

# BELCHFORD DOWNHILL CHALLENGE 2009

## 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 13th September 2009, starting at 09.00hrs.

**FORMAT AND CLASSES FOR 2009:** Each round of the competition will be run on a time trial format, as in previous years. Each cart will be timed individually.

**RULES:** For clarity, the Design and Safety Rules are set out separately, on another page later in this document.

**The Rules and Regulations for the 2009 event have been changed significantly from those for previous competitions** with the aim of making it easier for a competitor to make a unique racer, which is still safe to run.

There is no longer an overall weight limit, but there is a weight limit for carts themselves of 100kg. This change has been introduced to allow larger people (known locally as "fat bastards") the opportunity to compete, though we have found that lighter and more nimble carts with strong brakes and wheels are likely to achieve the fastest times overall.

There is no longer a minimum wheel size, but wheels will still have to be strong enough to withstand substantial side forces and obviously achieve the required braking standards.

Changes to the safety rules have also been introduced and these will be rigorously enforced.

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.

**ADVISORY NOTE:** Brakes often wear rapidly and punctures also cause problems during the event. Brakes should be designed for ease of maintenance and having your own supply of spare tyres, 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 2009 competition is £27.00 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 have already received requests for Rules and Regulations from several new potential teams, so we anticipate the 2009 event being oversubscribed. **Please ensure that indemnity forms, completed by each driver, are enclosed with your entry form.**

**SCRUTINEERING:** Mandatory scrutineering of vehicles for all teams based in Lincolnshire will take place in Belchford on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2009. 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 12<sup>th</sup> September by individual arrangement with the scrutineer. For safety reasons, any entries that fail to pass scrutineering will not be allowed to compete.

Belchford Downhill Challenge is a sub committee of Belchford Ahead

For further information please contact

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## CLASSES AND COMPETITIONS FOR 2008

### 1. Team Competition

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 rules. Teams failing to complete all their allocated runs will not be eligible for a team prize.

### 2. Novelty.

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

### 3. 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.

### 4. Fastest Lady

This prize will be awarded to the female driver, who achieves the fastest single time by a lady on the day of the event.

### 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.**

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**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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## DESIGN AND SAFETY RULES 2009

<b>RULE</b>	<b>APPLICATION OF RULES:</b>
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.
2	<b>DIMENSIONS AND WEIGHT:</b>
3	Maximum overall length - 2500mm
4	Maximum overall width - 1500mm
5	Maximum track width - 1200mm
5	Maximum weight of vehicle and ballast - 100kg
7	<b>WHEELS:</b>
8	Vehicles must have at least 4 wheels.
9	The wheels must all remain in contact with the ground during normal running.
9	The wheels must be fixed to a minimum of two axles, or when stub axles are used these must be employed in opposed pairs.
10	<b>BRAKES:</b>
10	The vehicle must have braking on at least 2 wheels on the same axle.
11	The brakes must be capable of holding the vehicle on a dry horizontal road surface, when laden with driver and any ballast, against a horizontal load of 500 Newtons (50kg) exerted on the front towing eye.
12	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.
13	<b>STEERING:</b>
13	Must not have excessive free play or any characteristic tending to promote instability.
14	<b>DRIVING POSITION:</b>
14	The driver will ride alone, feet first.
15	<b>BODYWORK AND SAFETY FEATURES:</b>
15	There must be no sharp edges or protrusions either inside or outside the vehicle.
16	No glass, sheet acrylic 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.
17	Any steering column, brake lever or other protrusion must be designed and fitted such that puncture injuries cannot happen.
18	Bodywork and controls must not impede the driver in exiting the vehicle unaided.
19	Any doors or hatches required for driver access must be readily operated from both inside and outside the vehicle without the use of tools.
20	Vehicles must be fitted with an easily accessed 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 a tow rope to pass freely beneath the vehicle to the rear without fouling the steering or braking systems.
21	If any part of the vehicle other than the seat back, upper parts of the wheels and the steering wheel/bar together with a central supporting column for this is higher than the hips of the driver when he/she is seated normally in the vehicle the following safety devices must be fitted and used:
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A substantial diagonally braced rollover bar that extends a minimum 50mm above the helmet of the tallest driver in the team when he/she is seated normally.</li> <li>• A second bar that extends a minimum of 25mm above the driver's hands when these are at the 12 o'clock position on the steering bar or wheel</li> <li>• A lap and diagonal or full harness car seat belt.</li> </ul>
22	If no rollover bar is fitted the driver must not wear a seat belt or any other form of restraint to attach him/her to the vehicle.
23	<b>BALLAST:</b>
23	Any removable ballast must be water only, contained in one or more closed flexible plastic tank.
24	Any ballast containers must be fixed securely to the vehicle.
25	<b>CLOTHING:</b>
25	Drivers must wear modern motorcycle safety helmets, suitable protective clothing gloves and robust footwear.
26	<b>SPORTING RULES:</b>
26	The Sporting rules will be determined by the organisers of individual competitions to take account of local conditions

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## **BELCHFORD COMPETITION RULES 2009. Applicable to all classes**

<p>C.1</p> <p>C.2</p>	<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>
<p>C.3</p> <p>C.4</p>	<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>
<p>C.5</p> <p>C.6</p> <p>C.7</p> <p>C.8</p> <p>C.9</p> <p>C.10</p> <p>C.11</p> <p>C.12</p> <p>C.13</p> <p>C.14</p> <p>C.15</p> <p>C.16</p> <p>C.17</p>	<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 safety 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 at any time on the day of the Downhill Challenge.</p> <p>A push start of the vehicle or driver is allowed. There is no limit to the number of people who are allowed to push, or the distance they are allowed to push.</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 at the end of the course.</p> <p>Simple chicanes will be erected on the course. These will be a minimum of 1700mm wide and defined by cones or similar lightweight and moveable devices. Each cone or bollard will support a tennis ball. The chicane feature will be deemed to have been hit if a tennis ball is displaced as the competing vehicle negotiates the course.</p> <p>Failing to negotiate any part of any chicane will result in a separate five second time penalty being imposed for each tennis ball that is displaced.</p> <p>Crashing is strictly prohibited, unless absolutely necessary.</p>
<p>C.18</p> <p>C.19</p> <p>C.20</p> <p>C.21</p> <p>C.22</p> <p>C.23</p>	<p><b>TEAM COMPETITION</b></p> <p>To qualify for the Team Competition there must be at least two drivers in a team.</p> <p>At least two drivers in the team must drive at least once each for the team to be eligible for the Team competition</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 lowest aggregate time for all their allocated runs on the course will be the winner.</p>
<p>C.24</p>	<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>
<p>C.24</p>	<p><b>TIME RESTRICTION</b></p> <p>The organisers will endeavour to run the competition over five 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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