

# BELCHFORD DOWNHILL CHALLENGE 2008

## INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL INFORMATION

**BACKGROUND:** The competition is a fun event, to be enjoyed by competitors and spectators alike. Please remember that the support of local people is vital if we want our event to flourish. The Downhill Challenge is run to raise money for Belchford Ahead, a voluntary organisation, which funds local projects for the benefit of village residents.

**DATE AND TIME:** The competition will take place on Sunday 14 September 2008, starting at 09.00hrs.

### **NEW FORMAT AND CLASSES FOR 2008:**

The first three rounds of the competition will be run on a time trial format, as in previous years. Each cart will be timed individually. Times achieved in these rounds will all count toward the team competitions. These times will also determine starting positions in the second phase of the competition, in which carts entered in the class for National Rules vehicles may be required to race in pairs to establish the overall winners of the event.

**National Championship Class:** A class for vehicles that comply with the rules of the National Soapbox Championship. Vehicles complying with these rules will be suitable for running without modification at several other events, details of which will be posted on our website at [www.belchford.org.uk](http://www.belchford.org.uk) as soon as all dates and venues are finalised. National Championship vehicles may be required to run on a more challenging course, requiring the ability to change direction at speed. Teams and individuals running in this class may be able to score points in the 2008 National Soapbox Championship competition.

**Belchford Rules Class:** A class for vehicles that comply with our local rules. These rules have been designed to promote relatively simple, but safe vehicles, which can be produced inexpensively. Vehicles competing for the Novelty prizes, which are very popular with spectators, will run within this class.

The Design and Safety Rules for each class are set out separately, on different pages, to avoid confusion.

**SAFETY & RELIABILITY:** To further enhance safety, the Rules and Regulations for the 2008 event have been changed slightly from those for previous competitions. We strongly recommend careful study of the attached Rules and Regulations to make sure that your vehicle will comply. Please contact the organisers if you would like their opinion on whether your cart design is likely to pass scrutineering. Cart brakes often wear rapidly during the event. Punctured tyres also cause problems. Therefore, brakes should ideally be designed for ease of maintenance and having your own supply of spare brake pads, tyres and inner tubes should ensure that minor technical problems do not spoil your competition.

**TESTING:** The Downhill Challenge course is a public road and normal traffic law applies. The organisers discourage competitors from testing their vehicles on the course. Should you choose to practice on the course, we would ask you to be considerate to local residents and other road users. Please ensure that the road is not blocked by support vehicles and do not expect other road users to stop for you. Public liability insurance arrangements made by the organisers apply only for the day of the competition and even then insurance cover is not provided by the organisers for the individual liabilities of competitors. Sorry to be boring, but we want our event to remain popular, safe and successful.

**ENTRIES:** The entry fee for the 2008 competition is £20.00 for each team. This fee is non-refundable. Entries will be accepted on a "first come first served" basis until we reach capacity. Please enter as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. We only have the capacity to run a maximum of 30 teams. We have already received requests for Rules and Regulations from more than twenty new potential teams, so we anticipate the 2008 event being oversubscribed.

**SCRUTINEERING:** Mandatory scrutineering of vehicles for all teams based in Lincolnshire will take place in Belchford on Saturday 30 August 2008. Vehicles belonging to other entrants will be scrutineered by arrangement with the scrutineer. Any vehicles that fail to pass initial scrutineering may be re-presented for inspection on Saturday 13 September 2008 by arrangement with the scrutineer. For safety reasons, any entries that fail to pass scrutineering will not be allowed to compete.

**HELP ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT:** The event relies on the assistance of a large number of volunteers. Any help your team can offer with marshalling for the day of the event will be very much appreciated. Please provide contact details of anybody who would be willing to help us at the bottom of the entry form.

Belchford Downhill Challenge is a sub committee of Belchford Ahead

For further information please contact

Dick Black, The Plot, Furlongs Lane, Belchford Lincs, LN9 6LD. tel 01507 533436 email [dick@belchford.org.uk](mailto:dick@belchford.org.uk)  
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## **CLASSES AND COMPETITIONS FOR 2008**

### **1. Team Competition - National Championship Class.**

The result of this class will be determined by the lowest aggregate time of all runs completed by members of a team running a vehicle complying with the National Championship specification. Teams failing to complete all their allocated runs will not be eligible for a team prize.

