

SAM 35 REDFIN TROPHY TETHERED CAR EVENT RULES.

The Redfin Trophy (as seen in the image here) has been donated by Alex Phin of Redfin Engines fame to be competed for at the BMFA Buckminster tethered car track annually, and held by the winner for one year until being awarded to the next year's winner.

Although this is a SAM 35 event, it will be open to all comers who wish to participate and have the necessary BMFA insurance cover and pay the BMFA Buckminster daily gate fee on the day. This is to encourage the building and running of tethered cars using 2.5cc twinshaft engines of any type, not only the Redfin engine.

This is not an out and out speed event, though speed will be one of three elements of the scoring, the intent being to encourage the use of all types of car using such power, be they scale or not. It is hoped to see a wide variety of well made and innovative cars taking place and being competitive. All cars must meet the standard Buckminster weight and dimensional size guidelines (max. weight 1.4kg, bridle length 9 inches from car centre line to centre of 4.5mm diameter attachment hole for the connector, maximum speed 100mph, etc.).

Tether cables and their connector to the car bridle to be used will be provided by the organisers, and will be to the published Buckminster track specification.

The event will be run on SAM 35's usual relaxed and participative lines, involving participants helping with activities such as timing and possibly horsing of the cars etc.

The rules are set out below.

1. The Redfin Trophy will be competed for annually at the BMFA Buckminster tethered car track, on dates to be published for each year. For 2021, this will be at the SAM 35 Retrofest event from 25th and 26th June and Octoberfest event on 16th and 17th October. You may enter either one or both events, and your best score will be used to calculate the league table of final placings and the winner, with the award being announced at the end of running by 3pm on the 17th October. Each participant may enter up to 2 cars.
2. The event is for 2.5cc twinshaft engines only, diesel or glow ignition, with no tuned pipes allowed. Fuel cut outs must be fitted and operational, and used for curtailing engine over-runs or safety reasons.
3. Cars will be timed over 8 laps/500m on the track, using electronic timing equipment if available, or by the average time from two stopwatches, and using only the standard Buckminster specification tether wire and connector provided by the organisers. Speed points will be allocated as follows:
1 point for less than 50mph, 2 for 50.1 to 60mph, 3 for 60.1 to 70mph, 4 points for 70.1 to 80mph and 5 points for 80.1mph and above. The maximum number of official runs to be timed for an individual car entry will depend on the number of entries on the day, but will be at least one run and not exceed three, with the best time to count.
4. The car must be of sound construction in all respects, particularly the bridle and its attachment points to the chassis. It must have a top body (even if only skeletal) covering the rolling base/chassis. The following sections are the most important aspects to determine overall places and avoid speed being the dominant element, so two 5 point maximum scores will be allocated here, hence each element will represent one third of your total overall score, and the Judge(s) assessments here will be final:
 - 4.1 Concours. The Judge(s) will assess all entries on quality and the excellence of engineering execution of mechanical build and Concours/quality of finish for each car to determine overall points for this category. Scores will be 5 or 4 points for best standards, 3 for good, and 2 or 1 for average.
 - 4.2 Design and Technical Innovation. Again, this will be in the Judge(s) assessment, considering the degree to which an entry represents an interesting, practical and attractive overall car body and chassis design concept, not just a run of the mill simply constructed car, and any well thought out and executed feature aspects such as suspension. Points score allocation is as for Concours: 5 or 4 for best, 3 for good and 2 or 1 for average.
5. The 3 scores for each of the 3 elements above will be added together for each entrant's model to determine their overall score, which will be ranked to determine overall placings in the event, so maximum is 15 out of 15. Since there will be the two events in June and October, your best score from either will be used for determination of final overall placing for that year's Redfin Trophy. This provides some incentive perhaps to encourage participation in both events if possible. In the event of tied scores for 1st place, the Judge(s) will allocate an additional 1 point at their discretion to the car which they consider the best on further and final consideration.

This scoring scheme has by design some reduced emphasis on outright speed, though this is of course still important, but it is perfectly possible for a slow to medium speed car to score well and win if innovative and beautifully made.

It may well be that improvements can be made to this scoring system in the light of experience of early events, so this will be considered at the end of each season with any suggestions input by competitors.

