



NEWS RELEASE

The Phoenix rises to win IMechE Greenpower Central South heat

West Sussex school wins Institution of Mechanical Engineers' Greenpower Central South heat

1 July 2008

A group of young engineers from a school in Sussex have won the IMechE Greenpower Central South heat at the Goodwood Motor Circuit, Chichester, on Sunday (29 June).

Youngsters from Seaford College, Petworth, fended off 20 other school teams in the event where pupils competed in electric -powered cars built from scratch. Trinity School, Croydon, Surrey, and Eltham College, London came in second and third respectively.

The team of 12, aged 11 – 16 are thrilled to have won and as a result have made it to through to the IMechE Greenpower final to be held at the famous Goodwood track on 19 October. David Shaw team leader at Seaford College, Petworth, Sussex, said: "It was quite a close race, we had a few battery connector issues and then we got sin binned for a collision and going too fast through the pits, but we won in the end. The kids had a great day and it was nice to win with the inexperienced drivers, a lot of them were still unused to the car."

The winning team covered an astonishing 117.6 miles during the four hour endurance race as they tested their design and engineering skills in a close run race. All the cars involved had been designed and built from scratch using customised kits. (Schools that took part are listed below).

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. 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.

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."

The next step up for the pupils 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.

Winners

1	The Phoenix Seaford College, Petworth, Sussex	49 laps	117.6 miles
2	TSR-4 Trinity School, Croydon, Surrey	49 laps	117.6 miles
3	EVO 4 Eltham College, London	49 laps	117.6 miles

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.



Wacky Races: A previous IMechE Greenpower event

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 or contact the IMechE press office on 0207 6871 6888 for more information. John Ling, IMechE Transport programme manager is available for more information 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