

Bikes and skateboards beat BMW in TTK's "Tricky Time Trial"



Human-powered BMW gets off to a good start...



...but Stephen Bailey wins on his skateboard

It took six men – one steering and five pushing – to get a BMW round the Kingston Guildhall "tricky time trial" circuit on Saturday 16th July, but they were outperformed by skateboards, bicycles and even a scooter, each powered by just one person. The Zero Carbon Britain Day event was organised by Transition Town Kingston to highlight our unsustainable dependence on oil, demonstrate the relative efficiency of carbon-free vehicles, and encourage more sustainable ways of getting about.

22-year-old Stephen Bailey of Putney came first in the hotly contested race against the clock, on a skateboard (with a time of 38.17 seconds) and TTK-er Marilyn Mason came 2nd on a bicycle (time 38.58 seconds). Skateboarders Bevan, Benny and Stefan, TTK-er Toni IZard on a scooter, and TTK-er Martin Birley riding a bicycle with a trailer also beat the BMW, which, deprived of its carbon-emitting engine, came 8th out of 9 vehicles. The car's time of 1 minute 5.42 seconds managed to beat only one other competitor, absolute beginner in-line skater David Gander, whose time was 1 minute 22.54 seconds. The circuit around the Guildhall proved perfect for the event, challenging on the corners after recent rain, but not too long for any of the competitors.

Kingston resident and BMW driver Peter Mason commented after the race: "The team pushed hard and was helped by a downward slope at the start of the circuit, but the climb back to the finish line proved too much for us. The BMW is just too heavy for man-power and we'd need to get the weight down radically to beat the bike!"

Organisers Transition Town Kingston were pleased that the time trial confirmed that skateboards and bikes are the most efficient vehicles when only human power is available. On a longer course or to transport loads, bicycles would perform even better (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicycle_performance).

COMPETITOR	VEHICLE	TIME		POSIT ION
		Mins	Secs	
TONI	SCOOTER	1	1.75	7
STEVE	SKATEBOARD		38.17	1
MARTIN	BIKE+TRAILER		39.71	3
STEFAN	SKATEBOARD		42.56	5
BEVAN	SKATEBOARD		45.97	6
BENNY	SKATEBOARD		41.52	4
PETER + S	BMW	1	5.42	8
DAVE	ROLLER BLADES	1	22.54	9
MARILYN	BIKE		38.58	2

The scoreboard



Martin Birley finishes 3rd, watched by other competitors