held at the famous Goodwood circuit on October 19.

As the world looks to cut carbon dioxide emissions in half before 2050, these future engineers will be taking to the track in cars they have designed and built, which are capable of travelling 300 miles on four charges of their electric batteries – costing a mere £2!

Although famous as home of the Grand National horse race, Aintree was also home to the British Grand Prix for 5 years from 1950 to 1962. Here, in 1955, Stirling Moss took his first British Grand Prix victory and then in 1957 he became the first ever British Driver to win a Grand Prix in Britain driving a British car, a Vanwall. This new generation of engineers and drivers will be hoping to emulate this on the full 3 mile Grand Prix Circuit.

John Ling, IMechE Transport programme manager, hopes the competition 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."

Liverpool Motor Club has helped the organiser's access to the venue for the first time in 2008. Club Chairman John Harden, said: "We are thrilled that Aintree will be hosting the Greenpower challenge this year."

"The North West has a tremendous engineering heritage too, so it is only fitting that the engineers and designers of the future should be taking their first steps in motorsport right here on Merseyside."

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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."



On track: A team get ready to race at a previous IMechE Greenpower event

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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 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