



**AN INTRODUCTION TO PEDAL CAR RACING
&
INFORMATION FOR VENUE OWNERS**



BRITISH FEDERATION OF PEDAL CAR RACING
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What is Pedal Car Racing?

Pedal Car Racing is a circuit racing endurance sport where teams of up to six drivers race single-seater human powered sports cars in races of up to twenty-four hours duration.

The Cars

The cars are mainly sports prototypes built by or for the teams that race them. There are no commercial suppliers of racing pedal cars in the UK as yet (although these do exist in other parts of the world).

Although all cars have to comply with the international pedal car specification, this is quite an open formula so the cars are as varied as the teams who race them with many different solutions to the same problem. Second hand cars can generally be picked up for between £100 and £400 and provide a good way into the sport. Often cars can be hired or even just borrowed for 1 or 2 races to get new teams off the ground.

The Teams:

Pedal car racing draws teams from many different backgrounds. Some teams have their origins in the scout and guide associations. Several teams have sprung from cycling and running clubs and these have tended to be very successful, feeding off the athletic abilities of their drivers to overcome any deficiencies in machinery.

Some teams have come over to pedal cars from backgrounds in go-karting and the motor trade.

There are also teams who originated as pure pedal car teams and have never pretended to be anything other than this.

These teams have the advantage that they are not tied to any other organisations but the disadvantage that they cannot fall back on the support of a larger group to help them out for race day support, transport and financial assistance.

The British Pedal Car Championship:

The BPCC was first run in 1996 to tie together all the independent races and provide a season long competition to answer the question: who are the best pedal car team in Britain?

Nowadays, the championship takes place over eight rounds ranging from the sprint events at Curborough up to the 24 hours of Margam Park.

To win the championship, teams must compete and gain points in all eight of these different events.

For the junior teams, there are separate classes for under 16's, under 14's and under 12's as well as the overall competition for which all teams qualify. All classes race together so part of the challenge for the faster cars is dealing with the slower moving traffic.

Often the competition in these junior classes is as intense as it is for the overall victory.

The Classes:

The Championship is divided into six classes:

PC1: Maximum 4 drivers per car (6 in 24 hour races). Open class

PC2: Maximum 4 drivers per car (6 in 24 hour races) under the age of 16.

PC3: Maximum 6 drivers per car all under the age of 14.

PC4: Maximum 6 drivers per car all under the age of 12.

PC0: Maximum 1 driver per car.

PCF: All female teams

Obviously the overall winners are likely to come from the lightweight, aerodynamic prototypes in PC1 class but often the PC2 vehicles move up the order during long races as the endurance factor takes it's toll on the more heavily stressed machinery in the open class.



Pedal Car Racing Circuit Requirements

Where do Pedal Cars Race?

Go-kart tracks, small motor racing circuits, parks and often on circuits simply marked out in large car parks. All have provided excellent race tracks in the past.

How Long does an Event Last?

All rounds of the British Pedal Car Championship give the competitors at least four hours of racing.

The “standard” race length (if there is such a thing) is six hours although some times races are run over a fixed distance such as 100 miles or 200 kilometres.

There is also one twenty four hour race per year but we like to use a venue for a six hour event first before we attempt to go 24 hours on it.

A six hour race will typically run from 10.30am until 4.30pm so teams will be on site from around 8.30am to 6pm.

What is Needed for a Pedal Car Circuit?

Pedal cars simply need a smooth tarmac surface with enough room to set up a race track with a lap length no shorter than 400metres and a general width of no less than 5metres.

Obviously kart tracks are absolutely ideal.

Large car parks have made for excellent racing circuits as have parts of motor racing circuits (we have used the start / finish straight and then returned using the pit lane in the past).

Other possibilities are such things as the internal roads in a race circuit paddock and those in a country park.

What Other Facilities are Needed?

Very, very few.

Access to toilets is obviously essential!

A water supply is good but we can do without.

Likewise an electricity supply although our lap counting equipment can equally be run from our own generator.

The BFPCR have their own dedicated, and fully qualified, first aider.

We also have our own Public Liability Insurance to cover all our events which includes any damage to property.

In the case of tracks wholly laid out in car parking areas, we usually request the loan of some traffic cones but where we are basically following existing roads we can generally make do with our own small supply.

If it is possible then we like to try and provide camping at or near the circuit for the night before and after the race but, once again, this is not essential.

What Benefits are there to the Venue?

As you will have gathered from our website and this document, pedal car racing is very much an amateur sport and can not afford the large circuit hire fees typical of many venues. We are used to paying up to £200 for the use of a circuit as this is about the level, with the extra running costs we incur, which allows us to at least break even on an event.

