



August 2011

## LOCAL FAMILY TRIUMPH IN GO KART RALLY

A Chippenham family has rallied together to race their own homemade kart – and triumphed in a local Go-Kart competition.

Taking home first and second prizes in the Adult category, Patrick Thomas and father Steve proved victorious at the Gloucestershire heat of the Screwfix Go-Kart Rally, which was held at the Bugsboarding track in Maisemore.

'Team C12', from Bromham, are fairly experienced racers, having been competing for almost 10 years. Steve, 52, converted his kart to gravity-power five years ago after being inspired by a report on soapbox kart racing on The Gadget Show.

The men, along with second son Hugh and mother Pam, worked together to modify the kart ready to take to the grass hill track on Sunday 7 August.

All three Thomas men battled against four other racers to record the fastest time, and now Patrick and Steve have made it to the Grand Final of the competition, to be held at the International Rally Championship in Scotland in October.

Steve, who took home the second prize, said: "I've managed to reach a top speed of 70 mph in this kart on tarmac, so I was hoping that it would drive similarly well on the grass track. We fitted larger wheels on the kart to ensure we had ground clearance and added a second wheel on the back axel to add grip. We also took out some of the weight, so it was great to see our modifications work so well."

Winner Patrick said: "It's absolutely brilliant to have got through to the final – I can't wait!"

The karting enthusiasts learnt about the Go-Kart Rally, in association with Screwfix, power tool brand Evolution and Peugeot, when on a UK karting website.

The competition required entrants to design and build their own gravity-powered go-karts, and in addition to racing in the Grand Final, the family will also get complimentary tickets to watch the IRC rally. For their first and second place in the heat, Patrick and Steve have won a Rally Day with IRC driver Guy Wilks of the Peugeot UK team and £100 of Screwfix vouchers.

Screwfix's John Mewett said: "As the first of the heats, it was great to see the karts turn out for the Go-Kart Rally in Gloucester – and they certainly didn't disappoint!

"We have noticed a real trend for people wanting to get back to those 'lads and dads' days of old, which is why we created the Go-Kart Rally tournament to celebrate just that - families getting their kids out in the fresh air, and working together on projects - so it's great to see Patrick and his dad having done so well in the competition."

"We're also looking for the Best Designed Go-Karts – so if you can build a great kart but can't get to a heat just upload video footage of your go-kart to the Screwfix facebook page."

Supporter Pam, who confesses to being the only member of the team who gets nervous, added: "Even though our kart looks pretty professional, we have been beaten before by karts that seemed to be held together with string and sellotape! So I'm really pleased that we took home the top two spots."

AJ Watkins, owner of Bugsboarding said: "Go-karting is something that touches every grown-up's heart as well as exciting the kids, so having the Gloucestershire heat here was a real pleasure. There really is nothing like hurtling down a hill on a go-kart or soapbox.

"We offer mountainboarding, which is a cross between snowboarding and skateboarding, BMXing and grass sledging here at Bugsboarding, so the Go-Kart Rally was something similar, but different, for us!"

Further heats will run across the country throughout August and September.

And for those that have missed out on the heats, it's not too late to enter the 'Best Designed Go-Kart' competition online by simply uploading footage of your go-kart to your You Tube page and sharing it with the Screwfix Facebook page or alternatively upload it straight to Screwfix's Facebook Page before 30<sup>th</sup> September. For further details on the Go-Kart Rally or information on entering the Best Designed Go-Kart please visit [www.screwfix.com/rally](http://www.screwfix.com/rally)

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**Further Information**

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**Note to editors**

**About Screwfix:**

Recognised as being “where the trade buys” and promising a fast, reliable service, Screwfix is the UK’s leading multi-channel supplier of thousands of high quality screws, fixings, hand tools, power tools, plumbing and electrical supplies. Combining trade prices and a massive range of leading brand name items, Screwfix offers over 18,000 products and is fully committed to customer care and support.

**About Go-Kart Rally:**

In association with Screwfix Peugeot and Evolution, the Go-Kart Rally will pit amateur racers in home-built go-karts against each other at a series of regional heats.

The top three karts from each heat will go through to the Grand Final of the competition, to be held near the IRC stage in Scotland on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

The Best Designed Go-Kart competition is also running. To enter, simply upload video footage of your kart to [www.facebook.com/screwfix](http://www.facebook.com/screwfix) by 31st August 2011

The following factors will be taken into consideration:

- Aesthetics: the overall look of the kart build, chassis and body shell
- Usability: How fit for purpose the kart is overall for the event. Think Functionality, tyres, ride height, weight and so on.
- Livery: What decals and designs have been applied to the kart?
- Action: Video the go-kart in action to show just what it can achieve

Visit [www.screwfix.com/rally](http://www.screwfix.com/rally) or email [rally@screwfix.com](mailto:rally@screwfix.com) for more information