### **2. Team Competition - Belchford Rules Class.**

The result of this class will be determined by the lowest aggregate time of the all runs completed by members of a team running a vehicle complying with the Local Rules specification. Teams failing to complete all their allocated runs will not be eligible for a team prize.

### **3. Novelty.**

This class will be judged by the crowd at the event, purely on the basis of audience entertainment qualities. Carts entered for this competition must comply with the Rules and Regulations

### **4. Fastest Individual.**

This prize will be awarded to the driver achieving the fastest single time on the day of the event. This class is open to all competitors. Separate prizes will be awarded for runners in the National Championship and Local Rules classes.

### **5. Fastest Junior.**

This prize will be awarded to the driver under the age of 16 years on the day of the competition, who achieves the fastest single time on the day of the event.

### **6. Fastest Newcomers.**

This prize will be awarded to the team placed highest in the Team event, which is entering Belchford Downhill Challenge for the first time.

### **7. Best Turned Out.**

This prize will be awarded to the team which, in the opinion of an independent judge, is the best presented on the day of the event. It is not necessary to enter specifically to be considered for this prize.

### **8. Spirit of the Event.**

This prize will be awarded by the organisers to the team which in their opinion best reflects the fun and sporting nature of Belchford Downhill Challenge.

**In all classes, the prizes awarded will be restricted to worthless trophies.**

**The organisers have prepared the event rules in good faith to promote the safety of competitors and spectators but give no warranty as to the safety of any vehicle built in accordance with these rules. Entries are accepted only on the basis that responsibility for ensuring that vehicles are safe rests solely with the competitor entering that vehicle. The organisers accept no responsibility whatsoever for any death personal injury loss damage costs or expenses of any nature whatsoever and howsoever suffered or incurred by any person as a result of the application of these rules or otherwise in connection with this event or any other event.**

**By signing the entry form competitors confirm that they have read and will at all times comply with the rules of the competition. They also acknowledge that there is a risk of injury and/or damage involved in the event and in their capacity as team captain, driver or parent/guardian of driver they confirm that they understand that the organisers accept no liability for any injuries and/or damage to property arising during the event and that competitors are solely responsible for ensuring that the vehicle entered is safe.**

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## **CLASS 1. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS. DESIGN AND SAFETY RULES. 2008**