We undertake to leave any venue on which we race in as good or better condition than it was when we arrived.

We believe that should go without saying.

Although amateur, the teams are run in a very professional manner. We guarantee that the first time you see a British Pedal Car Championship race you will be impressed.

The sport is still small but it is growing.

By allowing us the use of your facilities you will have helped this process and enabled a sport which is actively helping people, young and old, to develop their fitness, driving skills, team working, engineering skills and respect for others.

Also this is the most environmentally friendly way to go “motor racing” that we have yet come across!

Contact:

If there is any further information you require, or if you would like to discuss this further

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Thank you for taking the time to read this, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

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www.pedalcars.info

RACING CALENDAR – 2006

SUNDAY, APRIL 9th :	100 MILES / 6 HOURS (BPCC ROUND 1)	CASTLE COMBE
SUNDAY, MAY 7th: <i>(or SUNDAY, MAY 15th)</i>	6 HOURS (BPCC ROUND 2)	WOMBWELL (BARNESLEY)
SATURDAY 24TH – SUNDAY 25TH JUNE:	SWANSEA 24 HOUR RACE (BPCC ROUND 3)	MARGAM PARK (PORT TALBOT)
SUNDAY, 16TH JULY:	BRITISH PEDAL CAR GRAND PRIX (2 hour race - non BPCC)	RINGWOOD (HAMPSHIRE)
SATURDAY, 22ND JULY:	1hr + 2hrs + 3hrs (BPCC ROUND 4)	PRESTON SPORTS ARENA (LANCS)
SATURDAY, 23RD JULY:	100 MILES / 5 HOURS (BPCC ROUND 5)	PRESTON SPORTS ARENA (LANCS)
SATURDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER:	1hr + 2hrs + 3hrs (BPCC ROUND 6)	BLACKBUSHE (BERKSHIRE)
SUNDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER:	5 HOURS (BPCC ROUND 7)	BLACKBUSHE (BERKSHIRE)
SATURDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER	1hr + 2hrs + 3hrs (BPCC ROUND 8)	CURBOROUGH SPRINT COURSE (LICHFIELD)

Appendix 2:

1 RACE, 6 WINNERS?

HOW DOES THE BRITISH PEDAL CAR CHAMPIONSHIP WORK?

At first glance, a pedal car race may look a little strange.

There are cars on the track going very much slower than others, some teams have six drivers, some just one and cars have different colours on their number plates yet all are racing together at the same time!

This is why:

The British Pedal Car Championship is divided into six classes.

PC1 – OPEN

This class is for adult teams.

There are no restrictions on age.

Only four drivers are allowed per car except in 24 hour races where six are allowed.

These are usually the fastest on the circuit, averaging over 20mph at the faster circuits.

The overall race winner is likely to come from these teams racing lightweight, aerodynamic prototype race cars.

PC1 runners have black number plates with white numerals.

PC2 – Under 16's

Teams in this class are restricted to drivers who are 16 or under at the start of the year.

As for PC1, four drivers are allowed per car except in 24 hour races where six are allowed.

Until recently, this class was dominated by scout teams but these days it is a mixture of these and teams from cycling clubs, youth groups and junior squads from the PC1 runners.

Because of the additional 2 drivers, the top PC2 teams often mix it with the PC1 front runners.

PC2 teams are eligible to score points in the overall (PC1) championship.

PC2 runners have red number plates with white numerals.

PC3 – Under 14's

Teams in this class are restricted to drivers who are 14 or under at the start of the year.

Six drivers are allowed to share each car.

This was a successful new addition to the series in 2003 giving a “stepping stone” between under 12's and under 16's.

Being under 14, PC3 teams are by definition also under 16 so they can score points in PC2 and PC1 although the age gap generally makes this less important.

PC3 runners have green number plates with white numerals.

PC4 – Under 12's

Teams in this class are restricted to drivers who are 12 or under at the start of the year.

Six drivers are allowed to share each car.

The under 12's class is the entry level for young drivers.

The racing in this class is for obvious reasons a lot slower than in the PC1 and PC2 class but it is no less intense.

During 24 hour races, the PC4 class only races for 18 hours to allow the very young drivers to get some rest.

Being under 12, PC4 teams are eligible to score points in the all the other age classes as well!

PC4 runners have blue number plates with white numerals.

PCzero – Solo Drivers

Needs little further explanation.

One driver only is permitted per car making it a test of stamina and determination rather than straight speed.

These drivers spend literally hours in the car at a time, stopping only for food and the occasional rest.

At the end of a race, the lead PCzero driver will have probably covered many more kilometres than any other driver in any other team during the race!

PCF – Female Teams

Needs absolutely no further explanation.

All the drivers must be female!