

# Triumphant Success for Chipping Sodbury School's Greenpower Teams at the National Greenpower Final Goodwood Race Circuit 2009



After a very successful year, Chipping Sodbury School's Greenpower teams managed top that by achieving 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the National Greenpower F24 final and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the F24+ final. The fastest 75 cars from over 150 teams represented schools across the UK. The Greenpower organisation promotes electric car design, development and racing for schools, colleges, apprentices and youth groups. The aim is to promote engineering and technology as careers, to those aged 9-21. Teams of pupils, parents and teachers raise funds from sponsors to design, build, develop and race electric racing cars to Formula 24 rules. The teams have worked for many years on Tuesday evenings at the school's Design and Technology department ably organised by Brendan McMorrow, a Design Technolgy teacher at the school. As well as the many hours spent designing and building the cars, this last year the teams have clocked up almost 2000 miles at an effective average of 1700 MPG on racing circuits across the country in their school built cars.

The school managed to get 4 cars into the Greenpower Finals by winning podium positions or achieving the necessary qualification mileages throughout the year. In the F24 racing season the Rotary Racer and R-PodS SSC cars have been competing at the top end of the field. Friendly inter-team rivalry has helped them push the limits. Their new highly aerodynamic and efficient car designs have achieved 4 firsts, two seconds and one third in their racing. They qualified in grid positions 2 and 3 in the national



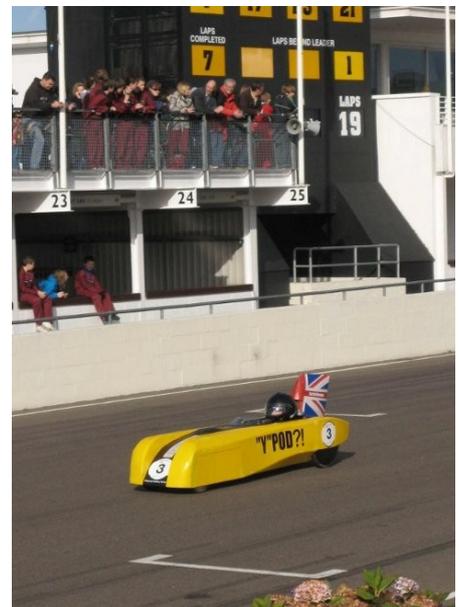
championship. Wacky Racer, a new team, has also had a successful year managing to get their car up and running and qualify for the final. The school's fourth team, Team Fusion, worked hard to get their new car finished for the last hour of the last qualification race but were unfortunately unable to qualify for the final.



The final was held at Goodwood racing circuit on October 18<sup>th</sup> in bright sunshine. Rotary Racer and R-PodS SSC were lined up at the front of the grid alongside Seaford College's SCO7, Zebedee from Sandbach High School and Trinity School's TSR-4. At 1pm the start flag was lowered for the start of the 4 hour endurance race. The cars all got off to a good start. By the first corner Zebedee was first with Rotary Racer and R-PodS SSC not far behind. During the race the boys and girls in the teams have to manage pit-stops, change drivers and the racing batteries as well as drive the cars. Good team work and practice is required here as well as good driving skills on the race track. As the race continued Rotary

Racer and R-PodS SSC battled with SCO7, Zebedee and the other 71 cars often changing positions at pit stops. As well as speed with efficiency, a high degree of reliability is called for to win races. Unfortunately for Zebedee a racing incident led to a puncture and gave them a delay allowing Rotary Racer and R-PodS SSC to move into 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places around 2 hours into the race. Quite often Greenpower race podium positions are determined in the final 30 minutes. The teams have 4 car batteries to use and must manage the power usage so that they have enough power to finish the race but use as much of the battery energy as possible. This is tricky and dependent on many factors. All the cars were slowing, and the nervous energy was growing, but our leading cars managed to get it just about right. Rotary Racer took the chequered flag in 1<sup>st</sup> place, achieving a mileage of 120 miles in 4 hours to win the national championship. R-PodS SSC achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place, only just missing out on a 2<sup>nd</sup> place to SCO7. Wacky Racer was running well hovering around the top ten, but failing batteries led them to a 41<sup>st</sup> place, an great achievement for their first year. An excellent race and a fine end to the F24 season.

The F24+ races are for the older students and are held alongside the F24 races. To add extra spice, there is a manufacturer's championship with the points from the best two heats added to those from the final. Our car "Y-Pod?!" was upholding the school honours and as the final approached, there were only two points separating the top four cars. The race started promptly at 10:30 and during the first few laps there were 5 cars competing for the top places with the others gradually falling back. At the half way mark, "Y-Pod?!" was holding a comfortable third place, only to drop back to fourth when we pitted to change drivers. As the race drew to a close, the top runners all started to struggle with expiring batteries but "Y-Pod?!" was continuing at almost the same pace. On the last lap we managed to overtake the race leader & un-lap ourselves, finally taking a very respectable third place.



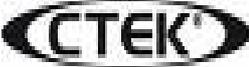
The Chipping Sodbury Greenpower team members are:

- **Rotary Racer:** Ben Miller, Dan Dando, Gareth Barnaby, James and Tom Allington, Liam Towills and helpers Stephanie Dando and Dawn Barnaby.
- **The Pod Movement (Y-Pod?! & R-PodS SSC) :** Alex Hunter, Joe Earlam, Issy King, Matthew Hunter, Felix King, Aaron Holbrook, Louis King
- **Wacky Racer:** Lewis Clark, Kathryn Duffy, Michael Hall, Ben Melling, Gemma Smart, Tom Stretton, Ollie Seymour-Williams
- **Team Fusion:** Jason Watts , Jack and Sophie Woolcombe, Matt Johnston , Ollie Scull, Dan Hunn

# Pictures



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