

# Chipping Sodbury School at Silverstone

## 01-05-2011

The Chipping Sodbury Rotary Racer and Chain Reaction Greenpower teams both competed in national Greenpower races on the 1st of May at the prestigious Silverstone race circuit. The competition included teams from Jaguar Land Rover, Bentley, Prodrive, and Citroen amongst many others. The teams worked hard on the day with pitstops and driving. Rotary Racer took part in the 4 hour Corporate Challenge race and managed to get a 3rd place podium position, beating most of the Corporate cars and all of the other schools.



Silverstone is a competitive race circuit which is used for formula one racing. The circuit is 1.63 miles with two hairpins along the track. The weather on the day was windy, but sunny. This wasn't the best conditions as it meant that the cars were continually fighting against the wind.



Rotary Racer's telemetry

Chain reaction started off in the 80 minute season opener race at 11:10 am. Chain Reaction took off from the starting line, waved by the racing flag. The car was a newly built car, and this was its first race. The team were not expecting much, but were hoping to be able to test out the car and get some vital drivers practice in. Chain Reaction managed to come 26<sup>th</sup> out of the 45 entrants, which is an amazing achievement – especially for the new car. The team nearly managed to complete the race, losing battery power on the last lap. Still,

an incredible achievement for the whole team.

Rotary Racer started the Corporate Challenge with hope. This was their first full race with the new (smaller) batteries, and they weren't quite sure how well they were going to work. The team had agreed to put all four drivers onto the circuit instead of only using three (the minimum requirement). This meant the team had to complete three pit stops to change the drivers over.



These pit stops would have to take place in the 4 hour endurance race which is the Corporate Challenge. It is a different race from all the others in a season, as it allows company's to put in cars and teams, which will then race alongside the schools to see if they can get a place on the podium. Rotary Racer zoomed along, managing to complete laps in around 3 and a half minutes. The new batteries meant the pit stops were slower than usual, but this didn't stop them from keeping fast pit times of around 1 and a half minutes. With each pit stop they only lost the equivalent to just under half a lap.

Rotary Racer kept their battery levels monitored, completing the race with 5% of battery power still left. The team managed to complete 68 laps in total, meaning they managed to do 112 miles around the circuit. This great achievement meant they had gained a podium finish of third, a few laps behind Electroad and Silesian University (both company cars).

Rotary Racers success was helped by their hard work over the Winter months, improving the car in any way possible. One of these improvements included designing and creating a new longer shaped back to the car. This helped the car on the windy Silverstone circuit. The back was designed by the students on pro engineer, and was tested on a virtual wind tunnel. The RR team is: Gareth Barnaby, Dan Dando, Ben Millar, Tom Allington, Dawn Barnaby, Steph Dando and Louise Barnaby with their parents.

Both of Chipping Sodbury's Greenpower cars did very well on the day. They would like to say Thank-you to Mr McMorrow for giving up his spare time on a Monday evening, to help the teams in the DT workshops. Also, many thanks to all the sponsors who helped us get this far in the Greenpower challenge. They have been very supportive of the team.

By Dawn Barnaby



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