



A fantastic year for Chipping Sodbury School in the F24 Greenpower race series

Summary

This has been a fantastic year for Greenpower racing at Chipping Sodbury School. With the final race at Goodwood in less than a week's time, we have cars qualified in 2nd, 3rd & 30th places for the 76 car event.

Pitted against over 250 cars nationwide, in the 11 country-wide regional heats this year, the school has notched up 3 race wins, 3 second places & 3 fourth places with other finishes lower down the field.

Detail

In 2009, Chipping Sodbury School has confirmed its position as one of the top schools competing in the Greenpower Electric Car Racing Series. Greenpower is a company dedicated to promoting engineering and technology as careers in both secondary and primary schools around the UK. The Greenpower project is the UK's premier technology competition for schoolchildren aged 10-26.

Upon entering the Greenpower series, teams are provided with a standard electric motor and four car batteries – two on the car and two on charge in the pit lane. They must then build their vehicle to the unique 'Formula 24' specification supplied. Each team must consist of six drivers, and pit crew to help out in the pit stops and maintain the car.

Once complete, the schools race their vehicles in regional four-hour races at racing circuits around the country, including Castle Combe, Croft & Aintree. The top 75 cars from these heats, qualify for the National Final, which is held at the famous Goodwood Motor Circuit, West Sussex, in October.

This year, the school has competed with 5 cars, four of them in the F24 series (the secondary school formula) and one in the F24+ series (for 6th formers & above).

The season started off well with a 2nd, 4th & 14th place in the 'corporate challenge' at Goodwood, where the top 15 school cars were pitted against cars produced by companies including Jaguar Landrover, Prodrive (who used to run the Subaru Rally cars & now own Aston Martin), and local company Renishaw.

In the subsequent heats, we notched up two 4th places (F24 & F24+) at the Rockingham motor speedway circuit, after suffering with two punctures. At the Goodwood heat, we managed a 1st, 2nd & 9th finish in F24, with a disappointing 4th in F24+ due to wiring problems. We held the top two positions at Castle Combe for most of the race but eventually had to settle for 1st, 4th & 26th place, with a 2nd in F24+. We only took our F24+ car to Aintree, but managed a fantastic race win against a field including the 2008 F24 Champion. The last qualification race was using the Top Gear circuit at Dunsfold Park, and this is one of the more hotly contested heats, being close to the origins of

Greenpower in the South East and near London. For the entire F24 race we held a convincing 1,2 lead, eventually taking 1st, 2nd & 36th places with another strong showing in F24+ with a 2nd place.

KEY FACTS

- The Pod Movement's F24 car "R-PodSssc" is in 2nd place for the final with a 1st, two 2nd & 4th places in the heats.
- The "Rotary Racer" has qualified in 3rd place for the final with two 1st places, a 2nd and a 4th place in the heats.
- Our "Wacky Racer" Team are in 30th place for the final with a 9th place and a 26th place in the heats.
- "Team Fusion" only managed to finish their car during the last race but still managed a creditable 36th position, unfortunately not qualifying for the final.
- The Pod Movement's F24 + car "Y-Pod?!" managed the most races this year with one 1st, two 2nd's & 4th's along with one (disappointing) 9th place. We are in joint third place in the constructors' championship, with the deciding round to be held at the final.
- Both our top two cars have qualified with a higher mileage than the 2008 final winner.
- Our home-made electric cars have managed a staggering 1500 miles in races this season at an average speed of over 25mph.

WEBSITES

www.greenpower.co.uk

<http://beehive.thisisbristol.com/bacon>

<http://picasaweb.google.com/thepodmovement>

<http://www.greenpower.beamweb.co.uk/files/RotaryRacer/>

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