<b>N.1</b>	<b>APPLICATION OF RULES:</b>	
N.1.1	The rules and regulations are intended, as far as reasonably possible, to ensure the safety of competitors and spectators. They must therefore be interpreted in that spirit. In all matters relating to these rules the decisions of scrutineers and event organisers will be final.	
<b>N.2</b>	<b>DIMENSIONS AND WEIGHT:</b>	
N.2.1	Maximum length	2300mm
N.2.2	Maximum width	1100mm
N.2.3	Minimum track width	900mm
N.2.4	Minimum wheelbase	1300mm
N.2.5	Minimum wheel diameter	200mm
N.2.6	Maximum wheel diameter	670mm
N.2.7	Minimum tyre width	35mm
N.2.8	Maximum weight of vehicle driver and ballast	150kg
N.2.9	Minimum height of driver's eyeline	700mm
<b>N.3</b>	<b>WHEELS:</b>	
N.3.1	Vehicles must have at least 4 wheels.	
N.3.2	The wheels must all remain in contact with the ground during normal running.	
N.3.3	The wheels must be fixed to a minimum of two axles, or when stub axles are used these must be employed in opposed pairs.	
<b>N.4</b>	<b>BRAKES:</b>	
N.4.1	The vehicle must have braking on at least 2 wheels on the same axle.	
N.4.2	The brakes must be capable of holding the vehicle on a dry horizontal road surface, when laden with driver and ballast, against a horizontal load of 500 Newtons (50kg) exerted on the front towing eye.	
N.4.3	The brakes must be designed such that failure of the brake operating on one wheel does not result in complete failure of the braking system.	
<b>N.5</b>	<b>STEERING:</b>	
N.5.1	Must not have excessive free play or any characteristic tending to promote instability.	
<b>N.6</b>	<b>DRIVING POSITION:</b>	
N.6.1	The driver will ride alone, feet first.	
<b>N.7</b>	<b>BODYWORK AND DRIVER SAFETY:</b>	
N.7.1	There must be no sharp edges or protrusions either inside or outside the vehicle.	
N.7.2	No glass, Perspex or other materials that would shatter or cause injuries to drivers and spectators in the event of a crash can be used in the construction of the vehicle.	
N.7.3	Any steering column, brake lever or other protrusion must be designed and fitted such that puncture injuries cannot happen.	
N.7.4	Bodywork and controls must not impede the driver in exiting the vehicle unaided.	
N.7.5	Any doors or hatches required for driver access must be readily operated from both inside and outside the vehicle without the use of tools.	
N.7.6	Vehicles must be fitted a towing eye at the front. This must be made of steel bar of between 6mm and 8mm diameter and have a minimum internal diameter of 12mm. The towing eye must be positioned to allow the tow rope to pass freely to the rear of the vehicle without fouling the steering or braking systems.	
N.7.7	A substantial diagonally braced rollover bar must be fitted such that it extends a minimum of 35mm above the driver's helmet.	
N.7.8	A second bar must be fitted at least 25mm over the driver's hands when these are at the 12 o'clock position on the steering bar or wheel.	
N.7.9	A four-point seatbelt is required.	
<b>N.8</b>	<b>BALLAST:</b>	
N.8.1	Any removable ballast must be water only, contained in one or more closed flexible plastic tank.	
N.8.2	Any ballast containers must be fixed securely to the vehicle.	
<b>N.9</b>	<b>CLOTHING:</b>	
N.9.1	Drivers must wear modern motorcycle safety helmets, suitable protective clothing gloves and robust footwear.	
<b>N.10</b>	<b>SCRUTINEERING:</b>	
N.10.1	There will be a mandatory inspection of all entered vehicles.	
N.10.2	Any vehicle not presented for inspection, or deemed unsafe will not be allowed to compete.	
N.10.3	The inspection will take place at a time and place determined by the organisers.	
<b>11</b>	<b>SPORTING RULES:</b>	
N.11.1	The Sporting rules will be determined by the organisers of individual competitions to take account of local conditions	

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## **CLASS 2. BELCHFORD RULES CLASS** **DESIGN & SAFETY RULES. 2008**

