

F1 in schools 2009 World Championships

The 5th World Championships of the Formula 1 in Schools Challenge was held in London from 24 to 17 September 2009.

31 Teams, 145 participants representing 20 countries took part in the event. They were treated to a multitude of experiences, from a theatre visit in the West End to taking a ride on the London Eye and even a full city tour on an amphibious vehicle through the roads and the river!

Three teams from South Africa participated at the World Championships; Team Stealth from Maritzburg College took 10th overall while Team Zealous from Stellenbosch High School came 14th but also won the knockout phase of the competition. Team Gear-up from Afrikaans Hoërskool, Sasolburg, in collaboration with Team Scorpion of Germany, came 18th



The overall winner was Team Koni Kats from Ireland who received the Bernie Ecclestone floating trophy. In second place was Redline Racing from Australia and in third place was AC Racing, a collaborating team from Australia and Canada. The executive panel of judges under the guidance of Steve Nevey, Chief Engineer of Red Bull Racing, commented on the extremely high quality of the competition this year. This comment was based on the verbal presentations, displays and the quality of engineering of the cars.

The current Formula 1 World Champion, Lewis Hamilton, provided extreme excitement on the final day, by visiting each and every Team and discussing their car designs. He also presented the trophy to the overall winners. Lewis Hamilton is pictured with Team STEALTH above and Mr Bez Sangari, founder of F1 in Schools in South Africa, in front of team Zealous stand.

Teams are judged in eight different categories for a total of 300 marks. The winning team scored 271.4 and Team Stealth from Maritzburg College scored 224.2. In five world championships no team has either scored full marks or managed to break the one second barrier for the 20 meter race. This will be the challenge in next years World Championships to be held in Singapore during the night Grand Prix in September.

ABOUT THE F1 IN SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

The main aim of the Formula 1 in Schools Challenge is to encourage young learners to pursue careers in the Engineering and Science fields. In line with the government's vision, the F1 in Schools Challenge is an outcomes based educational programme that encourages learners of secondary schools and colleges to design and manufacture CO2 powered model racing cars, a process that blends well with cross-curricula activity to satisfy many of the requirements laid down in the Learning Areas of the National Curriculum Statement. This requires a significant change to existing perceptions and an increased effort on the part of educators as well as support from the Corporate Sector.



As the fastest growing competition of its kind – having already taken root in 30 countries, involving 9 million students – the F1 in schools challenge has proved its credentials over the past eight years with 66% of participants in the challenge choosing to follow an engineering or scientific path. Using the pinnacle of the exciting world of Motor Sport – F1 racing – the competition aim to motivate learners as young as eleven years old to learn engineering skills and concepts typically reserved for university students. Learners participate in a variety of knowledge and skills disciplines that include, 3D Modelling using professional CAD software, Computer Aided Manufacturing and CNC machining, Aerodynamics and the use of Computational Fluid Dynamics, Presentation and public speaking, Teamwork and time management, fund raising and financial reporting.

For more info visit www.flinschools.co.za