



# ENGINEERING YOUR FUTURE

Issue 005—May 2011



## Race Day News

### Plas Menai—Monday 20th June

The North Wales Race Day looks to have added value this year by way of a



presence from some feeder primary schools. It is a great opportunity to invite some of these schools along to a fun day of boat building activity, as a links project at this stage of transition and a great way to introduce the younger students to the schools they will shortly be attending. For the primaries we have boats all ready to go after a couple of assembly tasks, so that there is no preparation required prior to the event. Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn has three of its feeder schools lined up and they are looking forward to joining us on 20th, please let us know as soon as you can if you want to invite schools along.



### Bluewater—Thursday 23rd June



From North Wales to Bluewater in Kent for the second year where we will have boats from all classes of the Schools Marine Challenge. Bring display work with you as we will be judging on the day with the help of the British Marine Federation. The opportunity to build a solar powered boat and then race it will also be available, but please advise us of the numbers of pupils and arrival time as this proved a very popular activity last year.

### Silverstone—Thursday 30th June

As Race Day planning gets underway, we have been looking in more detail at our venue of Moto Arena—and what an exciting place it is. It is all very new, and there are lots of things to do and see. There are some simulator experiences on-site permanently, which look a whole lot of fun, and should be available to students to have a go at a preferential rate. We have access to the indoor as well as the outdoor tracks, so we no longer have to consider the weather as being a factor in vehicle performance. The venue has its own catering company on site, and burger, chips and a drink can be purchased at a discounted rate or alternatively, you may bring a packed lunch if you prefer. We have once again invited exhibitors from Industry and Education to bring along their stands for students to view, and see what is on offer in terms of further education and careers in engineering. Many of these exhibitors have kindly donated trophies and prizes for various race categories; such is their confidence in the event and its participants.

Many of you have been keen to view the outdoor circuit at Moto Arena. As it is currently being modified and won't be ready for a couple of weeks, you can check it out in the meantime to give you an idea of what to expect.



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMF2dXP-L48](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMF2dXP-L48)



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**One Vision....Several Initiatives**

## Special Events—latest News!

We pride ourselves on offering related projects to suit the needs of the participants and

our most recent focus has been within the schools marine sector in North Wales.

Here as part of a project called Classe de Mer we have extended the activity on renewables to focus on their local environment which is so rich in the potential for energy that Anglesey is referred to as the energy Isle. Pupils from Holyhead school were focusing on tidal and wind energy in a week long activity which saw them having to decide on locations where they could site wind and water turbines to produce electricity. With skills as diverse as weather predictions and analysis to maritime chart reading they recorded the potential of renewables to be used in a cross-curricular project. The really great thing was they were taken to the locations in fast RIBs from Plas Menai National Watersports centre.

If you are interested in developing a project as part of a curriculum initiative we are able to work with you to achieve the highest standards and sustainability for individuals or clusters of schools.



## The London International Boat Show



It has been a while since this event but we are keen for more schools to take advantage of this splendid opportunity in the future

It takes place indoors at the prestigious London International Boat Show; good job since it is a winter rather than a summer event. The only class is solar, so we hope as the years go by, and with the other marine events, schools will push the frontiers of development here, in a world where sustainable energy issues are increasingly important. With an indoor event the ambient light is not sufficient enough to power the solar panels. However, this is merely a reflection of what happens in real life and at this event schools were able to use our strong lamps to charge the super capacitors needed to power the solar panels.

With lots of attractions and other things to see and do, and the schools arriving at different times, it seemed a good plan to have a Leader Board announcing the best times. It meant that schools could have a few attempts and did not have to wait for formal races to begin, allowing them the freedom to access the other attractions at the show. It proved successful and by the end of the morning, Wilmington Academy had gained the best time, an incredible 14.39 seconds for one of their runs, with Leigh Academy in second place with 18.31 seconds and Haberdashers Askes Hatchem in third place with 18.6 seconds. Our congratulations go to them and especially since both Wilmington and Haberdashers Askes are brand new to the scheme and only signed up a matter of weeks ago. It just goes to show what can be achieved with determination and enthusiasm and a competitive team spirit to be the best.

Other participants included Astley Sports College who came all the way from Cheshire to be with us, with their truly innovative plastic bottle and cardboard designs, Priory Lodge, another new school of extremely keen young competitors, Team Popin, a church group run by an ex Technology teacher, St Birinus School for Boys, Shipston High School and Seaford College. All had something slightly different to offer in terms of craft or best technique and all left with a keenness to further hone their designs ready for next year's challenge.