<b>B.1</b>	<b>APPLICATION OF RULES:</b>	
B.1.1	The rules and regulations are intended, as far as reasonably possible, to ensure the safety of competitors and spectators. They must therefore be interpreted in that spirit. In all matters relating to these rules the decisions of scrutineers and event organisers will be final.	
<b>B.2</b>	<b>DIMENSIONS AND WEIGHT:</b>	
B.2.1	Maximum length	2500mm
B.2.2	Maximum width	1500mm
B.2.3	Minimum track width	700mm
B.2.4	Minimum wheelbase	1300mm
B.2.5	Minimum wheel diameter	200mm
B.2.6	Maximum wheel diameter	700mm
B.2.7	Maximum weight of vehicle driver and ballast	165kg
B.2.8	Minimum height of driver's eyeline	700mm
<b>B.3</b>	<b>WHEELS:</b>	
B.3.1	Vehicles must have at least 4 wheels.	
B.3.2	The wheels must all remain in contact with the ground during normal running.	
B.3.3	The wheels must be fixed to a minimum of two axles, or when stub axles are used these must be employed in opposed pairs.	
<b>B.4</b>	<b>BRAKES:</b>	
B.4.1	The vehicle must have braking on at least 2 wheels on the same axle.	
B.4.2	The brakes must be capable of holding the vehicle on a dry horizontal road surface, when laden with driver and ballast, against a horizontal load of 500 Newtons (50kg) exerted on the front towing eye.	
B.4.3	The brakes must be designed such that failure of the brake operating on one wheel does not result in complete failure of the braking system.	
<b>B.5</b>	<b>STEERING:</b>	
B.5.1	Steering must not have excessive free play or any characteristic tending to promote instability.	
<b>B.6</b>	<b>DRIVING POSITION:</b>	
B.6.1	The driver will ride alone, feet first.	
<b>B.7</b>	<b>BODYWORK AND DRIVER SAFETY:</b>	
B.7.1	There must be no sharp edges or protrusions either inside or outside the vehicle.	
B.7.2	No glass, Perspex or other materials that would shatter or cause injuries to drivers and spectators in the event of a crash can be used in the construction of the vehicle.	
B.7.3	Any steering column, brake lever or other protrusion must be designed and fitted such that puncture injuries cannot happen.	
B.7.4	Bodywork and controls must not impede the driver in exiting the vehicle unaided.	
B.7.5	Any doors or hatches required for driver access must be readily operated from both inside and outside the vehicle without the use of tools.	
B.7.6	Vehicles must be fitted a towing eye at the front. This must be made of steel bar of between 6mm and 8mm diameter and have a minimum internal diameter of 12mm. The towing eye must be positioned to allow the tow rope to pass freely to the rear of the vehicle without fouling the steering or braking systems.	
B.7.7	A substantial diagonally braced rollover bar must be fitted such that it extends a minimum of 35mm above the driver's helmet.	
B.7.8	A seatbelt must be fitted.	
<b>B.8</b>	<b>BALLAST:</b>	
B.8.1	Any removable ballast must be water only, contained in one or more closed flexible plastic tank.	
B.8.2	Any removable ballast containers must be fixed securely to the vehicle.	
B.8.3	Any fixed ballast must be securely bolted or welded to a suitably strong part of the chassis.	
<b>B.9</b>	<b>CLOTHING:</b>	
B.9.1	Drivers must wear modern motorcycle safety helmets, suitable protective clothing gloves and robust footwear.	
<b>B.10</b>	<b>SCRUTINEERING:</b>	
B.10.1	There will be a mandatory inspection of all entered vehicles.	
B.10.2	Any vehicle not presented for inspection, or deemed unsafe will not be allowed to compete.	
B.10.3	The inspection will take place at a time and place determined by the organisers.	

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## **BELCHFORD COMPETITION RULES 2008. Applicable to all classes**

C.1  C.2	<p><b>APPLICATION OF RULES:</b></p> <p>The Design, Safety and Competition rules and regulations are intended, as far as reasonably possible, to ensure the safety of competitors and spectators. They must therefore be interpreted in that spirit. Any deviations from the spirit of the regulations will result in the entrant concerned not being allowed to compete. The organisers' decision will be final and no appeal will be allowed.</p> <p>The organisers intend to run the competition in as fair a manner as is reasonable. However in all matters relating to any of the rules, the organisers reserve the right to apply and/or interpret them in as arrogant, arbitrary, illogical, inconsistent and capricious a manner as they choose. No appeals will be allowed.</p>
C.3 C.4	<p><b>ENTRY FORMS:</b></p> <p>All entrants must fully complete entry and indemnity forms before their entry can be accepted.</p> <p>In the case of drivers who will be under the age of 18 years on the day of the competition the indemnity form must be countersigned by a parent or guardian of the driver.</p>
C.5 C.6 C.7 C.8 C.9 C.10 C.11 C.12 C.13 C.14 C.15	<p><b>SPORTING RULES (Applicable to all classes):</b></p> <p>Competition numbers of A5 size or larger must be displayed on the front, rear and both sides of the vehicle for the duration of the competition.</p> <p>All Competitors must attend the drivers' briefing and walk the course before the competition.</p> <p>Competitors must commence their runs immediately when asked to do so by the organisers.</p> <p>If any driver fails to comply with a marshal's signal, all members of his/her team will be eliminated from all classes of the event.</p> <p>Vehicles may be weighed at any time. All members of any team found to be running overweight at any stage of the event will be eliminated from all classes of the competition. The organisers' weighing device(s) will be deemed accurate and no appeals will be allowed.</p> <p>Adjusting of ballast on vehicles will only be permitted in the pits area or when vehicles are on the weighbridge. The time allowed for adjusting ballast on the weighbridge will be restricted to 10 seconds</p> <p>Unofficial running on the course will not be allowed between 0700hrs and 1800hrs on the day of the Downhill Challenge.</p> <p>No wheel tweaking or pushing of the vehicle or driver is allowed.</p> <p>No stored energy devices may be used to assist or promote movement of the vehicle.</p> <p>It is the driver's responsibility to stop their vehicle within the space available.</p> <p>Crashing is strictly prohibited, unless absolutely necessary.</p>
C.17 C.18 C.19	<p><b>NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS</b></p> <p>Simple chicanes may be erected on the course. If present, these will have to be negotiated by competitors in this class.</p> <p>Hitting, or failing to negotiate any part of any chicane will result in a five second time penalty being imposed.</p> <p>Each failure to negotiate a chicane will result in the imposition of a separate five second penalty.</p>
C.20 C.21 C.22 C.23 C.24	<p><b>TEAM COMPETITIONS</b></p> <p>To qualify for the Team Competition there must be either two or three drivers in a team, each of whom must drive at least once.</p> <p>There must be a team captain, who will accept responsibility for the conduct of his/her team. The captain must be at least 18 years old. The captain does not have to be a driver.</p> <p>The team must complete all their allocated attempts when asked to run by the organisers.</p> <p>In the event that a Team competitor is unable to complete a run on the course when asked to do so by the organisers the team concerned will be disqualified from the Team Competition.</p> <p>The team with the shortest total elapsed time for their allocated runs on the course will be the winner.</p>
C.25	<p><b>NOVELTY COMPETITION</b></p> <p>In order to be eligible for the Novelty class, competitors must run their vehicles in the same configuration for all their attempts on the course.</p>
C.26	<p><b>TIME RESTRICTION (All classes):</b></p> <p>The organisers will endeavour to run the competition over six rounds. However, in order to ensure that the competition is concluded during the time available they reserve the right to reduce the number of rounds.</p>

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# BELCHFORD DOWNHILL CHALLENGE 2008. ENTRY FORM

Your entry fee of £20.00, in the form of a cheque payable to Belchford Ahead must be enclosed with this form, which must be fully completed. Each driver is also required to complete a U.K. Gravity Sports Association indemnity form for insurance purposes. Please forward the completed entry and indemnity forms and your entry fee to Richard Black at 'The Plot', Furlongs Lane, Belchford, Horncastle, LN9 6LD. Please note that entries will be accepted up to a maximum of 24 teams on a first come, first served basis.

Please ensure that entries for drivers who will be under 18 years of age on the day of the event are authorised by the parent or legal guardian of the driver.

## DISCLAIMER

**By signing this entry form I/we confirm that I/we have read and will comply with the rules of the competition. I/we also acknowledge that there is a risk of injury and/or damage involved in the event and in my/our capacity as team captain, driver or parent/guardian of driver I/we confirm that I/we understand that the organisers accept no liability for any injuries and/or damage to property arising during the event and that competitors are solely responsible for ensuring that the vehicle entered is safe.**

Team Name ..... Class: **National/Belchford/Novelty**

Team Captain ..... Contact Tel. ....

E-mail .....

Address .....

Post code

1<sup>st</sup> Driver ..... Under 16 on 16 September 2007 (Yes/No) .....

Signature .....

If under 18, Parent or Guardian's signature .....

2<sup>nd</sup> Driver ..... Under 16 on 16 September 2007 (Yes/No) .....

Signature .....

If under 18, Parent or Guardian's signature

3<sup>rd</sup> Driver ..... Under 16 on 16 September 2007 (Yes/No) .....

Signature .....

If under 18, Parent or Guardian's signature .....

**EACH DRIVER WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE A U.K. GRAVITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION INDEMNITY FORM, REQUIRED FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES. THESE FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE SHORTLY**

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